



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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# News

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## **MusicNOW OPENS 22nd SEASON WITH PROGRAM CURATED BY CSO MEAD COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE MISSY MAZZOLI FEATURING WORLD PREMIERES OF TWO MusicNOW COMMISSIONS**

**World Premieres Include a New Work by Chicago Composer Wang Lu and  
a New Arrangement of LJ White's *Community Acoustics***

**Program Also Includes Works by Francesca Verunelli, Eliza Brown  
and Finola Merivale**

**Monday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m., at the Harris Theater**

CHICAGO—The 2019/20 season of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's acclaimed contemporary music series, MusicNOW, opens with a program on [Monday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m.](#), at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park (205 E. Randolph, Chicago). Titled "Community Acoustics" and curated by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli, the program features two world premieres and showcases the works of five composers. CSO Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh is a featured soloist, and conductor Michael Lewanski leads musicians from the CSO in one of the works.

The program is bookended by the world premieres of two MusicNOW commissions: *Code Switch* by Chicago-based composer Wang Lu and an arrangement for chamber ensemble of LJ White's *Community Acoustics*. Wang Lu's *Code Switch* explores potential musical translations among disparate cultures and genres and attempts to mimic the merged cultures of today's globalized world. Sounds of traditional western brass fanfares, Asian folk improvisations and 20th-century military marching bands are reinterpreted and interplayed to create a dynamic and exuberant experience. LJ White's *Community Acoustics*, which is led by conductor Michael Lewanski, allows the performers to create sounds that are of relatively equal importance to the greater soundscape, rather than melody and accompaniment. The work combines harmonic

and linear musical events with material reminiscent of natural sounds and concludes with audience participation.

Additionally, the program features CSO Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh performing Italian composer Francesca Verunelli's *Magic Mauve*, a work that fuses acoustic percussion with electronic sounds to create a textural interplay of deep rumbles and sparkling metallics. The program also includes two works for strings, Eliza Brown's *Figure to Ground* for string trio and Finola Merivale's *The Language of Mountains is Rain* for string quartet.

Cynthia Yeh joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as principal percussionist in June 2007. She previously served as principal percussionist for the San Diego Symphony Orchestra from 2004 to 2007. Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Yeh has performed as a soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony of Taiwan, National Orchestra of Mexico, Chicago Sinfonietta and Illinois Philharmonic. She performs regularly with the CSO's MusicNOW ensemble, as well as various chamber ensembles throughout Chicago. Yeh also will be featured as soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in the U.S. premiere of Avner Dorman's *Eternal Rhythm* on October 3.

Conductor Michael Lewanski is a champion of contemporary music and standard repertoire alike. He is conductor and artistic coordinator of the acclaimed Chicago-based new music group Ensemble Dal Niente and is on the faculty at the DePaul University School of Music, where he serves as conductor of the Concert Orchestra and Ensemble 20+ (20th and 21st-century music), and frequent guest conductor of the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. Lewanski's guest conducting has included collaborations with Lyric Opera of Chicago, chamber ensembles from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Chicago Chamber Musicians, Spektral Quartet, Fifth House Ensemble, Chamber Cartel the Rembrandt Chamber Players, Detroit Symphony Civic Youth Orchestra, Mocrepe and many others.

Each MusicNOW concert includes an opportunity for patrons to meet with CSO musicians and composers in an informal setting during post-concert receptions with complimentary food and beverages.

Major support for MusicNOW is generously provided by the Zell Family Foundation, the Sally Mead Hands Foundation, Cindy Sargent, the Julian Family Foundation and an anonymous donor. The MusicNOW commission of Wang Lu's *Code Switch* is made possible through the generous support of the Edward F. Schmidt Family Commissioning Fund. The MusicNOW commissioned arrangement of LJ White's *Community Acoustics* is made possible through the generous support of Helen Zell.

Subscriptions and single tickets for the four-concert MusicNOW series are on sale now. Subscriptions are \$80, with a student subscription available for \$36 with a valid student ID. Single tickets are \$28 for general admission and \$15 for students with a valid student ID.

Tickets for all MusicNOW concerts can be purchased by phone at 800-223-7114 or 312-

294-3000; online at [cso.org](http://cso.org) or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**MusicNOW**  
Harris Theater for Music and Dance  
205 E. Randolph, Chicago

Monday, October 7, 2019, 7:00 p.m.  
**Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Missy Mazzoli**, Mead Composer-in-Residence  
**Michael Lewanski**, conductor  
**Cynthia Yeh**, percussion

WANG	<i>Code Switch</i> [World Premiere, MusicNOW Commission]
VERUNELLI	<i>Magic Mauve</i>
BROWN	<i>Figure to Ground</i>
MERIVALE	<i>The Language of Mountains is Rain</i>
WHITE	<i>Community Acoustics</i> [World Premiere of a new arrangement, MusicNOW Commissioned Arrangement]

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**CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence:**

[Missy Mazzoli](#)

**Featured Artists for these Performances:**

[Michael Lewanski, conductor](#)

[Cynthia Yeh, percussion](#)

**The Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

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 30 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.