CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
APRIL 2021 DIGITAL PROGRAMS ON CSOTV

CSO for Kids—Episode 4: Maybe Something Beautiful Premieres April 1

Two New Episodes of CSO Sessions Release on April 8 and 22
Featuring Mozart’s Serenade No. 10 (Gran Partita) and
Messiaen’s Quartet for the End of Time

Civic Orchestra of Chicago Series Continues April 15 with
Episode 3: Saint-Georges, Clarke & Hensel

From the CSO’s Archives: Great Music From Chicago—Episode 4 Premieres April 29 and
Features 1963 Broadcast Program with Walter Hendl and Isaac Stern

Orchestral Excerpt Insights Video Series with CSO Musicians Continues in April

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces details of its April 2021 programming on CSOtV and other digital content—all designed to connect local and global audiences with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra online. Highlights include the newest animated story with music in the CSO for Kids series, two new episodes in the CSO Sessions series featuring masterworks of the chamber music repertoire, the third release in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago series with a focus on string quartet selections from three musical eras, and an archival CSO performance led by former associate conductor Walter Hendl and featuring violinist Isaac Stern. All five April 2021 releases will be available on CSOtV, a portal for free and premium on-demand videos. Throughout the month of April, Experience CSO, a new source for music lovers to immerse themselves in the sounds and stories behind the music of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, introduces the next set of educational videos featuring CSO musicians performing orchestral excerpts.

A chronological list of April 2021 digital programs is available here.
Episode 4: Maybe Something Beautiful (April 1)
Based on a true story, Maybe Something Beautiful reveals how art can inspire transformation—and how even the smallest artists can accomplish something big. Inspired by the award-winning book written by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell and illustrated by Rafael López, this new animated story with music follows young Mira and her neighbors as they discover how a splash of color can change a community. The fourth episode in the CSO for Kids series, and the second to feature a collaboration between the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chicago Children’s Theatre (CCT), Maybe Something Beautiful includes narration in English and Spanish by Jasmin Cardenas. The featured music selections include Quinteto Sinfónico by Miguel del Aguila, Son de la Bruja by José-Luis Hurtado and Libertango by Astor Piazzolla, arranged by Jeff Scott and performed by CSO musicians Jennifer Gunn (flute), Scott Hostetler (oboe), Principal Bassoon Keith Buncke, David Griffin (horn) and guest musician Jonathan Gunn (clarinet).

Jacqueline Russell, Artistic Director, Chicago Children’s Theatre, and Jon Weber, Director, School and Family Programs, Negaunee Music Institute, co-directed Maybe Something Beautiful. The production team includes CCT Production Director Will Bishop, who also designed the puppets; Miranda Betancourt, puppetry assistant; Jeffrey Paschal, director of photography for Chicago Children’s Theatre; Todd Rosenberg, director of photography for the CSO; and Charlie Post, Mark Alletag and Connor Boyle, audio engineering. English and Spanish editions of the book Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood are published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

CSO Sessions

Launched in October 2020, the digital series of on-demand, high-definition video recordings of chamber music performances by Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians filmed in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center continues in 2021. Programs for the CSO Sessions series are developed with artistic guidance from Music Director Riccardo Muti.

Episode 17: Mozart Gran Partita (April 8)
Widely recognized as one of Mozart’s greatest achievements for wind ensemble, the Serenade No. 10 in B-flat Major (Gran Partita) is more symphonic in scale than the composer’s other serenades for winds. Nearly 50 minutes of music unfold in seven movements scored for 13 instruments: two oboes, two clarinets, two basset horns (a special type of bass clarinet), two bassoons, four horns and one double bass, and highlights a wide range of instrumental color throughout the piece. After the grand opening chords of the first movement, the work also includes a famous Adagio movement with a soaring melody passed from oboe to clarinet and supported by a gentle, pulsing accompaniment from the other players. Later, there is a playful and inventive theme and variations, an Andante inspired by the traditional Austrian dance, the ländler, and a spirited Finale. The performance features Principal Oboe William Welter, Lora Schaefer (oboe), Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson, Todd Levy (clarinet, guest musician), Assistant Principal Clarinet John Bruce Yeh on basset horn, Teresa Reilly (basset horn, guest musician), Principal Bassoon Keith Buncke, Dennis Michel (bassoon), Principal Horn David Cooper, James Smelser (horn), Susanna Gaunt (horn), David Griffin (horn) and Robert Kassinger (bass).

Episode 18: Messiaen Quartet for the End of Time (April 22)
The evocative sound world of 20th-century French composer Oliver Messiaen is at the center of this
program that features his seminal chamber music work, *Quartet for the End of Time*. Written in 1940 while Messiaen was living in a prisoner-of-war camp during World War II, the quartet calls for piano, clarinet, cello and violin—the instruments available to Messiaen and several fellow musicians who were also at the camp—and includes eight movements that range in musical character from solemn to ecstatic. An inscription on the score comes from the Book of Revelation: “In homage to the Angel of the Apocalypse, who lifts his hand toward heaven, saying, ‘There shall be time no longer.’” A deeply spiritual person and an amateur ornithologist, Messiaen took inspiration from sounds of nature, such as birdsong, as well as specific Bible passages to create music that suggests “a tangle of rainbows” and a “dance of fury,” as well as extraordinary solo passages for violin, clarinet and cello. The performance features Concertmaster Robert Chen, Principal Cello John Sharp, Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson and guest pianist Kuang-Hao Huang.

