CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
ALL-NEW DIGITAL FALL 2020 SEASON

CSOtV Video Portal Launches with CSO Sessions, CSO for Kids Series and More

Programming Details and Advance Purchase Options for
October 2020 CSO Sessions Episodes Now Available

CSOradio Connects Listeners with Full-Length CSO Concert and Commercial Recordings
with Sunday and Tuesday Broadcasts on WFMT

New InterMISSION at the CSO Podcast Debuts September 21

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces details for an all-new
digital fall 2020 season that provides audiences both locally and around the world a way to connect with
the CSO online. This new vision has been developed in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
that has interrupted live performances and offers a variety of opportunities to experience new and
archival performances by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO).

Many of the fall 2020 programs will be available via CSOtV, the new video portal for free and premium
on-demand videos. Launching September 17, CSOtV offers access to the CSO Sessions series, CSO for
Kids educational videos, archival videos featuring concerts performed by the Orchestra and more. New
programs featuring Symphony Center Presents guest artists are also expected to come online in fall
2020, with more details to be announced. Audio programs including two different weekly radio broadcast
series and the new InterMISSION at the CSO podcast, which premieres on September 21, provide
additional opportunities to connect with the Orchestra this fall.

CSO Sessions
The new digital series of on-demand, high-definition video recordings of chamber music and chamber
orchestra concerts will feature performances by Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians filmed in
Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center. Programs for the CSO Sessions series were developed with artistic
guidance from Music Director Riccardo Muti. The series premiere on Thursday, October 1 becomes
available at 12:00 a.m. (Central) and marks the official opening of the 2020/21, the Orchestra’s 130th, season. The five inaugural episodes premiere each Thursday in October and become available for advance purchase beginning September 17. Additional episodes of CSO Sessions will be released through the end of the year, with more details to be announced in October.

Episode programming details are below and [here](#).

**Episode 1: Gershwin, Piazzolla, Villa-Lobos, Gabaye & Nielsen (October 1)**
This program represents a homecoming to the Orchestra Hall stage for CSO musicians and opens with the Orchestra’s principal wind players—William Welter (oboe), Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsdson (flute), Stephen Williamson (clarinet), Keith Buncke (bassoon) and David Cooper (horn)—in 20th-Century works by Gershwin, Piazzolla and Nielsen, written or arranged for wind quintet. In addition are two works written specifically for flute and bassoon. The CSO Flute and Piccolo Jennifer Gunn joins Assistant Principal Bassoon William Buchman to perform Villa-Lobos’s *Bachianas brasileiras* No. 6 and the final movement of the sparkling and virtuosic Sonatina by French composer Pierre Gabaye.

**Episode 2: Mozart & Tchaikovsky (October 8)**
Wind and string chamber ensembles are featured in this program that opens with Mozart’s Serenade No. 11, written for a wind octet comprised of doubled oboes, clarinets, bassoons and horns and featuring CSO principal and section wind players. The Mozart is paired with Tchaikovsky’s string sextet, *Souvenir de Florence*, featuring Concertmaster Robert Chen and Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong, as well as Principal Cello John Sharp, Assistant Principal Cello Kenneth Olsen and CSO violists Lawrence Neuman and Wei-Ting Kuo.

**Episode 3: Stravinsky, Saint-Georges & Dvořák (October 15)**
Chamber works from three different musical eras create a varied program that opens with 20th-century composer Igor Stravinsky’s neoclassical Octet scored for winds, strings and brass and featuring Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsdsson and Principal Trombone Jay Friedman in addition to Assistant Principal Clarinet John Bruce Yeh, Assistant Principal Bassoon William Buchman, Miles Maner (bassoon), Assistant Principal Trumpet Mark Ridenour (trumpet), John Hagstrom (trumpet), and Charles Vernon (bass trombone). The program continues with CSO violins and brothers Simon and Matous Michal performing the Violin Sonata No. 3 by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, whose compositions were widely performed in Paris in the 18th century. The program concludes with Dvořák’s Sextet, performed by CSO violinists Simon and Matous Michal, violists Catherine Brubaker and Weijing Wang and cellists Richard Hirschcl and Karen Basrak.

