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CONDUCTOR ANDRÉ DE RIDDER MAKES SUBSCRIPTION DEBUT IN PROGRAM FEATURING WORKS BY GERSHWIN AND RAVEL

Pianist Inon Barnatan is Soloist in Ravel’s Piano Concerto and Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue

Program Also Includes Ravel’s Boléro and Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess, a Symphonic Picture

March 12, 14 &17

CHICAGO—German conductor André de Ridder, Artistic Director of Musica Nova Helsinki, makes his subscription debut leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in concerts at Symphony Center on Thursday, March 12, at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at 8:00 p.m. and Tuesday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. The program features Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess, A Symphonic Picture and Rhapsody in Blue, followed by Ravel’s Piano Concerto and Boléro.

The program begins with Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess, A Symphonic Picture. This orchestral suite from Gershwin’s opera was arranged by the composer’s longtime collaborator Robert Russell Bennett and weaves in melodies from some of the opera’s most memorable arias including “Summertime” and “It Ain’t Necessarily So.” The program continues with Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue. Instantly recognizable to many listeners from the iconic solo clarinet glissando in the opening bars, the work maintains a swinging, jazz-inspired character throughout for both the solo pianist and full orchestra. On this program, Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue is paired with Ravel’s Piano Concerto, another jazz-inspired 20th century keyboard work. Ravel’s Boléro, one of the most famous pieces of music in the orchestral repertoire, completes the program. Ravel envisioned the piece as an experiment in dynamics, pacing and orchestration with a score that slowly builds layers of orchestral texture and power to reach a thrilling and raucous conclusion.

Conductor André de Ridder’s stylistic versatility make him in demand by the BBC Proms, the Holland, Sydney and Manchester International Festivals, and orchestras such as the New York...
Philharmonic and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Nacional de España, and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. He is Artistic Director of MusicaNova Helsinki, and in 2018 he received a Royal Philharmonic Society Award for his work as Artistic Curator of London's Spitalfields Festival. In 2013, he founded s t a r g a z e, a group performing projects ranging from Bach to Beethoven to avant-garde electronics, and contemporary classical music. The group has gained a significant following, and are regularly invited to perform in leading concert halls, including the Barbican Centre London, the Kölner Philharmonie, and Philharmonie de Paris, and Elbphilharmonie Hamburg.

Since giving his first concerto performance at the age of 11, pianist Inon Barnatan has performed with the Baltimore Symphony, BBC Symphony Orchestra at the BBC Proms, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, Philadelphia Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Symphony, and San Francisco Symphony. A passionate advocate for contemporary music, he has premiered works by Matthias Pintscher, Sebastian Currier and Avner Dorman. Barnatan’s interpretations of pieces by Thomas Adès and Ronald Stevenson were featured alongside Ravel and Debussy on his critically acclaimed “Darknesse Visible” album, which made The New York Times’ “Best of 2012” list.

Tickets for all CSOA-presented concerts can be purchased by phone at 800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000, online at cso.org or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Discounted student tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040. CSO tickets for select program are also available through the city’s new Teen Arts Pass (TAP) program. More information available at https://teenartspass.urbangateways.org/.

The appearance of Inon Barnatan is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

United Airlines is the official airline of the CSO.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, March 12, 2020, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 14, 2020, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
André de Ridder, conductor
Inon Barnatan, piano

GERSHWIN Porgy and Bess, A Symphonic Picture
arr. BENNETT
Featured Conductor and Artists for this Performance:
André de Ridder, conductor
Inon Barnatan, piano

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](http://cso.org) and [csosoundsandstories.org](http://csosoundsandstories.org)

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-in-Residence.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 62 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at [cso.org/radio](http://cso.org/radio). Recordings by the CSO have earned 62 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti’s recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's Messa da Requiem (Muti’s first of eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [www.cso.org/resound](http://www.cso.org/resound).

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world, and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert led by Muti, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The CSO’s music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.