CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH LEADS CSO IN WORKS OF
BRUCKNER, BEETHOVEN AND BERNARD RANDS

December 19, 20, and 21

CHICAGO—Guest conductor Christoph Eschenbach leads the CSO in Bruckner’s Symphony No. 9 in D Minor (Unfinished), along with Beethoven’s Overture to Egmont and …where the murmurs die…by composer Bernard Rands, performed in anticipation of the composer’s 80th birthday in March 2014. These concerts take place on Thursday, December 19 and Saturday, December 21 at 8 p.m., and Friday, December 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Anton Bruckner’s unfinished Symphony No. 9 received its U.S. premiere by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in February of 1904 under the baton of CSO founder and then-music director Theodore Thomas. This U.S. premiere was one year after the world premiere in Vienna and just under a decade after Bruckner’s death. It was the composer’s death that left the symphony unfinished—he was working on the fourth movement the day he passed—and in the hands of one of his pupils, who edited the three complete movements so heavily that the CSO was able to fit its short performance on a program with five other pieces. This time around, the CSO’s treatment won’t be so brief. A century of scholarship has left conductors with more options (with some orchestras going so far as to attempt a completed fourth movement), and Eschenbach’s interpretations of Bruckner’s music increasingly garner praise for their slightly slower tempi and intense focus on clear dramatic expression.

The program begins with Beethoven’s Overture to Egmont, and …where the murmurs die… by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Bernard Rands.

Christoph Eschenbach began his tenure in September 2010 as music director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C. Eschenbach has conducted the NDR Symphony Orchestra, where he was music director from 1998 to 2004; Munich Philharmonic; Orchestre de Paris, the ensemble he led as music director between 2000 and 2010; the London Philharmonic; the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; as well as the Vienna State Opera the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, and the Vienna Philharmonic, among others. As a pianist, he continues his collaboration with baritone...
Matthias Goerne on Schubert's songs and has an impressive discography as both a conductor and a pianist on a number of prominent labels. His many honors include the Légion d'Honneur; Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres; the Officer's Cross with Star and Ribbon of the German Order of Merit; and the Commander's Cross of the German Order of Merit for outstanding achievements as pianist and conductor. He also received the Leonard Bernstein Award from the Pacific Music Festival, where he was co-artistic director from 1992 to 1998.

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.

Program and Ticket Details

Tickets for all CSO concerts can be purchased by phone at 800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000; online at cso.org, or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040. Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, December 19, 2013, 8 p.m.
Friday, December 20, 2013, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 21, 2013, 8 p.m.

Christoph Eschenbach, conductor

BEETHOVEN Overture to Egmont
RANDS …where the murmurs die…
BRUCKNER Symphony No. 9 in D Minor (Unfinished)

Tickets: $31–$217
Limited student tickets available online for $10 (valid student ID required at pickup)

About the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (cso.org)
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Its music director since 2010 is Riccardo Muti, one of the preeminent conductors of our day. The venerable Pierre Boulez is the CSO’s Helen Regenstein Conductor Emeritus; celebrated cellist Yo-Yo Ma is the CSO’s Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant. Composers Mason Bates and Anna Clyne are the CSO’s Mead Composers-in-Residence.

The renowned musicians of the CSO annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in downtown Chicago and, in the summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. The CSO also appears in other U.S. cities, and frequently tours internationally. Since its founding in 1891, the Orchestra has made 56 international tours, visiting 28 countries on five continents. At home and on tour, tickets are always in high demand and frequently sold out; occasional performances and rehearsals are free.

The parent organization for the CSO is the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA). It also includes the acclaimed Chicago Symphony Chorus, conducted by Duain Wolfe, and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble conducted by Cliff Colnot. Under the banner of
a series entitled Symphony Center Presents, the CSOA also presents prestigious guest artists and ensembles from a variety of musical genres—classical, jazz, pop, world, and contemporary.

People around the globe enjoy the extraordinary sounds of the Orchestra and the Chorus through CSO Radio broadcasts and webcasts worldwide and through CSO Resound, a best-selling record label. Recordings by the CSO have won 62 Grammy Awards®. Through its Institute for Learning, Access, and Training, the CSO offers a variety of youth, community and education programs, all of which are based on the concept of Citizen Musicianship, using and promoting the power of music to contribute to our culture, our communities, and the lives of others. Deborah F. Rutter, a highly regarded arts executive, is president of the CSOA.