CONDUCTOR MANFRED HONECK RETURNS TO LEAD CSO IN DECEMBER SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS FEATURING TRADITIONAL VIENNESE POLKAS AND WALTZES AND MUSIC OF MOZART AND MASON BATES

Program Features CSO’s First Performances of Resurrexit by Former Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates

Pianist Jan Lisiecki Makes CSO Debut in Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 21

December 12-14

CHICAGO—Conductor Manfred Honeck, Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, returns to Symphony Center lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in December subscription concerts on Thursday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m., Friday December 13, at 1:30 p.m., and Saturday, December 14, at 8:00 p.m.. The program includes the Orchestra’s first performances of Resurrexit by former Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates, a selection of traditional Viennese polkas and waltzes by Josef Strauss and Johann Strauss Jr. and Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 21 featuring Jan Lisiecki in his CSO debut. Lisiecki will also participate in post-concert CD signings in Grainger Ballroom following each performance.

The program opens with Bates’s Resurrexit, which was commissioned by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in honor of Manfred Honeck’s 60th Birthday and received its world premiere in 2018. The 10-minute work takes inspiration from the Christian resurrection story,
and creates a mystical sound world that incorporates a theme from the traditional Easter chant “Victimae Paschali Laudes” (Praise the Easter Victim), as well as alter bells and other special instruments used to call the faithful to prayer. The program continues with Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 21. One the composer’s most inventive and technically challenging concertos, the work opens with an intricate and extended dialogue between soloist and orchestra before moving into an expansive andantino, and a playful rondo to finish. The second half of the program features music by Josef Strauss and Johann Strauss Jr., including the Dragonfly, Furioso, and Thunder and Lightning polkas—some receiving their first CSO performances in these concerts—as well as the Frühlingsstimmen (Voices of Spring) waltz, which was featured on one of the Orchestra’s first recordings for Columbia Records in 1917 with CSO Music Director Frederick Stock.

Austrian conductor Manfred Honeck has served as Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra since the 2008/09 season. As a guest conductor, Honeck has worked with many of the world’s leading orchestras including the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Accademia di Santa Cecilia Rome and the Vienna Philharmonic. Honeck’s successful work with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra has garnered significant critical acclaim and recognition. Following two earlier Grammy nominations, Honeck’s 2018 recording of Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5 with the Pittsburgh Symphony won the Grammy for “Best Orchestral Performance” and their most recent recording of Bruckner’s Symphony No. 9 is nominated for a Grammy Award.

At age 24, Jan Lisiecki is recognized as one of the finest pianists of his generation. In 2013, he became the youngest recipient of Gramophone’s Young Artist award, and also received the Leonard Bernstein Award at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival. He has also made solo appearances with many of the distinguished U.S. and international orchestras including the Boston Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Symphony Orchestra and the Staatskapelle Dresden. Lisiecki is also an exclusive recording artist with Deutsche Grammophon as well as a UNICEF Ambassador to Canada.

The Thursday, December 12 concert is part of the CSO’s Classic Encounter series and includes a lively pre-concert scene complete with food and drinks. The December 12 event features a multimedia presentation and conversation with a CSO bassoon Miles Maner hosted by WXRT Radio and Radio Hall of Fame DJ Terri Hemmert. Single tickets for the Classic Encounter reception can be added to any concert ticket order for December 12. Single tickets for the Classic Encounter reception, priced at $25, can be added to any concert ticket order for the December 12 event. Eight or four-concert Classic Encounter series subscription ticket packages are available and include concert tickets and access to preconcert receptions. More information is available at cso.org/classic-encounter.

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/.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

United Airlines is the official airline of the CSO.

The appearance of Maestro Manfred Honeck is made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

# # #

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m.
Friday December 13, at 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 14, at 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Jan Lisiecki, pianist

BATES Resurrexit
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 21
J. STRAUSS, JR. Overture to The Gypsy Baron
JOSEF STRAUSS The Dragonfly Polka
J. STRAUSS, JR. Furioso Polka
J. STRAUSS, JR. Voices of Spring, Waltz
J. STRAUSS, JR. On the Hunt Polka
J. STRAUSS, JR. In Krapfen’s Woods Polka
J. STRAUSS, JR. Thunder and Lightning Polka

Tickets: $36-$225

---

Featured Conductor and Artists for this Performance:
Manfred Honeck, conductor
Jan Lisiecki, pianist

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org and 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 61 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. 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.

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.