CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION CANCELS REMAINING PRESENTATIONS IN 2019/20 SEASON THROUGH JUNE 27

“Music Ahead” Matching Challenge Grant Campaign Surpasses $3 Million in Donations

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces that CSOA-presented concerts and events at Symphony Center and at offsite community locations, scheduled through the end of the 2019/20 season on June 27 are canceled in cooperation with ongoing community-wide efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These cancellations follow this week’s announcement by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker of a multi-phase plan that will significantly impact when concert presentations can resume.

Among the canceled programs are a two-week June residency with Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti that was to include performances of three Beethoven symphonies—Nos. 6, 8 & 9 (Choral)—as part of the CSO’s ongoing Beethoven 250 celebration, as well as four film concert presentations of Star Wars: The Return of the Jedi. A listing of the additional, canceled CSOA-presented concerts and events from June 11 to 27 is available here. Pre- and post-concert events are also canceled. More than 100 CSOA-presented ticketed events, and more than 60 free public programs supported by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO have been canceled since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. The CSOA is reviewing opportunities to reschedule affected programs in subsequent seasons.

Recently launched to address the significant financial losses for the organization this season, the CSOA’s “Music Ahead” matching challenge grant program has already surpassed more than $3 million in donations. Created with generous support from leadership donors, the “Music Ahead” campaign encourages patrons to make a gift to the Association through June 30 that will be matched dollar-for-dollar in support of the CSOA’s commitment to sharing classical music with audiences in Chicago and worldwide. Gifts of donated tickets will also be matched as part of the “Music Ahead” campaign. More information is available at cso.org/musicahead.

Audiences can access a “CSO From Home” content portal at cso.org/fromhome to connect with a wide
variety of content including personal video messages from musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) which are also being posted regularly on the CSO’s Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube channels. Additional special content available through the “CSO From Home” portal includes on-demand audio streaming for the new CSO radio series—From the CSO’s Archives: Maestro’s Choice, presented in partnership with WFMT (Chicago’s Classical Music Station), as well as the CSO’s nationally syndicated radio series programs. More digital content will continue to come online throughout Spring 2020.

Patrons holding tickets to canceled concerts are encouraged to convert the value of tickets to a tax-deductible contribution or to return tickets and put their money on account. Patrons who have not yet donated their tickets to canceled performances can call 312-294-3000, email patronservices@cso.org or complete an online form at cso.org/exchangetickets.

Additional information about for CSOA patrons is available at cso.org/alert.

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