CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES FEBRUARY 2021 DIGITAL PROGRAMS ON CSOTV

CSOtv Video Playlist of Works by Saint-Georges, Perkinson and Walker
Part of Expanded Content for Black History Month

Two New Episodes of CSO Sessions to Premiere February 11 and 25
Featuring Works by Bach, Beethoven, Coleridge-Taylor and Price

Civic Orchestra of Chicago Series Continues with Episode 2 on February 18

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces details for its February 2021 digital programs on CSOtv, providing audiences both locally and worldwide with a way to connect with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra online. Highlights include expanded digital content for Black History Month: a video playlist of 2020 performances from the CSO Sessions series of works by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges; Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson, and George Walker; two new episodes in the CSO Sessions series that feature music by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Florence Price, and the next episode in a new series featuring performances by members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Additional content for Black History Month will also be available on the Experience CSO website, a new source for music lovers to immerse themselves in the sounds and stories behind the music of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

A chronological list of February 2021 digital programs is available here.

Black History Month

The artistry and creative contributions of Black musicians from around the world are the focus of expanded content offered throughout Black History Month on the Experience CSO website and CSOtv. Audiences can access a Black History Month video playlist on CSOtv that features 2020 performances from the CSO Sessions series of Saint-Georges’ Violin Sonata in A Major for violin duo, Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson’s Calvary string quartet and Pulitzer Prize-winning George Walker’s Lyric for Strings, as well as an excerpt previewing a new work by contemporary composer Courtney Bryan. The video playlist also
showcases 2020 performances by members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago including Florence Price’s Juba Dance from Symphony No. 1 and works by Jessie Montgomery and Tyshawn Sorey that are part of Episode 1 in the Civic Orchestra series available on CSOtv. Featured audio clips on Experience CSO will include the Orchestra’s 2019 Chicago premiere performance of James Lee III’s Sukkot Through Orion’s Nebula, a 2018 performance of Walker’s Lyric for Strings led by Riccardo Muti, and the Orchestra’s first performance of William Grant Still’s In Memoriam: The Colored Soldiers Who Died for Democracy from 2019. Throughout February, new articles on Experience CSO will continue to offer opportunities to learn more about Black composers and their music.

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 13: Coleridge-Taylor & Bach (February 11)
This program opens with Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s Clarinet Quintet from 1895, a four-movement work by the prolific composer who was born in England but made several visits to the United States in the early 20th century. Coleridge-Taylor greatly admired Dvořák’s music and his inventive use of American and African American folk melodies in his compositions. The Clarinet Quintet takes inspiration from Dvořák’s example, and its themes in several movements suggest the character of folk songs. The performance features CSO Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson with Concertmaster Robert Chen, Qing Hou (violin), Lawrence Neuman (viola) and Katinka Kleijn (cello). Completing the program is a performance of J.S. Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, which highlights the composer’s creative exploration of the keyboard concerto by placing special emphasis on the harpsichord as a solo instrument along with the solo flute and violin and including an extraordianry 65-measure cadenza for the harpsichord. The performance features Concertmaster Robert Chen, CSO Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson and guest musician Mark Shuldiner (harpsichord) as soloists with Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong, Catherine Brubaker (viola), Principal Cello John Sharp and Bradley Opland (bass).

Episode 14: Beethoven & Price (February 25)
Eclectic works by Beethoven bookend this program, which opens with his Duet with Two Obligato Eyeglasses for Viola and Cello, performed by Sunghee Choi (viola) and Katinka Kleijn (cello). Widely thought to be a duet that Beethoven enjoyed performing with one of his good friends who was also an amateur cellist, it is a playful yet technically challenging work. Beethoven’s Sextet for Two Horns and Strings in E-Flat Major, a work that is nearly a mini-concerto for two horns, concludes the program and features CSO horns Oto Carrillo and David Griffin with violinists Susan Synnestvedt and Aiko Noda, Diane Mues (viola) and Richard Hirschl (cello). Five Folksongs in Counterpoint for String Quartet, written by the 20th-century composer Florence Price, completes the program and features CSO violins Gina DiBello and Sylvia Kim Kilcullen, Catherine Brubaker (viola) and Katinka Kleijn (cello). Florence Price, whose Symphony No. 1 was first performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under music director Frederick Stock in 1933, making her the first Black woman to have her music performed by a major U.S. symphony orchestra, transformed familiar melodies through the use of counterpoint in this quartet. Five Folksongs in Counterpoint for String Quartet takes inspiration from five folk songs, including the spirituals “Calvary” and “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,” as well as American folk and popular songs “Shortnin’ Bread,” “Drink to Me with Thine Own Eyes” and “Oh My Darlin’ Clementine.”
Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Episode 2: Shared Reality (February 18)
Curated by the Civic Fellows and featuring performances by members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the CSO’s pre-professional training orchestra, this new episode showcases works for mixed ensembles by contemporary composers from diverse backgrounds. Works include the 2012 wind quintet *Startin’ Sumthin’* by Jeff Scott, composer and French hornist of the Imani Winds; Symbology #3 by Nicole Mitchell, a flutist and a composer who is also a member of the Chicago-based Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM); *Rapid Eye Movements* by Lithuanian composer Justina Repečkaitė; the 2009 sextet for mixed ensemble *Still Life with Avalanche* by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli and Lisa Atkinson’s *aponea*, an atmospheric work for strings, piano and percussion from 2019.

Special Events

Soundpost: Exploding the Canon-Music by Black Composers and Musician Inspired Activism (February 25)
The Overture Council, the CSOA’s young professionals group, hosts an online panel discussion during Black History Month on February 25 at 6:00 p.m. with special guests Lee Bynum of The Dream Unfinished and violinist Rachel Barton Pine, award-winning violinist and Executive Editor of Music By Black Composers and member of the Advisory Board for the CSOA’s African American Network (AAN). Reservations are required. The event is open to the public with a donation of any amount, which can be made online at cso.org/donateOC. More information is available at cso.org/soundpost.

CSOtv Features

CSOtv offers a wide variety of free, on-demand video content. Current feature presentations include: 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 from October 2020, among others.

More information at cso.tv.

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. 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. 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 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 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 episodes on CSOtv is available at cso.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; JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of the DuPage Foundation; the Julian Family Foundation in honor of Cristina Rocca; Cynthia M. Sargent; 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.

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.

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

# # #

**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 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.