SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS JAZZ SERIES PROGRAMMING ANNOUNCED FOR 2020/21 SEASON

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis Returns for Two-Concert Chicago Residency

Other Acclaimed Artists Include NEA Jazz Masters Jack DeJohnette, Bobby McFerrin, Maria Schneider, Dave Holland and Kenny Barron

Jazz Legend Dave Brubeck Celebrated During the Centennial of His Birth

Joshua Redman, Brad Mehldau, Christian McBride and Brian Blade Reunite More Than 25 Years After the Release of Their Hit Album MoodSwing

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces the 2020/21 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz series programming. Despite the uncertain times facing the performing arts and our community, and with an acknowledgement that some of these plans may need to change, the CSOA is pleased to continue its commitment to presenting some of today’s most acclaimed and innovative jazz artists with the 27th season of Symphony Center's jazz series.

Highlights of the 2020/21 series include the return of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis for a two-concert residency, programs celebrating the centennial of the birth of jazz legend Dave Brubeck, A MoodSwing Reunion featuring Joshua Redman, Brad Mehldau, Christian McBride and Brian Blade, as well as the return of several acclaimed artists including six NEA Jazz Masters.

In addition to those programs, the 2020/21 season offers a variety of music and projects. In October, the series welcomes two percussionists with Chicago roots—Jack DeJohnette and Thaddeus Tukes—in a program that is a part of the Year of Chicago Music, a citywide, yearlong focus on music designated by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the Department of Cultural Affairs and
Special Events (DCASE). In April, two programs feature a couple of today’s leading women in jazz—vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant with her fresh interpretations of jazz standards and Maria Schneider and her orchestra performing her latest work, *Data Lords*. Additionally, both Dave Holland and Danilo Pérez have developed programs exclusively for the SCP Jazz series that showcase each of these artists with multiple ensembles.

Program details for each of the 10 concerts in the 2020/21 SCP Jazz series follow. All SCP Jazz series concerts in the 2020/21 season take place on Fridays at 8:00 p.m. at Symphony Center in Chicago unless noted otherwise.

The 2020/21 season of the SCP Jazz series opens on **Wednesday, September 30, at 8:00 p.m.**, with *A MoodSwing Reunion*, a program featuring saxophonist Joshua Redman with members of his first established quartet—pianist Brad Mehldau, bassist Christian McBride and drummer Brian Blade. In 1994, this quartet of young musicians released its hit album *MoodSwing*, and subsequently each of these band members have gone on to earn critical acclaim for their individual projects and other collaborations. While their musical interests have taken them in a variety of directions ranging from electric bands, big bands, chamber orchestras and folk ensembles over the past 25 years, this reunion brings together their myriad experiences for a program that showcases their talents and openness to new ideas.

The series continues on **Friday, October 30, at 8:00 p.m.**, with a concert that celebrates two Chicago percussionists and is a part of the Year of Chicago Music—a citywide, yearlong focus on music designated by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE). With a career spanning five decades, drummer and NEA Jazz Master Jack DeJohnette returns to his hometown with John Coltrane’s saxophonist son Ravi Coltrane and bassist Matthew Garrison, the son of John Coltrane’s quartet bassist, Jimmy Garrison. While this trio explores a connection to their jazz legacy, their compositions and improvisations are contemporary and feature DeJohnette’s driving rhythms, Coltrane’s lyric solos and Garrison’s lean and punctuating bass lines.

The October 30 concert opens with the Thaddeus Tukes Quintet in their SCP Jazz series debut. Vibraphonist, Chicago native and alumnus of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association’s Percussion Scholarship Program, Tukes is a rising star on the jazz scene and is known for his blues-based tunes and fluid approach.

On **Friday, November 20, at 8:00 p.m.**, the Brubeck Brothers Quartet celebrates the centennial of the birth of jazz icon Dave Brubeck, whose 1959 *Take Five* was the first jazz album to sell one million copies. The sons of the legendary jazz pianist and composer of popular jazz songs including “Blue Rondo A La Turk,” Chris and Dan Brubeck first started performing with their father as teens before forging their own musical paths—Chris in symphonic, band, chamber and jazz music composition and trombone and bass performance, and Dan as a drummer in his electric jazz group, The Dolphins. The brothers lead their quartet, which includes pianist Chuck Lamb and guitarist Mike DiMicco, and special guests Catherine Russell on vocals, Joey DeFrancesco on Hammond B-3 organ and Chicago native Chico Freeman on tenor saxophone,
in a program created exclusively for the SCP Jazz series that includes new arrangements of the jazz standards their father crafted along with a multimedia presentation.

The SCP Jazz series continues on **Friday, January 29, 2021, at 8:00 p.m.**, with the return of innovative jazz trio The Bad Plus, featuring special guest guitarist Kurt Rosenwinkel. Since their inception in 2000, The Bad Plus has brought their genre-defying sound that melds rock, pop, modern jazz and classical influences to a diverse repertoire that ranges from Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit” and Black Sabbath’s “Iron Man” to Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring*. For this program, the group—which features band founders Reid Anderson on bass and David King on drums with 2018 addition Orrin Evans on piano—invites like-minded guitarist Kurt Rosenwinkel, whose angular improvisation is tempered by a shimmering, crystalline tone and a fluidly lyrical approach to his instrument.

The January 29 concert opens with the SCP Jazz series debut of Rogue Parade, led by alto saxophonist Greg Ward, performing music from their 2019 album, *Stomping Off From Greenwood*. A quintet of heavyweight creative Chicago musicians, Rogue Parade features guitarists Matt Gold and Dave Miller, bassist Matt Ulery and drummer Quin Kirchner to create a sound that blends beat-driven improvisation and rock energy.

