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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES JANUARY 2021 DIGITAL PROGRAMS ON CSOTV

From the CSO’s Archives: Great Music From Chicago—Episode 2 Premieres January 7 and Features Former Associate Conductor Walter Hendl and Principal Cello Frank Miller

Two New Episodes of CSO Sessions To Premiere January 14 and 28 Featuring Works by Gounod, Mozart, Ravel and Brahms

Civic Orchestra of Chicago Series Launches January 21 with Episode 1: Montgomery, Akiho, Sorey and Adams

CSO for Kids Series Continues January 22 with New Animated Story May There Always Be Sunshine

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces details for its January 2021 programming on CSOtv that provides audiences both locally and around the world with a way to connect with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra online. Highlights include the second installment of Great Music from Chicago, two new episodes in the CSO Sessions series, a new CSO for Kids animated storybook and the launch of a new series featuring performances by musicians of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Programs will be available via CSOtv, a video portal for free and premium on-demand videos.

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

From the CSO’s Archives: Great Music From Chicago

Episode 2: Walter Hendl and Frank Miller (January 7)
Originally recorded by WGN-TV on February 25, 1962, as part of the weekly Great Music From Chicago series, this program features former CSO associate conductor and Ravinia Festival artistic director Walter Hendl leading a program that includes Sinigaglia’s Le baruffe chiozzotte (The quarrels in
Chioggia), Stravinsky’s Suite from *The Firebird* and Saint-Saëns’ Cello Concerto No. 1 in A Minor featuring Frank Miller, who was CSO principal cello from 1959 until 1985, as soloist. Host Jim Conway interviews Miller as part of the program.

**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 11: Gounod, Mozart & Ravel** (January 14)

This program opens with Gounod’s *Petite symphonie* for winds from 1895, a four-movement work that includes an intensely lyrical Adagio movement featuring the flute and a sparkling finale full of instrumental interplay and color. It is followed by Mozart’s Flute Quartet featuring CSO Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson with Concertmaster Robert Chen, Principal Cello John Sharp and Acting Principal Viola Li-Kuo Chang. The program concludes with Ravel’s String Quartet, the 20th century composer’s only work for this instrumentation, and a work which musically suggests the many moods and colors found in Impressionism. The performance features Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong, So Young Bae (violin), Assistant Principal Cello Kenneth Olsen and Lawrence Neuman (viola).

**Episode 12: Mozart & Brahms** (January 28)

This program opens with Mozart’s Serenade in C Minor, which is widely regarded as one of the composer’s finest chamber works. Written for eight wind and brass instruments, the four movements are more symphonic in character than some of Mozart’s other serenades and include a brilliant set of variations in the final Allegro. The performance features CSO principals William Welter (oboe), Stephen Williamson (clarinet), Keith Buncke (bassoon) and David Cooper (horn) and other members of the wind and brass sections. Completing this program is Brahms’ Sextet for Strings No. 2, a landmark chamber work, and one of only two sextets written by the composer. The prevailing melancholy in the piece gives way to a brighter musical character as it concludes with one of the composer’s best examples of a theme and variations. The performance features Concertmaster Robert Chen, Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong, Danny Lai (viola), Acting Principal Viola Li-Kuo Chang, Principal Cello John Sharp and Assistant Principal Cello Kenneth Olsen.

**Civic Orchestra of Chicago**

**Episode 1: Montgomery, Akiho, Sorey & Adams** (January 21)

Featuring musicians of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the CSO’s pre-professional training orchestra, this new series of free, on-demand episodes will continue throughout the season. Episode 1 features four works by trailblazing contemporary composers and opens with a composite video performance of Jessie Montgomery’s *Starburst* for string orchestra. Written in 2012, the composer calls the work “a play on imagery of rapidly changing musical colors” and was inspired by the phenomenon of the starburst, that is created when a large number of new stars form rapidly in the galaxy. Montgomery’s work is followed by two performances filmed in Orchestra Hall in December 2020 – *LigNEouS 1 for Marimba and String Quartet* by Andy Akiho and *Sentimental Shards* scored for string quartet, two vibraphones, glockenspiel, and piano by Tyshawn Sorey. The instrumentation for Akiho’s 2010 work underlines the connection to
the work’s title, ligneous, which means “made of wood,” and calls for unique use of mallets on the marimba, pizzicato effects and more. Sorey’s atmospheric ensemble piece, which premiered in 2014, takes inspiration from Duke Ellington’s "Sophisticated Lady" (1932) and John Adams' "Sentimentals" movement from his American Standard (1973). Concluding the program is a second composite video performance featuring John Adams’ Short Ride in a Fast Machine, the minimalist thrill ride which originally premiered in 1986.

CSO for Kids

May There Always Be Sunshine (January 22)
The newest animated story in this series, created especially for young audiences and their families by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, includes the delightful children’s song that takes inspiration from a Russian folk song that was later made popular by legendary folk singer Pete Seeger. Taking its cue from the book and recording of “May There Always Be Sunshine," by award-winning children’s author, early-childhood development specialist and musician Jim Gill, who joins vocalist and Chicago Symphony Chorus member Melinda Alberty on the new video project, it encourages to children to imagine and express their own wishes, following the example of wishes collected from children across the country. Illustrations are by Susie Signorino, who created the artwork for Gill’s book and animation is by acclaimed artist and illustrator Liviu Pasare. The video also features members of the CSO Brass section (Esteban Batallán, principal trumpet; Tage Larsen, trumpet; David Cooper, principal horn; Michael Mulcahy, trombone and Gene Pokorny, principal tuba) performing music from Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition.

Other CSO for Kids videos that remain available for free, on-demand streaming on CSOtv include The Music in George’s Head about composer George Gershwin and the creation of Rhapsody in Blue with special guest narrator and jazz vocalist 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.

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, 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 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 videos 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, and Betty W. Smykal.

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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.