



**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION**  
**RICCARDO MUTI** MUSIC DIRECTOR

220 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60604-2559  
TELEPHONE 312-294-3333  
FACSIMILE 312-294-3329

**For Immediate Release:**

July 15, 2022

**Press Contacts:**

[Hannah Sundwall](#)

312-294-3083

[Eileen Chambers](#)

312-294-3092

**CURATED BY MEAD COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE JESSIE MONTGOMERY**  
**CSO MUSICNOW'S 2022/23 SEASON MARKS 25TH SEASON WITH**  
**CELEBRATION OF LIVING COMPOSERS AND KINDRED SPIRITS**

**Four Concerts Feature Three CSO MusicNOW Commissions — Including one by Montgomery —**  
**Appearances by Bassist Xavier Foley and Violinists Mark O'Connor and Rachel Barton Pine**

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces programming details for the 2022/23 Season of CSO MusicNOW, the CSO's acclaimed contemporary music series. CSO MusicNOW programming is curated by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery, who started a three-year appointment in the 2021/22 season and continues through 2024.

The CSO MusicNOW series marks its 25th season in 2022/23 and returns to Symphony Center, where it was first presented in Buntrock Hall in 1998. The four programs in the series will highlight the connections between celebrated living composers and their kindred spirits, artists who have either been inspired or influenced by their visionary predecessors.

"We're really excited this year, especially because we are coming back to Symphony Center for MusicNOW," said Montgomery. "We have expanded activities planned around concerts that we hope will attract a wide variety of audience members and people who are interested in not only new music, but also the general community around the CSO and our new music community here in Chicago."

The concerts take place on four Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. — [October 24](#), [November 21](#), [February 20, 2023](#), and [April 24, 2023](#) — in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Avenue. Each CSO MusicNOW concert includes an opportunity for the audience to meet with CSO musicians and composers in an informal setting following the performance.

**Perspectives** ([October 24](#))

The 2022/23 CSO MusicNOW series launches with a program that pairs works of two award-winning

Black American composers: Alvin Singleton and Carlos Simon. The concert opens with Singleton's *Jasper Drag*, a trio for clarinet, piano and violin composed in 2000. An award-winning composer and former Fulbright scholar and Guggenheim Fellow, Singleton was the Composer-in-Residence for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra from 1985-88. His compositions break the mold of traditional classical music, with shifting rhythmic phrases and structures. Carlos Simon, who hails from Atlanta and is currently the Composer-in-Residence at the Kennedy Center and a 2021 Sphinx Medal of Excellence award winner, incorporates musical influences of jazz, gospel and neoromanticism in his music, which includes works for large and small ensembles, as well as film scores. Three works by Simon are featured on the October 24 program, including *Lickety Split*, a duo for piano and cello written in 2015 that creates a dynamic conversation and playful mood between the instruments, ultimately driving to a climactic ending. Other featured works by Simon include his 2021 string trio, *loop*, inspired by reflections on a seemingly never-ending pandemic loop, and his 2020 string quartet, *Warmth from Other Suns*, influenced by Isabel Wilkerson's book that amplifies stories of Black Americans during The Great Migration. The program concludes with Singleton's small ensemble work for winds, strings, percussion and piano from 1985 entitled *Akwaaba*, the Ghanaian word for welcome, featuring Jessie Montgomery as violin soloist in this performance.

### **Common Ground** ([November 21](#))

This concert features the music of two composer-performers — Curtis Institute of Music graduate, Sphinx Competition and Young Concert Artist Audition winner and bassist Xavier Foley and multiple Grammy and Country Music Association Award-winner and violinist Mark O'Connor. The program opens with an Irish Fantasy by Foley, who counts O'Connor among his ongoing influences and took inspiration for this work from sources ranging from the Irish folksong "The Clergyman's Lamentation" by Tuloagh O'Carolan (1670-1738) to themes from the Nintendo video game *Super Mario World 2*. The program also features Foley performing his own Etude No. 10 (*The Dance*) and a new CSO MusicNOW-commissioned work by Foley. Celebrated American fiddle player and composer Mark O'Connor incorporates his bluegrass and country roots within his classical works, evident in both String Quartet No. 3 and *Strings and Threads* Suite, the 13-movement work that concludes the program and features the composer and Maggie O'Connor on violins and Foley on bass. Violinist and American fiddler Maggie O'Connor is a Grammy Award-winning musician and graduate of the Odessa Conservatory in Ukraine. She was also a finalist in the Marbury Prize competition for Undergraduate Violinists while completing her Bachelor's degree in violin performance at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

### **Inspiring Voices** ([February 20, 2023](#))

The CSO MusicNOW series continues with a program that features music of the composer-performer Andrea Casarrubios, a current Chicago resident, and works of Argentinian composer Osvaldo Golijov, who, along with Mark-Anthony Turnage, was the CSO's Mead Composer-in-Residence from 2006-10. The program begins with Golijov's *Maribel*, a 1999 work for cello and marimba that musically suggests the time before grief and before a loss. The piece inspired Cassarubios to compose *Speechless*, which has similar instrumentation and that she describes as a non-verbal discussion with oneself, as the music bounces back and forth between the two instruments. A world premiere of a CSO MusicNOW commission by Cassarubios is also part of the program. Serving as a striking contrast to the music of Cassarubios and Golijov is the small ensemble work *Bashra'v* by Israeli composer Betty Olivero, who took inspiration from traditional Turkish and Arabic music and used a combination of strings and percussion to create dramatic effects. Associate Conductor of the Sun Valley Music Festival and former Associate Conductor of the San Diego Symphony, Sameer Patel conducts the Olivero work, as well as Golijov's landmark work *Tenebrae*.

