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KIRILL GERSTEIN PERFORMS AN ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM TO OPEN 2019/20 SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS PIANO SERIES

Program Launches a Season-long Exploration of Beethoven’s 32 Piano Sonatas Performed on the SCP Piano Series and in Three SCP Special Concerts in Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Composer’s Birth

Sunday, October 13, at 3:00 p.m.

CHICAGO— Pianist Kirill Gerstein returns to Symphony Center on Sunday, October 13, at 3:00 p.m., for a solo recital to open the 2019/20 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series. The program, which features five sonatas from Beethoven’s early and middle periods, launches a season-long exploration of all 32 of Beethoven’s piano sonatas performed by renowned interpreters on the SCP Piano series and in three SCP Special Concerts in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the composer’s birth.

Gerstein brings his acclaimed interpretations to some of Beethoven’s lesser-known sonatas, beginning with Sonata No. 2 in A Major. The sonata expands on the style of Beethoven’s predecessors in this genre while hinting at the experimentation that would eventually redefine the possibilities for the piano sonata. Sonatas 16 and 19 feature elements of Beethoven’s lighter, jocular musical elements, leading to the concise and balanced Sonata No. 22. The brevity of Sonata No. 22 contrasts the sprawling Sonata No. 4 in E-flat that rounds out the program. Often overshadowed by Beethoven’s other compositions, Sonata No. 4 features compelling shifts in tone and an ending that is rather quiet and contemplative when viewed in comparison to his later work.

Pianist Kirill Gerstein is internationally renowned for his virtuosity and clarity of expression. He performs with some of the most distinguished orchestras in the world including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and Berlin Philharmonic. He has received numerous accolades including the 2010 Avery Fisher Career
Grant, First Prize at the 10th Arthur Rubinstein Competition and the 2010 Gilmore Artist Award. His recording of Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin was named “Concerto Recording of the Year” by ECHO Klassik, and his 2014 release under myrios classics, “Imaginary Pictures,” was listed by The New York Times as one of the top classical recordings of 2014.

Other guest artists performing the Beethoven piano sonatas this season include Kirill Gerstein on October 13, Rudolf Buchbinder on November 6 and 10, Sir András Schiff on March 29 and 31, 2020, Mitsuko Uchida on April 5, 2020, Evgeny Kissin on May 10, 2020, Igor Levit on May 20, 2020, and Maurizio Pollini on May 24, 2020.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Piano 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 Sunday, October 13, at 3:00 p.m.**

**Piano**

Kirill Gerstein, Piano

**BEETHOVEN**

Sonata No. 2 in A Major, Op. 2, No. 2
Sonata No. 16 in G Major, Op. 31, No. 1
Sonata No. 22 in F Major, Op. 54
Sonata No. 19 in G Minor, Op. 49, No. 1
Sonata No. 4 in E-flat Major, Op. 7

**Tickets:** $29-$83

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**Featured Artist for this Performance:**

Kirill Gerstein, piano

**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 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.