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For Immediate Release:
February 8, 2023

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**CSO MUSICNOW 2022/23 SERIES CONTINUES WITH FEBRUARY 20
PROGRAM FEATURING WORLD PREMIERE BY CELLIST AND
COMPOSER ANDREA CASARRUBIOS AND WORKS BY FORMER
MEAD COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE OSVALDO GOLIJOV**

CHICAGO — Created to connect Chicago audiences with the widest possible range of today's new music, the 2022/23 Season of CSO MusicNOW continues February 20. The program, titled "Inspiring Voices," primarily unites the works of composer and cellist Andrea Casarrubios with one of her musical influences, former Mead Composer-in-Residence Osvaldo Golijov, and features Casarrubios as soloist with musicians from the CSO. Conductor Sameer Patel joins the musicians for this program which also features music of Israeli composer Betty Olivero. CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery, who was recently named *Musical America's* 2023 Composer of the Year, curates the CSO MusicNOW series and is in the second year of her three-year appointment that continues through 2023/24 season.

Reflecting on her plans for the third program of the CSO MusicNOW series, Montgomery says:

"I am so pleased to welcome cellist and composer Andrea Casarrubios and former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Osvaldo Golijov for this program. Inviting Andrea to collaborate and perform her new work with the CSO musicians is particularly special and allows for a deeper connection to the music. I'm also glad that concertgoers can discover the connection between the pieces of Andrea and Osvaldo and how they complement one another."

The relationship between composers Andrea Casarrubios and Osvaldo Golijov dates back to 2015. Casarrubios recalls, "I wrote *Speechless* in 2015 for Ensemble Connect in New York during a time when I was performing Osvaldo Golijov's piece *Mariel* for cello and marimba. Osvaldo was actually the first person to hear *Speechless* from beginning to end before its premiere, and his constant belief in my music over the years has

meant so much to me. *Speechless* was originally conceived to be paired with *Mariel* in concerts, so I am delighted to see them together in this CSO MusicNOW program curated by Jessie Montgomery – who I met through Sphinx Virtuosi.”

The February 20 program opens with Golijov’s *Mariel* for Cello and Marimba. The piece was written in 2008 in memory of his friend Mariel Subrin who died in an automobile accident in Chile. He writes: “I attempted to capture that short instant before grief, in which one learns of the sudden death of a friend who was full of life: a single moment frozen forever in one’s memory, and which reverberates through the piece, among the waves and echoes of the Brazilian music that Mariel loved.” The piece begins with a *sforzando* shock in the marimba that evolves into a gentle lyricism between the cello and marimba.

Golijov was born in 1960 in La Plata, Argentina, and lived in Jerusalem before immigrating to the United States in 1986. The son of Eastern European immigrants who were also musicians, Golijov was surrounded by klezmer and classical chamber music at home and the tango music of Astor Piazzolla outside of the home. He studied at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received his Ph.D. and was a student of the American composer George Crumb. He continued his studies at Tanglewood in Lenox, Massachusetts, winning the Koussevitzky Composition Prize in 1990. He later joined the faculty at Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, and was also on faculty of the Boston Conservatory beginning in 2001. Golijov was named Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in September 2006. The Orchestra performed music by Golijov for the first time at the Ravinia Festival, on August 6, 2006. *Sidereus*, an overture for small orchestra and a CSO co-commission in honor of Henry Fogel, who served as executive director and then president of the CSO for eighteen years beginning in 1985, received its first Chicago performance on April 21, 2011, with James Conlon conducting. He has also served as composer-in-residence at festivals including Spoleto, Marlboro, Ravinia and Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center. Several of his most notable works include the *St. Mark Passion*; the opera *Ainadamar*; the cello concert *Azul*; *Rose of the Winds*, which was originally commissioned by the CSO and recently performed at Ravinia in 2022 with conductor Marin Alsop, and the soundtracks for Francis Ford Coppola’s *Tetro* and *Youth Without Youth*. He currently serves as the composer-in-residence at The College of the Holy Cross.

