JEFF LINDBERG’S CHICAGO JAZZ ORCHESTRA AND SPECIAL GUESTS KENNY BARRON, BENNY GREEN AND RUSSELL MALONE PERFORM THE PIANO SOUL OF NAT KING COLE FOR SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS JAZZ SERIES

Program Celebrates the Instrumental Roots of Nat King Cole and the 100th Anniversary of the Year of His Birth

Friday, February 14, at 8:00 p.m.

CHICAGO—Jeff Lindberg and the Chicago Jazz Orchestra perform a Nat King Cole tribute concert on the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz series on Friday, February 14, at 8:00 p.m. The program, which was developed specifically for the SCP Jazz series, highlights the instrumental genius of Nat King Cole, as well as marks the centennial of the legendary artist’s birth in his adopted hometown of Chicago.

With the 2019 centennial of Cole’s birth in mind, the SCP Jazz series presents a program developed in collaboration with Chicago Jazz Orchestra bandleader Jeff Lindberg. This program, titled The Piano Soul of Nat King Cole, celebrates Cole’s roots in Chicago as a pianist by featuring selections from his Nelson Riddle Orchestra recording of the same name. Before Cole became known as a vocalist, he was a superlative jazz pianist who found inspiration from Earl Hines on the South Side of Chicago and went on to perform with his unique trio. The Riddle arrangements of Cole’s piano works get a fresh take by featuring special guest pianists Kenny Barron and Benny Green in transcriptions for piano and jazz orchestra. The program also pays tribute to Cole’s classic trio with performances by these pianists and Russell Malone on guitar and David Wong on bass.
As Chicago’s oldest professional jazz orchestra in continuous operation, the Chicago Jazz Orchestra has been hailed for its exceptional performances and preservation of the classic jazz orchestra sound. The CJO has served as the resident jazz orchestra for the Kennedy Center Honors Supper Dance for more than 25 years and has performed alongside jazz icons like Nancy Wilson, Kenny Burrell, Kurt Elling, Herbie Hancock and Dizzy Gillespie. Since its inception in 1978, the Chicago Jazz Orchestra has been led by conductor and artistic director Jeff Lindberg. The CJO’s 2005 recording Clark Terry and Jeff Lindberg’s Chicago Jazz Orchestra: George Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess received widespread critical acclaim including a “five star” rating from Downbeat magazine and a nomination as “Jazz Album of The Year” by the Jazz Journalists Association.

Kenny Barron has been nominated for eleven Grammy Awards and is a six-time recipient of the Best Pianist award from the Jazz Journalists Association. Barron’s career includes more than 40 recordings as a bandleader, along with his 2005 induction into the American Jazz Hall of Fame and reception of the National Award of Arts and Sciences in 2009.

Hard-bop pianist Benny Green has appeared on more than 100 recordings, collaborating with celebrated jazz artists including Betty Carter, Freddie Hubbard and Bobby Wilson. He also has extensive experience as a bandleader and has recorded several albums with his own groups. Green began studying classical piano at age seven before experimenting with jazz and joining Art Blakey’s legendary Jazz Messengers. In 1993, Oscar Peterson chose Green as the first recipient of the City of Toronto’s Glenn Gould International Protégé Prize in Music.

Largely self-taught, Russell Malone is one of the signature guitar players of his generation. The leader of 10 albums since 1992, Malone also has recorded with Christian McBride, Roy Hargrove, Harry Connick Jr. and Branford Marsalis. He is as well-known on the international circuit for helming a world-class quartet and trio, as well as his long-standing participation in Ron Carter’s Golden Striker Trio and his recent collaborations with artists such as Sonny Rollins and Dianne Reeves.

Jeff Lindberg represents a new breed of American conductors who are equally adept with the literatures of the American jazz orchestra and the European symphony orchestra. In addition to holding the position of conductor and artistic director of the Chicago Jazz Orchestra, Lindberg is music director of the Wooster Symphony Orchestra in Ohio. He also is an avid transcriber of original jazz recordings and has received more than 20 commissions from the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. His transcriptions have been performed by such artists as Joe Williams, Clark Terry, Gunther Schuller and David Baker, and by ensembles including the Count Basie Orchestra, Woody Herman Orchestra and Carnegie Hall Jazz Band.

Bassist David Wong currently is a member of Roy Haynes’ Fountain of Youth band, as well as the Heath Brothers quartet, led by jazz legends Jimmy and Albert “Tootie” Heath. He has performed with artists such as Clark Terry, Illinois Jacquet, Wynton Marsalis, Christian McBride, and recorded with Benny Green, Dan Nimmer, Jeb Patton and Albert “Tootie” Heath. A New York native, Wong graduated from the LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and the Performing Arts and the Juilliard School.
All ticketholders are invited to attend a free preconcert conversation on Nat King Cole’s piano recordings and Chicago roots by Grammy Award-winning journalist and broadcaster Neil Tesser. The conversation takes place at 7:00 p.m. in Grainger Ballroom.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Jazz series 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.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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Symphony Center Presents
Friday, February 14, at 8:00 p.m.
Jazz
The Piano Soul of Nat King Cole featuring Jeff Lindberg’s Chicago Jazz Orchestra with special guests Kenny Barron, Benny Green and Russell Malone

Chicago Jazz Orchestra
Jeff Lindberg, conductor
Kenny Barron, piano
Benny Green, piano
Russell Malone, guitar
David Wong, bass

Tickets: $28-$89

Featured Conductor and Artists for this Performance:
Chicago Jazz Orchestra
Jeff Lindberg, conductor
Kenny Barron, piano
Benny Green, piano
Russell Malone, guitar
David Wong, bass

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: www.cso.org and www.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 60 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
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.