Ten-time Grammy Award-winner and 2020 NEA Jazz Master Bobby McFerrin brings his engaging performance style to the SCP Jazz series on **Friday, February 12, 2021, at 8:00 p.m.**. With a four-octave vocal range and matchless improvisational skills, McFerrin has redefined the role of the human voice. Drawing on genres ranging from classical, rhythm and blues, jazz, pop and world music, he has explored unconventional ideas and projects including his 1988 a cappella pop hit “Don’t Worry, Be Happy,” in which he dubbed his voice over eight tracks with no other instruments or accompanists.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO), led by its dynamic bandleader and trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, returns to the SCP Jazz series for a performance on **Friday, March 12, 2021, at 8:00 p.m.**. Arguably one of today’s greatest jazz bands, the 15-member Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra consists of the finest soloists, ensemble players and arrangers performing now. Their SCP Jazz series program, titled “Voices of Freedom: Betty Carter, Billie Holiday, Abbey Lincoln and Nina Simone,” is directed by JLCO trombonist Chris Crenshaw and features new big band arrangements of essential works by some of the 20th century’s most powerful female singers and songwriters. Special guest vocalists Melanie Charles, Shenel Johns and Ashley Pezzotti join the JLCO for songs written and made famous by Betty Carter, Billie Holiday, Abbey Lincoln and Nina Simone.

In addition to their SCP Jazz series concert, this JLCO residency includes educational activities, as well as an SCP Special Concert celebrating the centennial of the births of pianist Dave Brubeck and saxophonist Charlie Parker on **Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.**. This tribute program features original arrangements of classic selections by jazz icons Charlie Parker, who pioneered the bebop style, and Dave Brubeck, whose “Take Five” remains the biggest jazz single in history.
The concert on **Friday, April 16, 2021, at 8:00 p.m.**, features three-time Grammy Award-winning vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant. After her 2010 win at the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocalist Competition, McLorin Salvant quickly established herself as a jazz artist worthy of acclaim. In addition to her wide range and unwavering pitch control, she is regarded for her compelling, sincere storytelling armed with wit and gravitas in equal measure. Her SCP jazz series program includes a set of original compositions, as well as jazz standards reinvigorated by her clever interpretations.

On **Friday, April 23, 2021, at 8:00 p.m.**, composer, Grammy Award-winner and NEA Jazz Master Maria Schneider and her 18-piece jazz orchestra present *Data Lords*, the bandleader’s latest project, which will be released as a double album on June 5. Inspired by conflicting relationships between the digital and natural worlds, *Data Lords* is Schneider’s musical response to the impact that the data-driven digital world has on humanity. Melding jazz and classical ideas in new ways, Schneider has composed music that includes rhythms that spell out Morse code messages like power, greed, SOS and CQ (is anybody there?), as well as bright timbres and rising harmonies that evoke the rising sun.

Bassist and NEA Jazz Master Dave Holland headlines the program on **Friday, May 21, 2021, at 8:00 p.m.**. The first half of the concert features Holland in a set with pianist and fellow NEA Jazz Master Kenny Barron, a duo that has been trading riffs seamlessly for more than three decades. For the second half of the concert, guitarist Kevin Eubanks and drummer Obed Calvaire join Holland for a dynamic, high-energy performance showcasing the technical capabilities and driving elegance of this trio of jazz heavyweights.

The 2020/21 SCP Jazz series comes to a close on **Friday, June 11, 2021, at 8:00 p.m.**, with a concert led by pianist and composer Danilo Pérez. For the first half, Pérez brings his international chamber group Global Messengers for a performance of his latest work, *Fronteras*, which received its premiere in summer 2019 at the Detroit Jazz Festival. This new, three-movement work traces short stories about migration and demonstrates the practice of building community through music. For the second half of the concert, Pérez brings his trio Children of the Light, with longtime collaborators from their days in Wayne Shorter’s quartet—bassist John Patitucci and drummer Brian Blade. This program highlights the intuitive give and take in improvisation with the combined layers of strings, drums and rhythmically charged piano playing.

For 2020/21 SCP Jazz series program listings information, click [here](#).

Beyond the 10 concerts in the 2020/21 SCP Jazz series, several Symphony Center Presents Special Concerts have also been announced. As previously announced, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis presents an SCP Special Concert celebrating the centennials of Charlie Parker and Dave Brubeck on **Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.**. Additionally, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with Branford Marsalis performs a program that explores the intersection of the jazz and classical genres on **Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.**, and legendary tabla player Zakir Hussain and the Masters of Percussion present their
program that fuses traditional Indian music with an ensemble of virtuoso percussionists on Friday, April 2, 2021, at 8:00 p.m.

Subscriptions for the 2020/21 SCP Jazz season in five-concert or 10-concert series are on sale now and begin at $125. Subscribers to any SCP Jazz series can purchase single tickets to any Special Concerts now. Single tickets for SCP Jazz concerts and Special Concerts go on sale August 7, 2020.

Subscribers to the 2020/21 SCP Jazz season help to ensure the future of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association and the world-class programming presented at Symphony Center. As always, in the event of concert cancellations, subscribers have options to exchange their tickets or hold their funds on account for future concerts in addition to other standard options available to all subscribers and ticket holders for CSOA-presented programs.

Subscriptions for the 2020/21 Symphony Center Presents Jazz series and tickets to Special Concerts can be purchased by phone at 312-294-3000 or online at cso.org.

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.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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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 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 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.