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Press Contacts:
Eileen Chambers
312-294-3092

Dana Navarro
312-294-3090

PROGRAMMING CURATED BY
CSO MEAD COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE MISSY MAZZOLI TO BE FEATURED IN JUNE 2021 EPISODES OF CSO SESSIONS

Episode 21: Cult of Electromagnetic Connectivity Premieres June 10 with World Premiere Works by Wadada Leo Smith and Nicole Mitchell, and Mazzoli’s Dark With Excessive Bright

Episode 22: Requiem Brings 2020/21 Season to a Close on June 24 with World Premiere of Courtney Bryan’s Requiem Featuring Quince Vocal Ensemble, Plus a World Premiere by David Reminick, and Works by Gilda Lyons and Tomeka Reid

Additional Programming featuring Music by and a Conversation with Missy Mazzoli Planned for Spring 2021

CHICAGO—Programming curated by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli will be the focus of the June 2021 episodes of CSO Sessions, the digital series of on-demand, high-definition video recordings of small ensemble performances by Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians filmed in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center and released on CSOtV. Mazzoli, who concludes her tenure at the end of the 2020/21 season, has retained a commitment to introducing audiences to new works from underrepresented and female voices in contemporary music, some with ties to Chicago, since becoming Mead Composer-in-Residence in 2018/19. The two episodes curated by Mazzoli will be released on June 10 and 24 and will feature several world premieres and MusicNOW commissions. Mazzoli’s activities also culminate with upcoming performances of her pieces Volume and Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres), and "From the Composer's Studio"—a virtual conversation scheduled for May 20.

“One of the most meaningful parts of being the CSO’s Mead Composer-in-Residence is the opportunity to curate programs that introduce audiences to compelling new voices in contemporary music,” said Mazzoli. “I have made it a priority to include composers who have never been showcased by the Chicago Symphony before. While some of these are already
well-known names in other corners of the music scene, I am thrilled to bring their work to a wider audience and even commission new work through this series.”

CSO Sessions Episode 21: Cult of Electromagnetic Connectivity (June 10)

The program opens with the world premiere of composer and trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith’s *Delta Blues*. Written during the mid-1990s, the work is scored for violin, flute, bass clarinet and piano and taps into Smith’s blues and world music influences. Mazzoli’s 2018 work *Dark with Excessive Bright* for solo bass and string orchestra features CSO Principal Bass Alex Hanna as soloist and is conducted by Edwin Outwater. Inspired by her encounter with an instrument built in the 16th century, Mazzoli reflects on the idea of a Baroque concerto in this work, which takes its name from a description of the robes of God in Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. The world premiere of the MusicNOW commissioned work *Cult of Electromagnetic Connectivity* by composer and flutist Nicole Mitchell closes the program in a performance conducted by Michael Lewanski. Mitchell, like Smith, is a fellow artist in the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM). Her work draws upon ideas within the Afrofuturism movement in arts and culture that bring traditions of the African diaspora into new forms. Her new piece for CSO musicians is written for an eclectic ensemble of winds, violin and percussion.

CSO Sessions Episode 22: Requiem (June 24)

The treble vocal quartet, Quince, is featured on several works in this program that opens with Gilda Lyons’ *Bone Needles*, an introspective vocal duo that explores possibilities for direct communication between two voices even without words, stitching together abstract vocal sounds into a single, continuous musical tapestry. The four members of Quince also perform the world premiere of Chicago-based composer David Reminick’s *The Pub* from *In Dreams*, a movement from a larger cycle of five pieces inspired by personal recollections of dreams. The program also includes the 2016 string quartet *Prospective Dwellers* by Chicago-based cellist Tomeka Reid, who has previously appeared on the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series. The 2020/21 season reaches a poignant conclusion with the world premiere of *Requiem*, a MusicNOW commissioned work by composer/pianist and Rome Prize winner Courtney Bryan. Taking inspiration from death rituals of various cultures, *Requiem* combines elements of the Anglican requiem with the celebratory, exuberant sounds of a New Orleans jazz funeral across five movements that include texts from the Bible and the traditional Latin mass. Bryan’s work is scored for vocal quartet with wind, brass and percussion instruments and the performance is conducted by Edwin Outwater.