### **In Context** ([April 24, 2023](#))

The series finale features works by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery, including her first CSO MusicNOW-commissioned work, alongside compositions by American musical icons of the Postmodern classical music era that influenced her from an early age. Montgomery is joined by acclaimed concert violinist and recording artist Rachel Barton Pine for the world premiere of Montgomery's new work. The program begins with two pieces by Richard Einhorn, a mentor of Montgomery's in her early days as a composer in New York. Einhorn's solo violin work, *Maxwell's Demon*, will be performed by Montgomery on amplified violin and *Pañca*, originally scored for violin and piano, is featured in an arrangement for flute and harp in this performance. The program continues with one of Montgomery's earliest works, *Play*, followed by music from 20th-century African American composer Julia Perry and American composers Leonard Bernstein and Walter Piston. Perry's 1959 Pastoral, scored for flute and string sextet, is a hauntingly beautiful miniature showcasing solo flute. Scored for brass quintet, Leonard Bernstein's final composition, *Dance Suite*, was written in 1989 and consists of five short movements, each dedicated to a friend. *Fanfare for the Fighting French*, a 1944 work for brass and percussion by Walter Piston, will be conducted by CSO Trombonist Michael Mulcahy.

The program concludes with the world premiere of a CSO MusicNOW-commissioned work by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery — a violin duet to be performed by Montgomery and Rachel Barton Pine. An active philanthropist, Pine established the Rachel Barton Pine (RBP) Foundation in 2001, motivated by the lack of exposure young musicians in classical music were receiving to music written by Black composers. Pine and her RBP Foundation's [Music by Black Composers \(MBC\)](#) project have collected more than 900 works by over 450 Black composers from the 18th-21st centuries to create a free repertoire directory on its website and publish print resources to make music readily available to young artists. Pine, in addition to writing and performing her own arrangements and cadenzas, also serves on the board of the Sphinx Organization and other non-profits.

The Mead Composer-in-Residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is endowed through a generous gift from Cindy Sargent and the late Sally Mead Hands.

Major support for CSO MusicNOW is generously provided by the Zell Family Foundation, Cindy Sargent, the Sally Mead Hands Foundation and the Julian Family Foundation.

### **About Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery**

Jessie Montgomery, who begins her second season as the CSO's Mead Composer-in-Residence in 2022/23, serves as curator of the CSO MusicNOW series. Montgomery will also receive CSO MusicNOW commissions in 2022/23 and 2023/24 to write small ensemble works.

Montgomery has already developed a significant presence in Chicago. The CSO MusicNOW's 2018/19 season featured both her string quartet *Break Away* and the world premiere of her string ensemble arrangement of Julius Eastman's *Gay Guerrilla*, while CSOtv's 2020/21 digital season saw virtual performances of her orchestral work *Starburst*, by the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and her chamber piece *Strum*, the string orchestral version of which also received a live CSO performance in June 2021. Montgomery's own music was also featured in CSO MusicNOW concerts during the 2021/22 Season. In May 2022, Riccardo Muti led the world premiere of her CSO-commissioned work, *Hymn for Everyone*, the first of three works she will write for the Orchestra during her appointment as Mead Composer-in-Residence.

## Tickets and patron information

Subscriptions for the four-concert CSO MusicNOW series at Symphony Center start at \$90 and are on sale now. Single tickets for CSO MusicNOW concerts go on sale August 3. Tickets for all CSO MusicNOW concerts can be purchased by contacting Patron Services. Representatives are available to assist with ticket packages by web chat at [cso.org](http://cso.org), by calling 312-294-3000 (Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.), or by emailing [patronservices@cso.org](mailto:patronservices@cso.org).

All artists and programs are subject to change.

# # #

### CSO MusicNOW

Monday, October 24, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

**Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Jessie Montgomery**, Mead Composer-in-Residence and violin

SINGLETON	<i>Jasper Drag</i>
SIMON	<i>Lickety Split</i>
SINGLETON	<i>Be Natural</i>
SIMON	<i>loop</i>
SIMON	<i>Warmth from Other Suns</i>
SINGLETON	<i>Akwaaba</i>

### CSO MusicNOW

Monday, November 21, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

**Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Jessie Montgomery**, Mead Composer-in-Residence

**Mark O'Connor**, violin

**Maggie O'Connor**, violin

**Xavier Foley**, double bass

FOLEY	Irish Fantasy
FOLEY	Etude No. 10 <i>The Dance</i>
O'CONNOR	String Quartet No. 3
FOLEY	New Work (World Premiere, CSO MusicNow Commission)
O'CONNOR	<i>Strings and Threads Suite</i>

### CSO MusicNOW

Monday, February 20, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

**Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Jessie Montgomery**, Mead Composer-in-Residence

**Sameer Patel**, conductor

**Andrea Casarrubios**, cello

GOLIJOV	<i>Mariel</i>
CASARRUBIOS	New Work (World Premiere, CSO MusicNow Commission)
CASARRUBIOS	<i>Speechless</i>
OLIVERO	<i>Bashra`v</i>
GOLIJOV	<i>Tenebrae</i>

### CSO MusicNOW

Monday, April 24, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

**Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Jessie Montgomery**, Mead Composer-in-Residence and violin

**Michael Mulcahy**, conductor

**Rachel Barton Pine**, violin

EINHORN	<i>Maxwell's Demon</i>
---------	------------------------

EINHORN	<i>Pañca</i>
MONTGOMERY	<i>Play</i>
PERRY	Pastoral
BERNSTEIN	Dance Suite
PISTON	<i>Fanfare for the Fighting French</i>
MONTGOMERY	New Work (World Premiere, CSO MusicNow Commission)

###

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://cso.org/resound).

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus 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.