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CSO MUSICNOW 2022/23 SEASON CONCLUDES WITH APRIL 24 PROGRAM FEATURING WORLD PREMIERE BY MEAD COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE JESSIE MONTGOMERY AND WORKS BY HER MUSICAL ICONS

New Wind Quintet by Angel Alday from Young Composers Initiative Receives World Premiere Alongside Montgomery's New Work

CHICAGO — Created to connect Chicago audiences with the widest possible range of today's new music, the 2022/23 Season of CSO MusicNOW concludes with a [Monday, April 24](#), program titled "In Context." It features works by [Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery](#) — including the world premiere of a CSO MusicNOW-commissioned work, *Musings* for Two Violins — alongside compositions by American musical icons of the postmodern classical music era that influenced her from an early age, including Julia Perry, Leonard Bernstein and Walter Piston. Montgomery will be joined by acclaimed concert violinist and recording artist Rachel Barton Pine for the world premiere of *Musings* for Two Violins.

A new wind quintet by 16-year-old Chicago composer Angel Alday, a participant in the inaugural Young Composers Initiative, will also receive its world premiere on the program. Prior to the performance, small ensemble works by four other composers from the Young Composers Initiative will be premiered by musicians of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in Grainger Ballroom at 6:15 p.m. Montgomery, who is the curator of the CSO MusicNOW series, worked alongside the youth in the Young Composers Initiative since fall of 2022 to prepare for these special performances on April 24.

Montgomery, who is in the second year of her three-year appointment as CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence, says:

"I am so pleased to premiere my new violin duo with violinist Rachel Barton Pine. I have known Rachel for many years through our work with the Sphinx Organization and

support of the publication of works for young students by Black composers. This program also means so much to me personally, as we cap the 25th season of MusicNOW, celebrating new work by young composers from Chicago who are just beginning to explore their own compositional voices and sharing music by composers who played a role in my own development as an artist.”

The program opens with two pieces by Richard Einhorn, a mentor of Montgomery’s from her early days as a composer in New York. Einhorn’s solo violin work *Maxwell’s Demon #4* was included in the New York City Ballet’s production of Ulysses Dove’s “Red Angels.” The second Einhorn piece, *Pañca*, was composed in the summer of 2018 and originally scored for violin and piano. *Pañca* is a Sanskrit word meaning “five” and refers to the five-note piano theme upon which the piece was built. The arrangement in this performance will feature flute and harp.

The opening works by Einhorn are followed by one of Montgomery’s earliest works, *Play*, which was premiered at Lincoln Center’s Walter Reade Theater in 1999 by the New Millennium Ensemble. This work is a short piece scored for flute, clarinet, violin and cello that features a charming and inventive rhythmic scherzo.

The program continues with the music of 20th-century African American composer Julia Perry and American composers Leonard Bernstein and Walter Piston. Perry’s Pastoral from 1959 is scored for flute and string sextet, and is a hauntingly beautiful, showcase for solo flute.

Scored for brass quintet, Leonard Bernstein’s final composition, Dance Suite, was written in 1989 and first premiered as part of the 50th Anniversary Gala of American Ballet Theater in 1990 at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. Bernstein dedicated each of the work’s five movements to a legendary choreographer-friend: Antony Tudor, Agnes DeMille, Mikhail Baryshnikov, George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins.

Also featured on the program is *Fanfare for the Fighting French*, a work for brass and percussion by Walter Piston. The piece was commissioned by Eugene Goossens, conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra during World War II, to celebrate diverse groups of people collaborating in the war effort. Goossens commissioned 19 composers, and all works were to be scored for four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani and percussion. Piston wrote this piece in 1943, and it has a distinctive “entrance and processional” character. CSO trombonist Michael Mulcahy will conduct this work. He serves as director of the CSO Brass, conducts annually for the Grand Teton Musical Festival, and makes guest appearances with the Sydney Symphony, Tasmanian Symphony, New World Symphony and the Royal Danish Orchestra. He has also served as music director for National Music Camp in Australia.

A new wind quintet by 16-year-old Chicago composer Angel Alday will receive its world premiere as part of the concluding works on the program. A participant in the inaugural Young Composers Initiative, which is a collaboration between the CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence and the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, Alday's work is in two contrasting parts portraying an uplifting and positive emotion and a darker and more harsh emotion. The piece symbolizes Alday's experience throughout high school, beginning during the Covid-19 pandemic until now.

Alday attends the Chicago High School for the Arts and is currently a student at the Merit School of Music in both trombone and euphonium. Alday attended the Interlochen Arts Camp in 2022 and plans to attend the Brevard Summer Music Festival 2023 for composition.

