RENNOWNED BEETHOVEN INTERPRETER RUDOLF BUCHBINDER PERFORMS TWO RECITALS OF THE COMPOSER’S PIANO SONATAS AT SYMPHONY CENTER

Eight Beethoven Sonatas, Including the Appassionata, Performed Across Two Concerts

Wednesday, November 6 and Sunday, November 10

CHICAGO—Renowned Beethoven interpreter Rudolf Buchbinder performs eight of the composer’s piano sonatas across two Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano recitals on Wednesday, November 6, at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, November 10, at 3:00 p.m. Buchbinder’s recitals, which feature several of Beethoven’s early sonatas and the demanding Appassionata, are a part of a season-long exploration of all 32 of Beethoven’s 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 in 2020.

The first concert, on November 6, features Beethoven’s first and third piano sonatas. Although Beethoven’s earliest sonatas are more similar to the work of Haydn and Mozart than his own Romantic era compositions, Sonata Nos. 1 and 3 both feature daring leaps in range of the keyboard and expert deployment of musical contrast. The program progresses further into Beethoven’s catalog and shows the shift from his early work to the compositions that would redefine the keyboard sonata. The program closes with Sonata No. 23 (Appassionata), which Beethoven considered his greatest piano sonata, with its crashing chords and unexpected pauses.
Buchbinder’s second concert, on November 10, also features early Beethoven sonatas, opening with Sonata No. 5. The Fifth Sonata highlights the beginnings of Beethoven’s experimentation with the form and moments of depth that foreshadow the heaviness of his later works. The program concludes with Sonata No. 18, “The Hunt,” nicknamed for its theme that is reminiscent of a horn call.

With a career spanning more than 50 years, Rudolf Buchbinder is one of the legendary pianists of his time. His repertoire ranges from Bach to contemporary works, which he has documented in more than 100 recordings, many of them award-winning. In particular, his interpretations of the works of Ludwig van Beethoven are considered landmark projects. With his cyclic performances of the 32 Beethoven sonatas—more than 50 total—he developed the interpretation history of these works over decades. Buchbinder is the author of two books, his autobiography and My Beethoven - Life with the Master. He also is an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic and a recipient of the Mozart Interpretation Prize, the Grand Prix du Disque and the Grand Gold Decoration for Services to the Republic of Austria, among other accolades. Buchbinder is artistic director of the Grafenegg Festival and artist in residence with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Other pianists performing Beethoven’s piano sonatas and other major works for the instrument later this season include 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.

The appearance of Rudolf Buchbinder is generously sponsored by JS Charitable Trust.

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**Symphony Center Presents**
**Special Concert**

**Wednesday, November 6, at 8:00 p.m.**

**Rudolf Buchbinder**, piano

**BEETHOVEN**
- Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 2, No. 1
- Sonata No. 3 in C Major, Op. 2, No. 3
- Sonata No. 20 in G Major, Op. 49, No. 2
- Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, Op. 57 (Appassionata)
Symphony Center Presents  
Piano  

**Sunday, November 10, at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Rudolf Buchbinder, piano**  

**BEETHOVEN**  
- Sonata No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 10, No. 1  
- Sonata No. 6 in F Major, Op. 10, No. 2  
- Sonata No. 7 in D Major, Op. 10, No. 3  
- Sonata No. 18 in E-flat Major, Op. 31, No. 3  

**Tickets:** $21-$83

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**Featured Artist for this Performance:**  
Rudolf Buchbinder, 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 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.