**Civic Orchestra of Chicago**

**Episode 3: Saint-Georges, Clarke & Hensel** (April 15)

Featuring musicians of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the CSO’s preprofessional training orchestra, this series of free, on-demand episodes continues with a program focused on works for string quartet from multiple eras of classical music. The program opens with the String Quartet in G Minor, Op. 1, No. 5, written in 1773 by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, followed by *Poem* for String Quartet by 20th-century composer Rebecca Clarke. It concludes with the String Quartet in E-flat Major by 19th-century composer Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel. The performances feature the Civic Orchestra of Chicago String Quartet (Joy Curtain and Genevieve Smelser, violins; Benjamin Wagner, viola; and Najette Abouelhadi, cello).

**From the CSO’s Archives: Great Music From Chicago**

**Episode 4: Walter Hendl & Isaac Stern** (April 29)

A frequent and favorite soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, violinist Isaac Stern returned to Chicago in January 1963 to perform Beethoven’s Second Violin Romance and Bruch’s First Violin Concerto on this televised concert. Walter Hendl, the Orchestra’s associate conductor, was on the podium and opened the program with Beethoven’s *Coriolan* Overture.

**Orchestral Excerpt Insights with Musicians from the CSO**

Created by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, this series of educational videos features individual musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performing and sharing personal insights about orchestral music excerpts that are regularly requested in orchestral auditions. Featured excerpts to be released in April on the *Experience CSO* website include Dvořák’s Symphony No. 9 (*From the New World*) with Scott Hostetler (English horn), Strauss’ *Salome* with Miles Maner (contrabassoon), Rossini’s Overture to *William Tell* with Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson and Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 9 with Principal Bassoon Keith Buncke.

**InterMISSION at the CSO and CSOradio**

Free audio content includes the podcast InterMISSION at the CSO, which offers behind-the-scenes conversations about what it takes to make the CSO one of the world’s greatest orchestras. More information is available at [cso.org/intermission](http://cso.org/intermission). In addition, [CSOradio](http://csoradio.org) offers listeners in Chicago and
around the world the opportunity to connect with full-length concert broadcasts of Chicago Symphony Orchestra performances. To access complete radio program information and to listen to free, on-demand radio broadcasts of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on CSOradio, visit cso.org/radio.

Patron Information

Individual episodes of CSO Sessions are available for $15. A 20% discount is available for purchases of three or more premium online episodes. New premium episodes on CSOtv are available for on-demand streaming for 30 days after each premiere, unless otherwise noted. Audiences can watch CSOtv videos on desktop computers, tablets or mobile phones, with additional options to cast to a compatible TV from a preferred device.

Additional information about viewing and purchasing premium CSOtv episodes may be found at cso.tv. CSOA Patron Services representatives are available by web chat at cso.org, by calling 312-294-3000 (Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.) or by emailing patronservices@cso.org.

Created in spring 2020 in response to the financial impacts of the pandemic and with generous support from leadership donors, the CSOA’s Music Ahead campaign continues in the 2020/21 season and will provide funds that support the CSOA and its commitment to sharing classical music with audiences in Chicago and worldwide. Gifts of donated tickets are welcomed as part of the ongoing Music Ahead campaign. More information is available at cso.org/musicahead.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

The CSO’s music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

Sponsorship support for CSO Sessions is generously provided by the Zell Family Foundation; Kenneth C. Griffin Charitable Fund; an anonymous donor; JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of the DuPage Foundation; the Julian Family Foundation in honor of Cristina Rocca; Cynthia M. Sargent; the National Endowment for the Arts; Megan and Steve Shebik; Betty W. Smykal; ITW, and PNC.

The 2020/21 Civic Orchestra of Chicago season is generously sponsored by The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Major funding for the Civic Orchestra Fellowship Program is provided by The Julian Family Foundation.

The Negaunee Music Institute is endowed by a generous gift from The Negaunee Foundation.

Support for CSO For Kids is provided by Abbott Fund, Archer Daniels Midland Company, John Hart and Carol Prins, Kinder Morgan, PNC, Megan and Steve Shebik, Michael and Linda Simon, the Walter and Caroline Sueske Charitable Trust and an anonymous family foundation.

Allstate Insurance Company is the CSOA Youth Education Program Sponsor.
Generous support for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association’s media portal, Experience CSO, is provided by the Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association acknowledges Bank of America for its special support of the CSOradio broadcast series.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org and experience.cso.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 62 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 63 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 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 (Ken-David Masur, Principal Conductor), 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.