MusicNOW SERIES EXPLORES DICHOTOMIES OF LARGE AND SMALL, SIMPLE AND COMPLEX IN PROGRAM TITLED “OBSCURE CLUES AND SHINY OBJECTS”

Program Includes Works by David T. Little, Emma O’Halloran, Gemma Peacocke, Brendon Randall-Myers and Michael Gordon

Monday, December 2, 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, December 2, at 7:00 p.m., at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park (205 E. Randolph, Chicago). Titled “Obscure Clues and Shiny Objects” and curated by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli, the program explores the dichotomies of large and small, and simple and complex. CSO Assistant Concertmaster Yuan-Qing Yu is a featured soloist, and conductor Alan Pierson leads musicians from the CSO in two of the works.

The program opens with David T. Little’s obscure clues and shiny objects for solo violin—performed by CSO Assistant Concertmaster Yuan-Qing Yu—followed by works by two members of the Kinds of Kings composer collective, Emma O’Halloran and Gemma Peacocke. O’Halloran’s Vertical Fields juxtaposes sonically disparate textures by pushing the limits of the piano trio’s tonal palette, while Peacocke’s string quartet Shudder creates hollow, otherworldly soundscapes through expansive open-string tremolos. Conductor Alan Pierson leads the final two works on the program, Brendon Randall-Meyers’ Chopsticks from Anthology and Michael Gordon’s Hyper. In his 2016 work for septet Anthology, Brooklyn-based composer Brendon Randall-Myers brings together electronics and acoustic instruments to explore how the physical
act of performance affects the contours of musical sound. The program closes with Hyper by Bang on a Can co-founder Michael Gordon. Inspired by the optical illusions of M. C. Escher, Hyper attempts to create “the musical equivalent of an impossible object” through a crystalline lattice of overlapping melodies that cycle through different key centers, yet improbably end up where they began.

An international award-winning violinist, Yuan-Qing Yu leads an active life as a soloist, chamber musician and teacher. A native of Shanghai, China, Yuan-Qing Yu was appointed by Daniel Barenboim as Assistant Concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1995. She has given numerous critically acclaimed performances as a featured soloist with the CSO, Monte Carlo and Radio France Philharmonics, and London City Orchestra. A contemporary music enthusiast, Yuan-Qing Yu gave the Chicago premiere of Pierre Boulez’s Anthèmes 2 for solo violin and was invited by Boulez and Barenboim to perform the work in Berlin for Boulez’s 80th birthday celebration concert. Locally, she can be seen and heard regularly on WFMT’s live programs and in concerts with Civitas Ensemble, of which she is a founding member.

Alan Pierson is the artistic director and conductor of the acclaimed ensemble Alarm Will Sound and principal conductor of the Dublin-based Crash Ensemble. Previously, he served for three years as the artistic director and conductor of the Brooklyn Philharmonic. His guest conducting appearances include with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Steve Reich Ensemble, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, Carnegie Hall’s Ensemble ACJW, Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, New World Symphony, and The Silk Road Project, among other ensembles. He regularly collaborates with major composers and performers including Yo-Yo Ma, Steve Reich, Dawn Upshaw, Osvaldo Golijov, John Adams, Augusta Read Thomas, David Lang, Michael Gordon, Donnacha Dennehy, La Monte Young, and choreographers Mark Morris, John Heginbotham, Akram Khan and Elliot Feld.

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 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 Monday, December 2, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence:

**Missy Mazzoli**

**Featured Artists for these Performances:**

**Alan Pierson**, conductor  
**Yuan-Qing Yu**, violin

**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.