SIR ANDREW DAVIS RETURNS TO LEAD THE
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN A PROGRAM OF WORKS BY
BEETHOVEN AND TIPPETT

Pianist Paul Lewis is featured in Beethoven’s First and Fourth Piano Concertos

January 30 & 31, February 1 & 4

CHICAGO— Sir Andrew Davis, Music Director and Principal Conductor of Lyric Opera of Chicago, returns to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in subscription concerts at Symphony Center on Thursday, January 30, at 8:00 p.m., Friday, January 31, at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, February 1, at 8:00 p.m., and Tuesday, February 4, at 7:30 p.m. The program features the CSO’s first performances of Sir Michael Tippett’s Little Music for String Orchestra and Praeludium for Brass, Bells, and Percussion. As part of the CSO’s season-long exploration and celebration of the music of Ludwig van Beethoven in conjunction with the 250th anniversary of his birth in 2020, this program also includes Beethoven’s First and Fourth Piano Concertos with Paul Lewis as soloist. Sir Andrew Davis participates in a post-concert Q&A immediately following the February 4 performance.

The program begins with Tippett’s Little Music for String Orchestra. Written in 1946 and drawing inspiration from traditional baroque forms, the work moves through four distinct sections—Prelude, Fugue, Air and Finale—and includes moments of rich lyricism and exuberant rhythmic drive. Tippett’s Praeludium for Brass, Bells, and Percussion opens the second half of the program. The work’s brilliant fanfare shifts into a series of sonic interactions between the various brass instruments, with dance-like melodies given to the trumpets that contrast the broad waves of sound from the trombones and horns, all accented by chimes and other distinct
percussion elements. Each Tippett work is followed by a Beethoven piano concerto on this program beginning with Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1 in the first half. Although the concerto opens quietly, it quickly commands the listener’s attention with its energetic Allegro followed by a slow movement that features a beautiful dialogue between clarinet and the piano and a playful Rondo finale. The unconventional opening of Beethoven’s Fourth Piano Concerto, featuring solo piano before the orchestra begins to play, is one of the work’s most innovative and dramatic features. The delicate, haunting piano theme of the second movement serves as a vivid contrast to the spirited final movement.

Sir Andrew Davis has served as Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Lyric Opera of Chicago since 2000. He also began his tenure as chief conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in 2013, and becomes conductor laureate of the orchestra in 2020. His career spans more than 40 years in which he has been the artistic leader at several of the world's most distinguished opera and symphonic institutions, including the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Conductor Laureate and Chief Conductor from 1991-2004), Glyndebourne Festival Opera (Music Director 1988-2000), and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (Conductor Laureate and Principal Conductor from 1975-1988), where he serves as Interim Artistic Director through 2020. In addition, he holds the honorary title of Conductor Emeritus from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. A vast and award-winning discography documents Davis’ artistry, with recent recordings featuring the works of Berlioz, Bliss, Elgar (winner of the 2018 Diapason d'Or de l'Année – Musique Symphonique), Finzi, Grainger, Delius, Ives, Holst, Handel (nominated for a Grammy in 2018 for Best Choral Performance), and York Bowen (nominated for a Grammy in 2012 for Best Orchestral Performance). He currently records for Chandos Records, where he has been an exclusive artist since 2009.

Pianist Paul Lewis is internationally regarded as one of the leading musicians of his generation. His cycles of core piano repertoire by Beethoven and Schubert have received critical and public acclaim worldwide. An award-winning artist, he has been recognized as the Royal Philharmonic Society’s Instrumentalist of the Year, and received two Edison awards, three Gramophone awards, the Diapason D’or de l’Année, among others. Lewis holds honorary degrees from Liverpool, Edge Hill, and Southampton Universities, and was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours.

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/.

This performance is generously sponsored by Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin.
Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

United Airlines is the official airline of the CSO.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Sir Andrew Davis, conductor
Paul Lewis, piano

TIPPETT
Little Music for String Orchestra

BEETHOVEN
Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major, Op. 15

TIPPETT
Praeludium for Brass, Bells and Percussion

BEETHOVEN
Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58

Featured Conductor and Artists for this Performance:
Sir Andrew Davis, conductor
Paul Lewis, piano

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.