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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
MARCH 2021 DIGITAL PROGRAMS ON CSOTV

The Symphony of Rhythm: Solti Conducts Beethoven’s Seventh Premieres March 4

Two New Episodes of CSO Sessions Release on March 11 and 25
Featuring Works by Bach, Beethoven, Gabrieli and Composers
Amanda Harberg and Jessie Montgomery in recognition of Women’s History Month

From the CSO’s Archives: Great Music From Chicago—Episode 3 Premieres March 18
and Features 1953 Broadcast Program Led by Désiré Defauw

Symphony Center Presents On Demand Series to Feature
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet with Wynton Marsalis in The Democracy! Suite
in Limited-Run Streaming Concert Available March 19-28

New Educational Video Series Orchestral Excerpt Insights with CSO Musicians
Launches March 1

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces details for its March 2021 programming on CSOtv and other digital content—all designed to connect local and global audiences with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra online. Highlights include two archival CSO performances led by former music directors Sir Georg Solti and Désiré Defauw and two new episodes in the CSO Sessions series that include works by contemporary women composers in recognition of Women’s History Month in March. The Symphony Center Presents On Demand series continues with its third release featuring the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet with Wynton Marsalis. All five March 2021 releases are available on CSOtv, a video portal for free and premium on-demand videos.

Experience CSO, a new source for music lovers to immerse themselves in the sounds and stories behind the music of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, features expanded content for Women’s History Month throughout March, as well as a new series of educational videos featuring CSO musicians performing orchestral excerpts available March 1.
A chronological list of March 2021 digital programs is available [here](#).

**CSOtv Features**

**The Symphony of Rhythm: Solti Conducts Beethoven's Seventh** (March 4)
In October 17, 1991, at the beginning of the CSO centennial season, Sir Georg Solti — newly named the ensemble’s first music director laureate — led a performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony that was taped for later broadcast. Originally presented by PBS’ Great Performances, this program also features Solti describing the work from the piano and leading a rehearsal in Orchestra Hall.

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

**Episode 3: Désiré Defauw** (March 18)
Belgian conductor Désiré Defauw served as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s third music director from 1943 until 1947. He returned to guest conduct on several occasions, including a television concert—one of the Orchestra’s earliest filmed concerts in the collections of the Rosenthal Archives—in December 1953. From WGN’s studios, Defauw led suites from Grétry’s *Cephalus and Procris* and Fauré’s *Pelleas and Melisande*, along with Schumann’s Fourth Symphony.

**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 15: Montgomery & Beethoven** (March 11)
This episode opens with composer Jessie Montgomery’s *Strum*. Written in 2006, *Strum* is based on "a driving pizzicato rhythm," Montgomery has observed. This rhythm offers the string players an opportunity to literally strum all four strings to create what Montgomery describes as “folk-like, guitar-like, driving groove” throughout the piece. Scored for string quintet, the performance features Assistant Concertmaster Yuan-Qing Yu, Simon Michal (violin), Weijing Wang (viola), Assistant Principal Cello Kenneth Olsen and Principal Bass Alexander Hanna. The program concludes with Beethoven’s Septet in E-flat Major. Similar in character to the wind serenades of Mozart, the six-movement septet is one of Beethoven’s masterworks for small ensemble and became one of his most popular compositions during his lifetime. The performance features Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson, Miles Maner (bassoon), Principal Horn David Cooper, Assistant Concertmaster Yuan-Qing Yu, Weijing Wang (viola), Assistant Principal Cello Kenneth Olsen and Principal Bass Alexander Hanna.

