KENT NAGANO AND THE MONTREAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
OPEN 2019/20 SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS ORCHESTRAS SERIES

Kent Nagano Leads the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in His Final Season as
Music Director

Russian Pianist Denis Matsuev is Featured Soloist

Program Includes 20th-Century Works by Prokofiev, Rachmaninov and Bartók

Tuesday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m.

CHICAGO—The Montreal Symphony Orchestra returns to Symphony Center on Tuesday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m., for a concert that opens the 2019/20 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Orchestras series. In his final season as Music Director of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, renowned conductor Kent Nagano leads the orchestra in a program of 20th-century works—Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra, Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 1 (Classical) and Rachmaninov’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini featuring Russian pianist Denis Matsuev as soloist.

The program opens with Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 1 (Classical), written in a style evoking the clarity and restraint of Mozart and Haydn while retaining Prokofiev’s unique compositional tone. The program continues further into the 20th century with Russian pianist Denis Matsuev performing Rachmaninov’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, a set of 24 variations on Paganini’s final Caprice for solo violin. This work is both emotionally moving and technically challenging, and the 18th variation has become familiar to audiences through films and
television. The program concludes with Bartók’s 1943 Concerto for Orchestra, which highlights the virtuosic capabilities of each section of the orchestra and culminates in a scintillating, fugal finale.

Founded in 1934, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra is a distinguished leader of musical life in Quebec and Canada and an essential cultural ambassador. Under the direction of American conductor Kent Nagano since 2006, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra performs innovative artistic programming in both concerts and recordings with conductors and soloists of the highest caliber. Additionally, the Montreal Symphony perpetuates several rich traditions of social involvement and regularly participates in far-reaching projects, tours and recordings. Over the years, the Montreal Symphony has crisscrossed Canada and toured abroad, traveling to the Quebec’s Far North as well as to the United States, Latin America and several countries in Europe and Asia. The Montreal Symphony Orchestra’s discography of more than 100 recordings has earned more than 50 national and international awards, including two Grammy Awards.

World-renowned conductor Kent Nagano is consistently lauded for his elegant and intelligent interpretations of a vast repertoire spanning the Baroque era to contemporary music, championing little-known works while bringing new ideas to the performance of the established repertoire. Now in his final season as Music Director of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, he previously served as Music Director of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin—of which he is now Honorary Conductor—from 2000 to 2006 and the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich from 2006 to 2013. He is Principal Guest Conductor of the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra (Sweden), and in 2015 he was appointed General Music Director of the Hamburg State Opera and Principal Conductor of the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra. A California native, Nagano has collaborated with some of the most esteemed orchestras including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, Vienna Philharmonic and many others. He won two Grammy awards for his recordings of Busoni’s Doktor Faust with the Opéra national de Lyon and Kaija Saariaho’s L’amour de loin (2009) with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester. Other awards include a Juno for his recording of Beethoven: The Ideal of the French Revolution (2008) and the Echo Prize for L’Aiglon (2015), both with the Montreal Symphony.

Pianist Denis Matsuev launched onto the international stage in 1998 after winning First Prize at the 11th International Tchaikovsky Competition. His extensive performing career has included concerts with premier orchestras like the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Filarmonica della Scala, Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris and the European Chamber Orchestra. His numerous accolades include state honors from his native Russia, including the Shostakovich Prize in Music as well as the People’s Artist of Russia honor. He is an Honored Artist of Russia, Honorary Professor at Moscow State University, head of the Public Council under The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, and a UNESCO goodwill Ambassador. Matsuev frequently brings his virtuosity to festivals across the world, including his festival “Stars on the Baikal,” which led to Matsuev receiving the Prize of the Government of the Russian Federation in 2017.
Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Orchestras series concerts can be purchased by phone at 800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000, online at cs.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.

### Symphony Center Presents

**Orchestras**

Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

**Montreal Symphony Orchestra**

Kent Nagano, conductor

Denis Matsuev, piano

PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 1 (*Classical*)

RACHMANINOV Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

BARTÓK Concerto for Orchestra

Tickets: $32-158

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**Featured Conductor and Artists for this Performance:**

Montreal Symphony Orchestra

Kent Nagano, conductor

Denis Matsuev, piano

**The Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org) and [www.csosoundsandstories.org](http://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](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.