CHICAGO—The 2019/20 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz series continues with a three-day residency by world-renowned trumpeter and bandleader Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO). Marsalis and JLCO appear on the SCP Jazz series with a program celebrating global “Jazz Ambassadors” on **Friday, November 15, at 8:00 p.m.**, and in a Symphony Center Presents Special Concert featuring a program of contemporary and traditional music celebrating South African democracy on **Saturday, November 16, at 8:00 p.m.**

In addition to the performances, on November 14 and 15, Marsalis and other JLCO musicians will work with local students through school visits, as well as a master clinic.

Arguably one of the today’s greatest jazz bands, the 15-member Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra consists of the finest soloists, ensemble players and arrangers performing today. The
November 15 program features a program of original arrangements and classic jazz selections celebrating global “Jazz Ambassadors” such as Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Dave Brubeck and Louis Armstrong.

The November 16 program features a musical celebration of South African democracy, 25 years after apartheid’s end. New York-based South African vocalists Melanie Scholtz and Vuyo Sotashe join Marsalis and the JLCO to perform contemporary and traditional South African songs newly arranged for this program. South Africa has long been a vibrant and unique jazz hub, and the music performed on this program reflects the sound of a nation defining itself anew after the end of apartheid.

Internationally-acclaimed bandleader, trumpet virtuoso and composer Wynton Marsalis is one of the most celebrated musicians of his time. As the Managing and Artistic Director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Marsalis leads music education efforts across the world while performing with renowned artists and ensembles. Marsalis’ past collaborators include esteemed orchestras and individuals like the Royal Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Willie Nelson, Norah Jones, Eric Clapton, Michael Tilson Thomas and many others. In 2016, the CSO performed the U.S. premiere of Marsalis’ Violin Concerto in D. Marsalis’ long list of accolades includes the National Medal of Arts, National Humanities Medal, France’s Legion of Honor, nine Grammy Awards, honorary degrees from more than 30 esteemed academic institutions across the country and a Pulitzer Prize for his expansive work *Blood on the Fields*. Marsalis has recorded more than 80 records of jazz and classical music, selling more than seven million copies worldwide.

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, vocalist Melanie Scholtz has performed in 16 countries across Europe and Africa. In 2012, Sotashe won all three prizes at the Jazz Revolutions Competition in Nice, France. She has performed with illustrious artists across the globe, including Jo Skaansar, the Ramon Alexander Trio, Al Jarreau and Bobby McFerrin. An avid educator and performer, Scholtz contributes to the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa, as a performer and teacher and serves as a mentor and artistic director for the Artscape Youth Jazz Program in Cape Town.

South African vocalist Vuyo Sotashe moved to New York City in 2013 after being named a Fulbright scholar. Sotashe has received numerous accolades including First Prize in the 2014 Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival Vocal Competition, the Audience Award in the 2015 Shure Montreux Jazz Voice Competition and Third Prize in the 2015 Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Vocal Competition. Sotashe currently tours with drummer Winard Harper.

All ticketholders are invited to attend free preconcert conversations with Seton Hawkins, Director of Public Programs and Education Resources at Jazz at Lincoln Center. The conversations take place before both the Friday, November 15, and Saturday, November 16, programs, both at 7:00 p.m. in Grainger Ballroom.
Select SCP Jazz concerts during the 2019/20 season—including the November 15 concert—will be followed by an after-party open to all patrons in Symphony Center’s new restaurant, Opus. Tickets to the after-party, which include admission, one drink and light appetizers, may be purchased for $25 ($20 for SCP Jazz series subscribers) in advance at cso.org or for $30 at the door.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Jazz series and Special 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 Jazz**

**Friday, November 15, at 8:00 p.m.**

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra**

Wynton Marsalis, trumpet

*Jazz Ambassadors*

Tickets: $48-$173

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**Symphony Center Presents Special Concert**

**Saturday, November 16, at 8:00 p.m.**

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra**

Wynton Marsalis, trumpet

Melanie Scholtz, vocals

Vuyo Sotashe, vocals

*South African Songbook*

Tickets: $45-$100

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**Featured Artists for this Performance:**

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra**

Wynton Marsalis, trumpet

Melanie Scholtz, vocals

Vuyo Sotashe, vocals

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**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 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.