**Episode 16: Harberg, Gabrieli & Bach** (March 25)
Composer Amanda Harberg's *Hall of Ghosts*, written for solo piccolo, opens this episode. Of the work, written at the height of the pandemic lockdown in 2020, Harberg commented, “I have never felt such a need for music that communicates comfort, healing and spirituality.” The evocative five-minute piece invites listeners to imagine an empty concert hall slowly returning to life with the piccolo as a musical guide. Harberg adds, "I imagined the piccolo's music would chase away the spirits and call forth the return of live music." CSO Piccolo Jennifer Gunn had the idea to add a dancer to this performance and Harberg supported this variation on the original concept for the piece. Gunn joins dancer Alyssa Allen...
from Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in an interpretation filmed in Orchestra Hall and created with input from Hubbard Street Dance Chicago choreographer Jessica Tong and CSO photographer Todd Rosenberg. The enduring power and beauty of the music of J.S. Bach, whose birthday is recognized on March 21, is celebrated in this episode with performances of the *Brandenburg* Concertos Nos. 3 and 6. Musicians from the CSO’s string sections and guest musician Mark Shuldiner (harpsichord) are featured in these performances. Acting Principal Viola Li-Kuo Chang and Weijing Wang (viola) are soloists in Bach’s *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 6. Between the two concertos by Bach is a selection of works for brass written by the 16th-century Italian composer Giovanni Gabrieli and performed by members of the CSO brass section. Originally written and performed in the balconies of St. Mark’s Basilica in Venice, Italy, this set of Gabrieli works includes O magnum mysterium and several of his “canzoni” for four and eight players.

**Symphony Center Presents On Demand**

**Episode 3: The Democracy! Suite featuring the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet with Wynton Marsalis** (Limited-run, on-demand streaming March 19 through 28)
Written by Wynton Marsalis in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 crisis and the political, social and economic challenges facing the U.S. during the past year, *The Democracy! Suite* celebrates America’s music in this September 2020 performance recorded live at Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Appel Room in New York City. Marsalis describes the new work as “a swinging and stimulating instrumental rumination on the issues that have recently dominated our lives as well as the beauty that could emerge from a collective effort to create a better future.” The performance features the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet with Wynton Marsalis (trumpet/music director), Elliot Mason (trombone), Ted Nash (alto saxophone and flute), Walter Blanding (tenor and soprano saxophones), Dan Nimmer (piano), Carlos Henriquez (bass) and Obed Calvaire (drums). Patrons who purchase this premium episode also receive access to a moderated discussion and Q&A session with Wynton Marsalis on Thursday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m. (Central Time). As part of a virtual residency, musicians from the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra will interact with young Chicago jazz musicians in educational activities on several days in March.

**Women’s History Month**

The artistic contributions of women are the focus of expanded content offered throughout Women’s History Month on the [Experience CSO](https://www.experiencecso.org) website and [CSOtv](https://www.csotv.org). Audiences can access a Women’s History Month video playlist on CSOtv that features 2020 performances from the CSO Sessions series of Caroline Shaw’s *Boris Kerner*; Paola Prestini’s *G-Force, for Mickey*; Joan Tower’s *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman* No. 1; and *Death Valley Junction* by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli. 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 Nicole Mitchell. The March 30 broadcast of From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years on WFMT marks Women’s History Month with a program that features iconic soloists: violinist Kyung Wha Chung, cellist Jacqueline du Pré, soprano Lucia Popp, and mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, as well as works by two former composers-in-residence—Augusta Read Thomas and Shulamit Ran. Throughout March, new articles on Experience CSO will continue to offer opportunities to learn more about women composers and their music.
Orchestral Excerpt Insights with Musicians from the CSO

Created by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, this new 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 beginning March 1 on the Experience CSO website include Strauss’ *Ein Heldenleben* with Concertmaster Robert Chen, Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with Principal Bass Alexander Hanna, Mahler’s Symphony No. 5 with Principal Trumpet Esteban Batallán, and Dvořák’s *New World* Symphony with Scott Hostetler (English horn).

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. 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. The Symphony Center Presents On Demand premium episode featuring the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet with Wynton Marsalis is available for $25. 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; 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.

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The March 2021 engagement of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet with Wynton Marsalis is supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Illinois Arts Council Agency and the Crane Group.

Funding for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra concert and jazz educational programs during the 2020-21 season has been generously provided by Dan J. Epstein, Judy Guitelman and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation.

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

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** [cso.org](http://cso.org) and [experience.cso.org](http://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](http://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.