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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
DECEMBER 2020 DIGITAL PROGRAMMING

Three New Episodes of CSO Sessions to Premiere December 3, 10 and 17

Home for the Holidays Episode of CSO Sessions Premieres December 17

Symphony Center Presents Continues a Holiday Tradition Online with
December 6 Digital Premiere of A Chanticleer Christmas: From Darkness to Light

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces details for its December 2020 digital programs that provide audiences both locally and around the world a way to connect with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra online. Highlights include the premiere of three new episodes in the CSO Sessions series, as well as a special online holiday presentation of Symphony Center Presents On Demand. Programs will be available via CSOtv, the new portal for free and premium on-demand videos.

A chronological list of December 2020 digital programs is available here.

CSO Sessions

The new digital series of on-demand, high-definition video recordings of chamber music and chamber orchestra concerts feature performances by Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians filmed in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center. Programs for the CSO Sessions series are developed with artistic guidance from Music Director Riccardo Muti. Introduced in October 2020, the series continues with new episodes premiering on the first three Thursdays in December 2020.

Episode 8: Tower, Walker, Milhaud & Tchaikovsky (December 3)
Works by two Pulitzer Prize–winning composers, Joan Tower and George Walker, are featured in a varied program that also includes 20th-century French composer Darius Milhaud’s The Chimney of King René, a wind quintet and homage to his homeland in the south of France, as well as Tchaikovsky’s landmark Serenade for Strings, for large string ensemble. Tower’s Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman, No. 1, which was inspired by Aaron Copland’s iconic Fanfare for the Common Man and is similarly
scored for brass and percussion instruments, received its world premiere in 1987 and is dedicated to conductor Marin Alsop. Completing the program is Walker’s Lyric for Strings, an elegy scored for string ensemble which has become one of the composer’s most widely performed works and was most recently performed by the CSO in a 2018 performance led by Riccardo Muti.

**Episode 9: A Little Night Music with Dvořák, Mazzoli & Mozart** (December 10)
This diverse program opens with Dvořák’s Serenade in D Minor, a four-movement work for winds, cello and bass that was inspired by the rich tonalities and lyricism of Mozart’s wind serenades. The program continues with Death Valley Junction by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli. This string quartet is a sonic depiction of a town on the border of California and Nevada with a population of three and a fully functioning opera house, capturing the unstoppable energy of the woman who rehabilitated it in the 1960s. Closing the program is Mozart’s familiar and exuberant work for strings, Eine kleine Nachtmusik, featuring some of the composer’s most memorable music.

**Episode 10: Home for the Holidays** (December 17)
CSO musicians share the sounds of the season including Corelli’s Christmas Concerto and J.S. Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, as well as Baroque and festive selections arranged for brass quintet performed by members of the CSO brass section. Featured performers for the Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 include Concertmaster Robert Chen, Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson, Principal Oboe William Welter and Principal Trumpet Esteban Batallán.

**Symphony Center Presents On Demand**

**A Chanticleer Christmas: From Darkness to Light** (December 6)
A treasured holiday tradition continues in this new digital program. Praised as “the world’s reigning male chorus” by The New Yorker, the 12 voices of Chanticleer come together for musical selections that span centuries and represent expressions of reflection and celebration from around the world. Music Director Tim Keeler leads this special program that also includes music by Irving Berlin, Steven Sametz and George Walker. This premium holiday episode is available to watch through December 27, 2020.

**CSOtv Features**
CSOtv offers a wide variety of free, on-demand video content. Current feature presentations include: Tribute to Veterans: Trumpeting the Power of Music, hosted by CSO trumpet John Hagstrom, who holds the Pritzker Military Museum & Library Chair in the Orchestra; Solti’s Beethoven: The Fifth Symphony Revisited, a PBS Great Performances program featuring the CSO’s eighth music director Sir Georg Solti; the acclaimed 2014 performance of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and distinguished soloists led by Riccardo Muti; and the CSOA’s Sounds of Celebration program.

**CSO for Kids**
New animated stories for young audiences and their families created by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO are also available for free, on-demand streaming on CSOtv. The Music in George’s Head about composer George Gershwin and the creation of Rhapsody in Blue with special guest narrator and jazz legend Kurt Elling and My Magic Breath, created in partnership with Chicago Children’s Theatre and
featuring CSO musicians performing the music of J.S. Bach with narration by Chicago’s First Lady Amy Eshleman, are available now.

More information at cso.org/tv

InterMISSION at the CSO and CSOradio

Free audio content includes the newly launched 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. New episodes are released regularly with more information available at cso.org/intermission. In addition, CSOradio 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

Premium episodes on CSOtv start at $15 and a 20% discount is available when three or more premium episodes are ordered together. 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 videos is available at cso.org/tv. CSOA Patron Services representatives are available by web chat at cso.org or 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; an anonymous donor; the JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of the DuPage Foundation; the Julian Family Foundation in honor of Cristina Rocca; Megan and Steve Shebik; and Betty W. Smykal.

Support for Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association programming for children and families is provided by Abbott Fund, John Hart and Carol Prins, Kinder Morgan, PNC, 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.

Tribute to Veterans: Trumpeting the Power of Music was made possible with the generous support of COL (IL) Jennifer N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Retired) and the Tawani Foundation.

Major support for Symphony Center Presents On Demand is generously provided by Exelon.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association acknowledges Bank of America for its special support of the CSO Radio Broadcast series.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org and 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 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 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 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.