YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN LEADS THE ORCHESTRE MÉTROPOLITAIN DE MONTRÉAL WITH JOYCE DIDONATO IN A SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS CONCERT

Program Includes Bruckner’s Fourth Symphony and Mozart Arias

Tuesday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m.

CHICAGO—Led by its Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal opens their fall 2019 tour with a performance featuring acclaimed American mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato on Tuesday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m., for a concert on the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Orchestras series. DiDonato performs two arias by Mozart, accompanied by the orchestra, followed by the orchestra’s performance of Bruckner’s Fourth Symphony.

The program opens with Mozart’s concert aria “Ch’io mi scordi di te” (Will I forget you?). Often considered one of Mozart’s most exceptional arias, “Ch’io mi scordi di te” features extensive coloratura passages with rapid scales and arpeggio figures. The program continues with an aria from Mozart’s opera La clemenza di Tito, “Parto, parto,” which prominently features the clarinet in obbligato passages alongside the vocalist, who expresses the duty-bound grief of the soldier Sesto (a trouser role) after he is ordered to murder his friend Tito. The concert concludes with Anton Bruckner’s Symphony No. 4 (Romantic), which features several of the composer’s most iconic brass passages and sweeping moments of pure romanticism.

One of Quebec’s leading cultural ambassadors, the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal was founded in 1981 on the premise that the best way to promote symphonic music is by creating
strong ties with the public. Building on their relationships, the ensemble has earned an enviable international reputation. Since the appointment of Yannick Nézet-Séguin as its artistic director in 2000, the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal’s renown has steadily grown. The Orchestre’s activities reflect its core values of accessibility and community involvement, as well as artistic innovation and creativity. The ensemble has received multiple Canadian Prix-Opus awards for excellence in the arts and performs more than 50 concerts at home and abroad every season. 2018 saw the orchestra’s first European tour and the completion of the final recording in its Bruckner symphony cycle project.

Montreal native Yannick Nézet-Séguin is one of today’s acclaimed rising stars in operatic and orchestral conducting. Earlier this fall, the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal announced that Nézet-Séguin’s contract with them was extended for life to demonstrate the commitment between the conductor and the Orchestre. In addition to his tenure as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Orchestre Métropolitain, Nézet-Séguin also serves as Music Director of New York’s Metropolitan Opera, Music Director of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Honorary Conductor of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and Honorary Member of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. He has collaborated with many leading European ensembles including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Bayerischer Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester, Berlin Philharmonic and Vienna Philharmonic. The Grammy-nominated conductor records exclusively on Deutsche Grammophon and has released the complete cycle of Bruckner symphonies with the Orchestre Métropolitain. His honors include Musical America’s Artist of the Year (2016), Royal Philharmonic Society Award, Canada’s National Arts Centre Award, the Prix Denise-Pelletier, and Prix Oskar Morawetz.

Acclaimed American mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato is one of the most celebrated performers of her generation. Much in demand on the concert and recital circuit, the two-time Grammy Award winner has held residencies at Carnegie Hall and at London’s Barbican Centre, toured extensively in South America, Europe and Asia and appeared as guest soloist at the BBC’s Last Night of the Proms. Her illustrious career includes performances with renowned ensembles including the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Opera, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Rotterdam Philharmonic, as well as with conductors Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Simon Rattle and Riccardo Muti. In addition to widespread acclaim for her interpretations of Mozart, Handel and Rossini, DiDonato is a four-time ECHO Klassik Award winner and the recipient of three Gramophone Awards. Her acclaimed performances in all genres and periods led to her induction into the Gramophone Hall of Fame and her 2018 reception of the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera. DiDonato joins the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Riccardo Muti for a November 15 performance of a lyric scene of Berlioz’s The Death of Cleopatra at Carnegie Hall, and then returns to Chicago on May 31, 2020, for a performance with Il Pomo d’Oro on the Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music series.

As a part of their commitment to connecting with the communities they serve, the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal has invited young musicians from the Chicago area to perform in the first floor Rotunda at Symphony Center prior to their concert. Fellows from the Chicago Musical
Pathways Initiative will perform from 6:45 to 7 p.m., followed by chamber ensembles from the Merit School of Music from 7 to 7:20 p.m.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Orchestras 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.

### Symphony Center Presents Orchestras

**Tuesday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal**

**Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, conductor

**Joyce DiDonato**, mezzo-soprano

**MOZART**

"Ch'io mi scordi di te? ... Non temer, amato bene," K. 505

**MOZART**

"Parto, parto" from *La clemenza di Tito*, K. 621

**BRUCKNER**

Symphony No. 4 in E-flat Major (*Romantic*)

**Tickets:** $32-$158

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

*Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal*

*Yannick Nézet-Séguin*, conductor

*Joyce DiDonato*, mezzo-soprano

**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 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](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.