**Episode 4: Mozart, Shaw & Brahms (October 22)**
String quintets of Mozart and Brahms bookend this program that also includes *Boris Kerner* for Cello and Percussion by contemporary American composer Caroline Shaw. CSO violinists and sisters Qing and Lei Hou, violists Catherine Brubaker and Lawrence Neuman and cellist Karen Basrak are featured in the Mozart, while violinists Rong-Yan Tang and Kozue Funakoshi, Acting Principal Viola Li-Kuo Chang and viola Youming Chen and cello Daniel Katz are featured in the Brahms. The Shaw is performed by Assistant Principal Cello Kenneth Olsen and Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh.

**Episode 5: Rossini, Dahl & Prokofiev (October 29)**
This varied program features a string sonata written by a 12-year-old Rossini, music for brass by 20th-century composer Ingolf Dahl and an arrangement of Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet* Suite for wind
ensemble. CSO musicians featured in this episode include Principal Second Violin Baird Dodge and Susan Synnestvedt (violin), Richard Hirschl (cello), Daniel Armstrong (bass), Principal Horn David Cooper, Assistant Principal Trumpet Mark Ridenour, John Hagstrom (trumpet), Michael Mulcahy (trombone), Charles Vernon (bass trombone), Principal Tuba Gene Pokorny, Principal Oboe William Welter, Scott Hostetler (English Horn), Assistant Principal Clarinet John Bruce Yeh, Miles Maner (bassoon), David Griffin (horn) and Oto Carrillo (horn), and guest musician Teresa Reilly (clarinet).

From the CSO’s Archives

Throughout fall 2020, several concert programs from the Rosenthal Archives of the CSOA will be made available for free on CSOtv. Anticipated releases include newly digitized episodes selected from the Great Music from Chicago series originally broadcast weekly by WGN-TV in the 1950s and ‘60s and featuring extraordinary performances with legendary conductors and guest artists, as well as other special CSO television broadcast programs selected from the WTTW and Rosenthal Archives.

CSOtv Features

The CSO’s new video portal will regularly offer free, on-demand CSO concert performances, and performances of complete orchestral works. Initial CSOtv features include the CSO’s 2014 performance of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the CSO and Chorus and distinguished soloists, led by Riccardo Muti (which has attracted 23 million views since its initial premiere on YouTube), as well as a 2013 performance of Wagner’s Prelude and Liebestod from Tristan and Isolde, led by Esa-Pekka Salonen, which premieres at 7:30 p.m. (Central) on September 17. Additionally, the CSO’s virtual benefit event—Sounds of Celebration: An Evening at Home with the CSO—will be available on-demand following its premiere on October 24. Sounds of Celebration will include new performances by CSO musicians filmed in Orchestra Hall, along with special appearances by Riccardo Muti, Yo-Yo Ma and other artists who have been part of the life of the Orchestra throughout its history.

CSO for Kids and Programs of the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO

Beginning this September and continuing throughout the 2020/21 season, the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO will develop and release a series of six educational videos to be available on demand for free on CSOtv. A co-production between the Institute and Chicago Children’s Theatre, the first video in the series, My Magic Breath, premiered on September 10, 2020, and features performances by CSO musicians and narration by First Lady of Chicago Amy Eshleman. It is based on the popular children’s picture book My Magic Breath by New York Times bestselling author Nick Ortner with Alison Taylor, and illustrated by Michelle Polizzi, and weaves together music of J.S. Bach with colorful animation to show kids how mindful breathing can help to process emotions. The second video in the series, The Music in George’s Head, premieres on October 22 at 10:00 a.m. (Central). It is based on the picture book biography of American composer George Gershwin by Suzanne Slade and illustrated by Stacy Innerst. The new video was developed for children ages 5-9 and features Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Kurt Elling as the narrator alongside an archival recording of the CSO performing excerpts from Rhapsody in Blue as the soundtrack.