The program concludes with the world premiere of *Musings* for Two Violins, a CSO MusicNOW-commissioned work by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery — a violin duo to be performed by Montgomery and Rachel Barton Pine. The new work is designed as a series of short movements inspired by the 44 Violin Duets by Béla Bartók. The piece also pays homage to some of Montgomery's favorite composers of string music, with each movement inspired by a different composer: J.S. Bach, Paul Hindemith, Antonio Vivaldi and Darius Milhaud, with references to her own Duo for Violin and Cello throughout.

An acclaimed concert soloist and recording artist, violinist Rachel Barton Pine is also recognized for her work as a philanthropist. She established the Rachel Barton Pine (RBP) Foundation in 2001, motivated by the lack of exposure young classical musicians 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.

Young Composers Initiative

Prior to the concert, composers from this year's program will premiere their works in Grainger Ballroom beginning at 6:15 p.m.

The Young Composers Initiative is a program of the Negaunee Music Institute of the CSO launched in the 2022/23 Season. The Initiative engages youth from across the Chicago region and empowers them to create new pieces of chamber music with leadership from Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery. Following a competitive application process, five student composers were selected to work with Montgomery throughout the 2022/23 Season. The five composers that were selected

from this year's initiative are Angel Alday (16, Chicago High School for the Arts), Lincoln Gibbs (17, Lakes Community High School), Brandon Harper (17, Lincoln Park High School), Malik Muhammad (14, Muhammad University of Islam) and Sofia Ruiz Cordero (18, Naperville North High School).

Commissioned CSO MusicNOW Artwork

In celebration of the 25th season of the CSO MusicNOW series, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association commissioned original artwork that corresponds to each of the four programs. Created by Chicago-area artist, illustrator and graphic designer [Donovan Foote](#), the fourth artwork is titled "In Context."

About the fourth and final work, Foote says, "When we watch musicians perform, we are seeing and hearing the culmination of time, energy, study and practice. We become familiar with the front-facing appearance of the instrument and the audience-facing appearance of the musician, but we may not consider the back-story. I have always considered post-modern visual art to be a breaking down of tradition. So here I wanted to show the back of the instrument—the part of the instrument that may rest against the body of the musician or set on a chair during a break in practice. Before that is the story of the luthier who crafted the instrument using an entirely different set of skills and tools. For this post-modern American suite of music, this image tries to tell the story of how we arrived here from a different perspective."

The CSO MusicNOW poster designs by Donovan Foote are available for purchase as framed and unframed prints at symphonystore.com/musicnow.

Postconcert Experience

MusicNOW is more than a concert; it is an immersive evening of celebrating the arts and meeting new people. Following the concert, concertgoers are invited to the Rotunda to enjoy complimentary pizza and refreshments, plus the opportunity to mix and mingle with the artists.

Tickets and Patron Information

Tickets for individual CSO MusicNOW concerts start at \$30. Tickets for all CSO MusicNOW concerts can be purchased by contacting Patron Services. Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at cso.org or by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000), Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The walk-up Box Office at 220 S. Michigan Ave. is open Monday-Saturday 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

Major support for CSO MusicNOW is generously provided by the Zell Family Foundation, the Sargent Family Foundation, the Sally Mead Hands Foundation, the Julian Family Foundation and The Aaron Copland Fund for Music.

The Young Composers Initiative is generously supported by Margo and Mike Oberman.

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Pizza for CSO MusicNOW is generously provided by Jet's Pizza.

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Young Composers Initiative

Monday, April 24, 2023, 6:15 p.m.

Musicians from the Civic Orchestra of Chicago

GIBBS	<i>Comfort</i>
HARPER	Untitled
MUHAMMAD	Untitled
RUIZ CORDERO	<i>Sonidos de Bolivia</i>

CSO MusicNOW

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

Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Jessie Montgomery, Mead Composer-in-Residence

Rachel Barton Pine, violin

Michael Mulcahy, conductor

EINHORN	<i>Maxwell's Demon #4</i>
EINHORN	<i>Pañca</i>
MONTGOMERY	Play
PERRY	Pastoral
BERNSTEIN	Dance Suite
PISTON	<i>Fanfare for the Fighting French</i>
ALDAY	New Work (World Premiere)
MONTGOMERY	<i>Musings for Two Violins</i> (World Premiere, CSO MusicNOW Commission)

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: 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 63 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 Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have earned 64 Grammy Awards from the Recording Academy. Two Grammys were awarded in 2011 for

Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti's first of eleven releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [cso.org/resound](https://www.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.