CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
TUESDAY EVENING PROGRAMS ON WFMT
CONTINUE WITH NEW SERIES—
FROM THE CSO’S ARCHIVES: THE FIRST 130 YEARS

CHICAGO – September 15, 2020 – The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) and WFMT (Chicago’s Classical Music Station) announce a new series of Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Tuesday evening radio broadcasts From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years beginning September 22 and continuing through December 29, 2020. Prepared with support from the Rosenthal Archives at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, the new series launches in conjunction with the beginning of the Orchestra’s 130th season and focuses on the CSO’s extensive discography, featuring Grammy Award–winning releases as well as recordings highlighting virtually every era in CSO history. The new series will air 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 CSO radio broadcasts, including its nationally syndicated series that airs weekly on Sundays on WFMT, is also available at cso.org/radio.

The first six programs in From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years allow listeners to rediscover the extraordinary recording legacy of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra beginning with the first commercial recording—Mendelssohn’s Wedding March from A Midsummer Night’s Dream recorded in May 1916 under second music director Frederick Stock. Other highlights include Bruckner’s Seventh Symphony led by Bernard Haitink in 2007 during his first season as principal conductor, the Grammy Award–winning recording of Shostakovich’s Leningrad Symphony led by Leonard Bernstein in his final CSO podium appearances in 1988, David Del Tredici’s Final Alice led by Sir Georg Solti and featuring American soprano Barbara Hendricks, Strauss’s First Horn Concerto featuring former CSO Principal Horn Dale Clevenger in an all-Strauss program, and a Halloween-inspired program that opens with a 1968 recording of Mussorgsky’s A Night on Bald Mountain led by first Ravinia Festival Music Director Seiji Ozawa.

Program details for the first six broadcasts in From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years are below. Details for the remainder of the broadcasts in this series will post on cso.org/radio.

September 22: Chicago Symphony Orchestra Firsts

The new radio series opens with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s first recording—Mendelssohn's Wedding March from A Midsummer Night’s Dream—made for the Columbia Graphophone Company in 1916 under second music director Frederick Stock. Other firsts
featured in this program include Wagner’s *A Faust Overture*, the first piece the Orchestra performed at its inaugural concerts in 1891 in a 1991 recording with ninth music director Daniel Barenboim; Strauss’s *Death and Transfiguration*, a work featured on the opening concert in Orchestra Hall in 1904 in a 1977 recording with eighth music director Sir Georg Solti; Wagner’s Prelude to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, which was the first work performed on the inaugural Ravinia Festival program in 1936 in a 1992 Daniel Barenboim recording; and the CSO’s first recording of a symphony by Gustav Mahler, the composer’s Fourth Symphony led by sixth music director Fritz Reiner in 1958 with soprano Lisa Della Casa.

**September 29: Bernard Haitink conducts Bruckner’s Seventh**

Bernard Haitink leads the Orchestra in a performance of Bruckner’s Seventh Symphony recorded during his first season as principal conductor in 2007 and later issued as the second release on the CSO Resound label. Works by Wagner led by eighth music director Sir Georg Solti in recordings from 1976 and 1977—the Overture to *Tannhäuser* and the Prelude and Liebestod from *Tristan and Isolde*—open and close the program.

**October 6: Leonard Bernstein in Chicago**

Iconic American composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein made his final appearances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in June 1988, leading Shostakovich’s *Leningrad Symphony*. The live recording was released by Deutsche Grammophon and received the 1990 Grammy Award for Best Orchestral Performance. Bernstein’s Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* open the program under the baton of ninth music director Daniel Barenboim.

**October 13: David Del Tredici’s *Final Alice***

This program is anchored by Pulitzer Prize–winning American composer David Del Tredici’s *Final Alice*, a work described by the composer as an “opera, written in concert form” that was inspired by the final chapters of Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*. Commissioned by the Orchestra to commemorate the U.S. bicentennial in 1976, it received an enthusiastic reception at its world premiere led by Sir Georg Solti and featuring 27-year-old American soprano Barbara Hendricks. The work was repeated and recorded three years later. Recordings of works by Mozart led by Fritz Reiner and Daniel Barenboim complete the program.

**October 20: Richard Strauss and the CSO**

Throughout its history, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra has performed the music of Richard Strauss, including concerts under the baton of the composer himself. This program includes recordings of a tone poem, concertos, and operatic selections led by four previous music directors—Désiré Defauw, Fritz Reiner, Daniel Barenboim and Sir Georg Solti. Former CSO Principal Horn Dale Clevenger is featured in a 1998 recording of the First Horn Concerto and Chilean pianist Claudio Arrau is soloist in *Burleske* from 1946. Soprano Inge Borkh completes the program in the final scene from *Salome*. 
October 27: Liszt’s *Totentanz* and Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique*

Set to air days before Halloween, this program conjures colorful hallucinations, eerie scenes and impressive orchestral power in CSO performances of Mussorgsky’s *A Night on Bald Mountain*, Rachmaninov’s *The Isle of the Dead* and Liszt’s *Totentanz*. The program concludes with Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique*, complete with its March to the Scaffold and Dream of a Witches’ Sabbath. Claudio Abbado, Seiji Ozawa, Fritz Reiner, and Frederick Stock share the podium.

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) beginning September 22 through December 29, 2020. WFMT’s Kerry Frumkin hosts the special CSO radio broadcasts, adding commentary for featured selections each week.

The nationally syndicated CSO Radio Broadcast Series continues to air weekly on Sunday evenings at 8:00 p.m. (CDT) in Chicago on WFMT (98.7 FM), and via streaming on [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com) and the WFMT app ([wfmt.com/app](http://wfmt.com/app)). Series highlights for fall 2020 include several programs led by Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti including the February 2020 performance of Mascagni’s *Cavalleria rusticana*, and concerto performances featuring pianists Mitsuko Uchida and David Fray and CSO Bass Clarinet J. Lawrie Bloom, Flute and Piccolo Jennifer Gunn and Bass Trombone Charles Vernon as soloists, as well as a special broadcast with the Chicago Symphony Chorus performing Brahms’s *Requiem* and works by Bruckner and Bartók, and the CSO’s first performance of James Lee III’s *Sukkot through Orion’s Nebula* recorded in November 2019. **CSO Radio** 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](http://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.

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

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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