In addition to these educational videos, the Institute continues its work with Chicago Public Schools in 2020/21, having enhanced its support for elementary and high school music teachers in 15 Schools who are navigating the new realities of online education by offering musical instruction with CSO and Civic Orchestra musicians in virtual settings throughout the year. Some of this instruction will expand beyond
the classroom and be available as on-demand video master classes with CSO musicians available on the Orchestra’s website.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the CSO’s premiere pre-professional training orchestra, begins the 2020/21 season in October 2020 with online training opportunities led by more than 20 coaches from the CSO, and preparation for the 2020 Bach Marathon, which will be held virtually this year in December. Ken-David Masur continues as Civic Orchestra Principal Conductor for the 2020/21 season, with more details to be announced for Civic Orchestra programs later in the fall.

CSOradio

CSOradio offers listeners in Chicago and around the world the opportunity to connect with full-length concert broadcasts of Chicago Symphony Orchestra performances through the CSO’s nationally syndicated radio broadcasts, airing locally on WFMT 98.7FM and wfmt.com each Sunday from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. (Central), as well as the specially created weekly broadcast series From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years, which premieres on September 22 and will air weekly on WFMT each Tuesday from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. (Central) through December 29, 2020. The new series was developed with support from the Rosenthal Archives of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, and its launch coincides with the start of the Orchestra’s 130th season and focuses on the CSO’s extensive discography, with Grammy Award-winning releases as well as recordings from virtually every musical era in CSO history.

Highlights of fall 2020 programs featured in the nationally syndicated series showcase several programs led by Music Director Riccardo Muti, including the February 2020 performance of Mascagni’s Cavalleria rusticana (November 29), and concerto performances featuring pianists Mitsuko Uchida (December 13) and David Fray (October 25) as well as CSO Bass Clarinet J. Lawrie Bloom (September 27), Flute and Piccolo Jennifer Gunn (November 8), and Bass Trombone Charles Vernon (November 8) as soloists; a special broadcast with the Chicago Symphony Chorus performing Brahms’s Requiem and works by Bruckner and Bartók (December 20); and the CSO’s first performance of James Lee III’s Sukkot through Orion’s Nebula, recorded in November 2019 (November 1). To access complete programming information and to listen to free, on-demand radio broadcasts of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on CSOradio, visit cso.org/radio

Highlights of the new Tuesday radio series, From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years, include the Orchestra’s first commercial recording of Mendelssohn’s Wedding March from A Midsummer Night’s Dream; recorded in May 1916 under second music director Frederick Stock (September 22), Bruckner’s Seventh Symphony led by Bernard Haitink in 2007 during his first season as principal conductor (September 29), the Grammy Award-winning recording of Shostakovich’s Leningrad Symphony led by Leonard Bernstein in his final CSO podium appearances in 1988 (October 6), David Del Tredici’s Final Alice led by Sir Georg Solti and featuring American soprano Barbara Hendricks (October 13), Strauss’s First Horn Concerto featuring former CSO Principal Horn Dale Clevenger as soloist in an all-Strauss program (October 20), and a Halloween-inspired program that opens with a 1968 recording of Mussorgsky’s A Night on Bald Mountain led by former Ravinia Festival Music Director Seiji Ozawa (October 27).

InterMISSION at the CSO Podcast

This new, free podcast features Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians in behind-the-scenes conversations about what it takes to make the CSO one of the world’s greatest orchestras. Developed by
CSO trumpet John Hagstrom and local producer Scott Brewer, the new series premieres on Monday, September 21 and is available via Apple Podcasts, Google Play and Spotify, among other platforms. Five initial episodes will be released biweekly on Mondays during the fall beginning with the September 21 episode highlighting the role of conductors, followed by the October 5 episode featuring an interview with CSO horn James Smelser. More info at: cso.org/intermission.

**Patron Information**

Individual episodes of CSO Sessions will be available for $15, with a 20% discount available for purchases of three or more episodes. New episodes of CSO Sessions will be available for on-demand streaming for 30 days after each premiere. Advance purchasing access for inaugural episodes in the CSO Sessions series go on sale to the public September 17. 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.

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.

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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](http://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.