MusicNOW SERIES FEATURES MUSICIANS FROM THE CSO AND VOCAL ENSEMBLE QUINCE IN PROGRAM OF NEW MUSIC TITLED “ECSTATIC SCIENCE”

Program Includes Two World Premieres—a CSO Commission by Recent Rome Prize Winner Courtney Bryan and a Work by Chicago Composer David Reminick

CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli’s “Ecstatic Science” Receives its Chicago Premiere and Anchors the Program

Monday, March 23, 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, continues with a program on Monday, March 23, at 7:00 p.m., at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park (205 E. Randolph, Chicago). Titled “Ecstatic Science” and curated by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli, the performance features musicians from the CSO, as well as guest vocal ensemble Quince, in a program that includes two world premieres and a work by Mazzoli.

The program takes its name, “Ecstatic Science,” from a chamber work composed by Mazzoli, whose work is being performed on the MusicNOW series for the first time and whose new work Orpheus Undone will receive its world premiere by the CSO led by Riccardo Muti next month. Scored for a sextet of wind and string instruments, Ecstatic Science imbues a meticulously crafted harmonic structure with a simmering, luminous melodic energy. Conductor Edwin Outwater leads musicians from the CSO for this work.

Outwater also leads special guest vocal ensemble Quince and wind, brass and percussion players from the CSO for the world premiere of Requiem, a CSO-commissioned work by composer/pianist and recent Rome Prize winner Courtney Bryan. Requiem combines elements of the Anglican requiem with the celebratory, exuberant sounds of a New Orleans jazz funeral.
The treble quartet of voices of Quince are also featured in the world premiere of Chicago-based composer David Reminick’s *The Pub from In Dreams*, as well as sonic artist Warren Enström’s *Hushers*, in which the voice becomes a percussion instrument, creating pulsating rhythms by layering dissonant harmonies and extended techniques with an accompaniment of hisses and shushes. The program also includes Gilda Lyons’ *Bone Needles*, an introspective duet that explores possibilities for direct communication between two voices even without words, stitching together abstract vocal sounds into a single, continuous musical tapestry.

Singing with the precision and flexibility of modern chamber musicians, the treble vocal quartet Quince—Liz Pearse (soprano), Kayleigh Butcher (mezzo soprano), Amanda DeBoer Bartlett (soprano) and Carrie Henneman Shaw (soprano)—are dedicated advocates of new music and regularly commission new works, providing wider exposure for the music of living composers. They recently received a Chamber Music America award to commission a new song cycle by Chicago-based composer LJ White. In 2018 they released their third studio album, *Motherland*, and their upcoming fourth album, *David Lang’s love fail*, will be released next month.

Conductor Edwin Outwater is the Artistic Director of the Eastern Sierra Symphony in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., and Music Director Laureate of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony in Ontario, Canada. He has conducted major orchestras around the globe including the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestras, Tokyo Symphony, Mexico City Philharmonic and Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie. Outwater’s extensive guest conducting schedule this season includes debuts with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s at Carnegie Hall, the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Japan’s Pacific Music Festival, as well as return engagements with the Chicago, San Francisco, Indianapolis and Colorado symphonies.

Each MusicNOW concert includes an opportunity for patrons to meet with CSO musicians and composers in an informal setting during post-concert after-parties 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.

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, March 23, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**
**Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**
**Missy Mazzoli**, Mead Composer-in-Residence
**Edwin Outwater**, conductor
**Quince**, vocal ensemble
CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence:
Missy Mazzoli

Featured Artists for this Performance:
Edwin Outwater, conductor
Quince, vocal ensemble

Chicago Symphony Orchestra [link to cso.org] and [link to 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 [link to 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 [link to 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.