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LINA GONZÁLEZ-GRANADOS TO CONTINUE AS SIR GEORG SOLTI CONDUCTING APPRENTICE WITH TWO RESIDENCIES IN 2023

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) is pleased to announce that Lina González-Granados will continue in her role as the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice, with two residencies planned next season in May and June 2023. The jury of the CSOA's International Sir Georg Solti Conducting Competition, presided over by CSO Music Director and Jury Chair Riccardo Muti selected González-Granados as the fourth Solti Conducting Apprentice in fall of 2019. She began as Apprentice in February 2020, paused her engagement during the first several months of the pandemic, and resumed in fall of 2021. Upon her return to the CSOA next season, she will continue to be mentored by Muti, observe CSO rehearsals and concerts, and participate in education and community engagement activities and performances supported by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO.

"This year has provided more opportunities for me to work together with Lina González-Granados as the Solti Conducting Apprentice," noted Riccardo Muti. "It is important to me to support the next generation of musicians and I admire her dedication and commitment to music. I look forward to her returning in this role next season."

"It is an honor to continue as the CSO's Solti Conducting Apprentice," said González-Granados. "Since 2020, I have grown as a conductor through many different musical experiences shared with the incredible musicians in Chicago and from observing and working with Maestro Muti. I am also deeply touched by the enthusiasm of Chicago audiences in the concert hall and look forward to coming back next year."

González-Granados, who is from Cali, Colombia, became the first Latina to lead the CSO, making her debut in subscription concerts April 7-12, 2022. She stepped in for Muti who was unable to conduct in the performances due to a positive COVID-19 test and led opera overtures by Rossini and Mozart on a program that also featured pianist Leif Ove Andsnes performing piano concertos by Mozart. On that occasion, the *Chicago Sun-Times* noted, "González-Granados was obviously well-prepared and delivered clean, efficient performances of both selections and demonstrated a feel for the theatrical flair

that is essential to both.” She recently stepped in for Muti for a second time to lead a CSO program featuring Brahms’ Symphony No. 1 and the Beethoven Violin Concerto with Anne-Sophie Mutter as soloist.

During the 2021-22 season, in her capacity as the Solti Conducting Apprentice, González-Granados also led the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in a concert for the Chicago Public Schools at Kenwood Academy High School and prepared the Festival Orchestra at the 2022 Chicago Youth in Music Festival, which took place April 9-11 and was presented by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO in partnership with the National Instrumentalist Mentoring and Advancement Network and Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative.

Lina González-Granados has distinguished herself as a skilled interpreter of opera and orchestral music spanning the 17th century to today. She is in high demand throughout the U.S. and Europe and is the recipient of various local, national, and international awards. Winner of the 2019 CSO Sir Georg Solti Conducting Competition, and the Third Prize and ECHO Special Prize of La Maestra Competition and the 2021 Sphinx Medal of Excellence, she currently serves as a Conducting Fellow of the Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as Artistic Director of Unitas Ensemble, a chamber orchestra she founded to promote and perform the works of Latin-American composers. She was also recently named Resident Conductor at LA Opera.

Additional information about Lina González-Granados is available at linagonzalezgranados.com.

About the CSOA’s International Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprenticeship

The creation of the CSOA’s International Sir George Solti Conducting Apprenticeship was announced by Riccardo Muti in October 2009 as part of his larger vision for the CSOA when he became music director. This vision includes the opportunity to build on the CSO’s great tradition of training young musicians through the creation of an apprenticeship that fosters the talents of promising young conductors and invests in the future of the art form. The program is named for Sir George Solti, who served as music director of the CSO from 1969 to 1991, but only because of his deep connection with the CSO, but also in honor of his commitment to connecting with young musicians. Conductors Sean Kubota, Matthew Aucoin and Erina Yashima preceded Lina González-Granados as Solti Conducting Apprentices.

Earlier in their respective careers, both Sir Georg Solti and Riccardo Muti refined their musicianship through their studies and work with singers in the opera house, and Muti remains passionate about the importance of a conductor’s ability to rehearse with an artist at the piano. He regards keyboard and vocal-coaching skills as crucial in the creation of a complete musician: one who is able to stand before an orchestra with natural authority. The CSO’s International Sir George Solti Conducting Apprenticeship is an initiative of the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO.

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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. Jessie Montgomery is Mead Composer-in-Residence, and Hilary Hahn is CSO Artist-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.