Singing with the precision and flexibility of modern chamber musicians, the treble vocal quartet Quince—Liz Pearse (soprano), Kayleigh Butcher (mezzo-soprano), Amanda DeBoer Bartlett (soprano) and Carrie Henneman Shaw (soprano)—are dedicated advocates of new music and regularly commission new works, providing wider exposure for the music of living composers. The group received a Chamber Music America award to commission a new song cycle by Chicago-based composer LJ White. In 2018, they released their third studio album, *Motherland*, and their fourth album, *David Lang's love fail*, was released in 2020.
Additional Programming Highlights

During the 2020/21 season, Mazzoli’s own compositions have been or will be featured in several digital series on CSOtv. Mazzoli’s 2010 string quartet *Death Valley Junction* was included in Episode 9 of the CSO Sessions series, and her 2006 percussion work, *Volume*, will be featured in Episode 20, which premieres on May 27. Mazzoli’s 2009 sextet for mixed ensemble *Still Life with Avalanche* is available for free, on-demand streaming in Episode 1 of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago series and her *Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)* will be part of a future episode in the Civic Orchestra series to be announced. Mazzoli’s *Orpheus Undone*, which was commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and originally scheduled for world premiere performances with Riccardo Muti in 2020, has been postponed, with a new performance date to be announced.

On May 20, at 6:00 p.m. (CDT), audiences can join an intimate conversation with CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli as she discusses what it means to be a composer working with symphony orchestras in 2021. The webinar will be followed by a Q&A and is free and open to the public. Advance reservation is required with more information available here. Mazzoli regularly supports training for the next generation of composers through Luna Lab, a mentorship program for young female composers she created in 2016 with composer Ellen Reid in partnership with the Kaufman Music Center.

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 episodes may be found at cso.tv. CSOA Patron Services representatives are available by web chat at cso.org, by calling 312-294-3000 (Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.) or by emailing patronservices@cso.org.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

The world premiere MusicNOW commission of Nicole Mitchell’s *Cult of Electromagnetic Connectivity* was made possible through the generous support of Helen Zell.

The world premiere MusicNOW commission of Courtney Bryan’s *Requiem* was made possible through the generous support of Helen Zell.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra thanks the following donors who provide major support for new music programming: the Zell Family Foundation, Cynthia M. Sargent, the Sally Mead Hands Foundation and the Julian Family Foundation.
The Mead Composer-in-Residence is endowed through the generous support of Cindy Sargent and the late Sally Mead Hands.

Sponsorship support for CSO Sessions is generously provided by the Zell Family Foundation; an anonymous donor; Kenneth C. Griffin Charitable Fund; 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; TAWANI Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; ITW, and PNC.

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**Special Event**

**Thursday, May 20, at 6:00 p.m. (CDT)**

**From the Composer's Studio:**
*A Conversation with Missy Mazzoli*

**Missy Mazzoli**, Mead Composer-in-Residence

Webinar: Free, with advance reservation, register [here](#).

**CSO Sessions**

**Thursday, June 10, 2021**

**Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Missy Mazzoli**, Mead Composer-in-Residence

**Edwin Outwater**, conductor

**Michael Lewanski**, conductor

**Alexander Hanna**, bass

**SMITH**

*Delta Blues* [World Premiere]

**MAZZOLI**

*Dark with Excessive Bright*

**MITCHELL**

*Cult of Electromagnetic Connectivity* [World Premiere, MusicNOW Commission]

Digital Episode: $15

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**CSO Sessions**

**Thursday, June 24, 2021**

**Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Missy Mazzoli**, Mead Composer-in-Residence

**Edwin Outwater**, conductor

**Quince**, vocal ensemble

**LYONS**

*Bone Needles*

**REID**

*Prospective Dwellers*

**REMINICK**

*The Pub from In Dreams* [World Premiere]

**BRYAN**

*Requiem* [World Premiere, MusicNOW Commission]

Digital Episode: $15
CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence:
Missy Mazzoli

Featured Artists for this Performance:
Michael Lewanski, conductor
Edwin Outwater, conductor
Alexander Hanna, bass
Quince, vocal ensemble

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 63 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.