Also featured on this program are two works by Andrea Casarrubios, a Spanish-born cellist and composer who has played as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Casarrubios was a first prize winner of numerous international competitions and awards, and has appeared as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Piatigorsky, Ravinia and Verbier festivals. She is praised by *The New York Times* for having “traversed the palette of emotions” with “gorgeous tone and an edge-of-seat intensity.” She most recently served as composer-in-residence at the Crescent City Chamber Music Festival

(from 2020-22), Casarrubios' compositions have been programmed worldwide, presented by organizations such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, and now also the CSO, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Sphinx Organization, Washington Performing Arts, Manhattan Chamber Players, the European Parliament, NPR and the Spanish National Radio (RNE).

Afilador is the first of the Casarrubios works on the program and is a MusicNOW commission that will receive its world premiere. The piece is written for clarinet, violin, viola and cello and is meant to remind the listener of sounds heard during childhood. An *afilador* is a person who bikes from town to town with sharpening equipment attached to handlebars, attending to dull knives and razors of the residents in Spanish-speaking countries. The *afilador* plays a whistle or flute called a chiflo along their route. Casarrubios explains: "The *afilador* as a musical idea is intended to appear as a call to come back to presence; snap out of our mental noise, and from there, perhaps, to be ushered immediately into memory and meaning."

The second work by Casarrubios, *Speechless*, which is scored for cello and percussion (vibraphone, cymbal and marimba), was written for Ensemble Connect and was presented by Carnegie Hall at National Sawdust in New York City in March 2016. The piece was born out of questioning what it means to have a voice and how we use it. The music travels through ideas, impulses and memories and never visits the same place twice. Casarrubios wrote this piece anticipating that it might be paired with Golijov's *Mariel*, which is also a work scored for cello and percussion.

Also featured on the program is *Bashra'v* by Israeli composer Betty Olivero. The piece serves as a striking contrast to the music of Casarrubios and Golijov and is written for nine players: flute, clarinet, trumpet, percussion, piano/celesta and string quartet. *Bashra'v* takes inspiration from traditional Turkish and Arabic music and uses the combination of strings and percussion to create dramatic effects. Olivero, who is based in Florence, Italy, is a professor of composition at the Music Department in Bar-Ilan University. She received the Emet Prize for Art, Science and Culture in 2015, an Israeli prize awarded annually for excellence in academic professional achievements.

The program concludes with Golijov's piece *Tenebrae*, written in 2002 for string quartet. The meditative work in two movements "is about pain," says Golijov, "but pain seen from inside and from a distance." The piece was written to be heard from different perspectives; if one chooses to listen to it "from afar," the music would offer a beautiful surface, and from a metaphorically closer view, one that could hear pain.

Conductor Sameer Patel will lead the musicians in performances of Olivero's *Bashra'v* and Golijov's *Tenebrae*. Patel is the newly appointed artistic director of the San Diego Youth Symphony, a transformational organization that reaches more than 3,000 students in its community through its 13 ensembles. He also served for six seasons as

Associate Conductor of the Sun Valley Music Festival and recently concluded a tenure as Associate Conductor of the San Diego Symphony. He has been recognized by the Solti Foundation U.S., which granted him three consecutive Career Assistance Awards and an Elizabeth Buccheri Opera Residency with the North Carolina Opera. Patel studied at the University of Michigan and continued his training across Europe.

The season's final CSO MusicNOW concert takes place on [Monday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m.](#) in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Avenue.

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 third artwork is titled "Kindred Spirits."

About the third of the four works, Foote says, "The music in this concert was described by Jessie Montgomery as having atmospheric warmth. It brought to my mind the colors and feelings of an early spring sunset with all the settling energy of the first warm day of the year that will likely turn cold again. A cello comprised of percussion charts with a glowing sun of chatoyant Sitka produced from old varnish weathered by years of playing form the focal point with a horizon of shapes reminiscent of musical notation and orchestral instruments."

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

Postconcert Experience

At each of the CSO MusicNOW concerts this season, audiences can mingle with CSO musicians and composers following the performance in the Rotunda at Symphony Center. This informal postconcert event includes music, refreshments and giveaways.

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.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

About Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery

Jessie Montgomery, who is in 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 have 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 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 on CSO MusicNOW concerts during the 2021/22 Season. In April 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, with her next CSO commissioned work scheduled to receive its world premiere with Riccardo Muti in May 2023.

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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	<i>Afilador</i> (World Premiere, CSO MusicNOW Commission)
CASARRUBIOS	<i>Speechless</i>
OLIVERO	<i>Bashra'v</i>
GOLIJOV	<i>Tenebrae</i>

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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 CSO have earned 64 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 eleven 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 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.