CHICAGO – December 15, 2020 – The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) and WFMT (Chicago’s Classical Music Station) announce the extension of Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Tuesday evening radio broadcasts From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years through March 30, 2021. Prepared with support from the Rosenthal Archives of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, the broadcast series is part of the Orchestra’s 130th season and focuses on its extensive discography, featuring Grammy Award–winning releases as well as recordings highlighting virtually every era in CSO history. Programs in the series are broadcast weekly on Tuesday evenings from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Central Time) and will be available to listeners on WFMT (98.7 FM) and streaming on wfmt.com and the WFMT app (wfmt.com/app). More information about CSOradio broadcasts, including its nationally syndicated series that airs weekly on Sundays on WFMT, is also available at cso.org/radio.

Program highlights for the first six broadcasts of 2021 are below. Details for the remainder of the broadcasts in this series will post on cso.org/radio.

**January 5, 2021: Remembering Theodore Thomas**

In January 1906, second music director Frederick Stock began a tradition of honoring founder and first music director Theodore Thomas on the first anniversary of his death. This program honors that tradition with a program of works given their U.S. premieres with the Orchestra under Thomas’s baton. Former music directors Sir Georg Solti and Daniel Barenboim, along with first principal guest conductor Carlo Maria Giulini, lead works by Bruckner, Strauss, and Tchaikovsky. Stock closes the program with Thomas’s arrangement of “Träume” (Dreams) from Wagner’s Wesendonck Lieder from a 1928 RCA Victor recording.

**January 12, 2021: Celebrating Jean Martinon**

Jean Martinon—born on January 10, 1910—served as the CSO’s seventh music director from 1963 until 1968. This program honors Martinon’s birthday and includes the world premiere performance his own Altitudes Symphony, written to celebrate the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s 75th season in 1965. Other Martinon-led performances featured in this program include Ravel’s Introduction and Allegro and Martin’s Concerto for Seven Wind Instruments, Timpani, Percussion, and String Orchestra with several principal players as soloists; Bizet’s
Symphony in C Major; Ravel’s *Mother Goose* Suite; and Paganini’s *Moto perpetuo*, in the orchestration by second music director Frederick Stock.

**January 19, 2021: Invitation to the Dance**

Dances that musically depict spirited celebrations and elegant occasions, as well as one of history’s most provocative moments are part of this wide-ranging program. Highlights include Dance of the Hours from Ponchielli’s *La Gioconda*, the Polovtsian Dances from Borodin’s *Prince Igor* and the Dance of the Seven Veils from Strauss’s *Salome*, culminating with Falla’s ballet *The Three-Cornered Hat* in performances led by former music directors Frederick Stock, Fritz Reiner, Sir Georg Solti, and Daniel Barenboim, along with Ravinia Festival music director Seiji Ozawa and frequent guest conductor Morton Gould.

**January 26, 2021: Sir Georg Solti: Grammy Champ**

Set to air just days before this year’s annual Grammy Awards celebration, this program recognizes the incredible recording legacy of eighth music director Sir Georg Solti, the reigning Grammy champion with 31 awards to his credit, including 24 with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Two of the best orchestral performance awardees—Strauss’s *Also sprach Zarathustra* and Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique*—bookend this program, along with selections from Haydn’s *The Creation* and Verdi’s Requiem, both winners for best choral performance.

**February 2, 2021: Composers’ Early Successes**

Success came early for some composers and with several noteworthy examples included in this special program. Mendelssohn was 17 years old when he composed his Overture to *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Rachmaninov completed his First Piano Concerto and Strauss his First Horn Concerto at age 18, and 19-year-old Shostakovich submitted his First Symphony as a graduation exercise from the Petrograd Conservatory. The overtures to Verdi’s *Nabucco* and Wagner’s *Rienzi*—early triumphs for both composers—complete the program.

**February 9, 2021: Celebrating Valentine’s Day**

Tenth music director Riccardo Muti opens this Valentine’s Day–themed program with selections from the CSO Resound release of Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet*. Barber’s *The Lovers*—settings of poems by Pablo Neruda—featuring the Chicago Symphony Chorus follows, along with Kiri Te Kanawa and Luciano Pavarotti in the love duet from Verdi’s *Othello*. The Orchestra’s 1956 RCA recording of Richard Strauss’s portrait of domestic life, his *Domestic* Symphony led by Fritz Reiner, concludes the program.

A link to full program information for this set of six programs is available [here](#).

The Tuesday evening broadcasts of From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years take place weekly from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. (Central Time) through March 30, 2021. WFMT’s Kerry Frumkin hosts the special CSO radio broadcasts, adding commentary for featured selections each week.
The nationally syndicated CSOradio broadcast series continues to air weekly on Sunday evenings at 8:00 p.m. (Central Time) in Chicago on WFMT (98.7 FM), and via streaming on wfmt.com and the WFMT app (wfmt.com/app). Series highlights through March 2021 include several programs led by Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti including one that features Mussorgsky’s *Pictures from an Exhibition* and Schumann’s *Cello Concerto*, with CSO Principal Cello John Sharp as soloist, as well as a one that features Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 5 (*Reformation*) and Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4, with Yefim Bronfman as soloist. The series also features several broadcasts in honor of the birthdays of three distinguished artists including conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, Academy Award–winning composer John Williams and former Helen Regenstein Conductor Emeritus Pierre Boulez. Other highlights include conductor Matthias Pintscher leading Ravel’s landmark work *Daphnis and Chloe* with the Chicago Symphony Chorus and conductor Marek Janowski leading the CSO in selections from Wagner’s *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and *Tannhäuser*.

**CSOradio** is the source for complete program listing information and to listen to free, on-demand radio broadcasts of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at cso.org/radio.

Programs for **From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years** are prepared with special support from Frank Villella, Director of the Rosenthal Archives of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.

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

**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.

WFMT is one of the world’s most respected classical music radio stations, available on-air at WFMT 98.7FM, online at wfmt.com/listen, and on the WFMT app. WFMT showcases superlative programs, concerts, and live events – from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Music Festival, the Metropolitan Opera, Ravinia Festival, and many more. WFMT is also a leading producer and syndicator of a diverse selection of outstanding musical series, including Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin, the Beethoven Network, and the Jazz Network. Connect with WFMT on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

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