



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

News

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR THE 2017/18 SEASON

CHICAGO (January 31, 2017)— Riccardo Muti, Music Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and Jeff Alexander, President of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA), announce the programming for the CSO and Symphony Center Presents (SCP) 2017/18 season—the Orchestra's 127th season and Muti's eighth as its music director.

Riccardo Muti leads 10 weeks of subscription programs with the CSO during the 2017/18 season. Muti's programs offer diverse repertoire, including orchestral and choral masterworks by Brahms, Bruckner, Dvořák, Rossini, Mozart, Debussy, Schubert and Tchaikovsky, as well as works by contemporary American composers, including CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek and CSO member Max Raimi, as well as Pulitzer Prize-winning composers Aaron Copland, Jennifer Higdon and George Walker.

During his opening week residency in September, Muti welcomes renowned violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter for performances of concertos by Mozart and Tchaikovsky in back-to-back programs. In June 2018, during his final CSO residency of the season, Muti and cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the CSO's Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, join forces with the CSO for a performance of Shostakovich's Second Cello Concerto, in a program that also features Prokofiev's Third Symphony.

The 2017/18 season also marks the 60th anniversary of the critically acclaimed Chicago Symphony Chorus. In recognition of this landmark moment, Muti leads two programs of major choral works. In March 2018, Muti returns to the choral music of Schubert as he leads the CSO and Chorus in the composer's Mass No. 6. In June 2018, Muti's season finale program includes a performance of Rossini's *Stabat mater*.

Muti leads the CSO in an April 2018 program that surveys a century of American music and music inspired by America featuring Lyric for Strings by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer George Walker, alongside Aaron Copland's iconic *Lincoln Portrait* and the Czech composer Antonin Dvořák's ode to America, the *New World* Symphony.

Three CSO world premieres conducted by Muti also highlight new work by American composers including a concerto for low brass by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon, whose new piece honors the artistic legacy and remarkable sound of the Orchestra's low brass section; Three Lisel Müller Settings, a new work for mezzo-soprano and orchestra by composer and CSO violist Max Raimi; and a new work by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek.

Muti and the CSO also remain dedicated to reaching audiences throughout the Chicago area. For the second consecutive year, Muti and the Orchestra appear as part of a three-concert series at Wheaton College's Edman Memorial Chapel in a program that includes works by Mozart and Haydn. In addition, Muti leads the CSO's annual free concert for the community in a November program featuring Schubert's Eighth Symphony (*Unfinished*) and Brahms' Second Symphony. The location is to be announced at a later date.

"The CSO's 127th season is one of celebration and exploration. Our distinguished music director, Riccardo Muti, brings his unparalleled interpretations to the great works of the symphonic repertoire, while also offering a series of works to be given their world premieres by the Orchestra," said CSOA President, Jeff Alexander. "We are also pleased to welcome so many of the world's most renowned guest conductors and soloists to our stage, to share the sounds of the CSO during two domestic tours, to reach out to communities near and far through our education and engagement activities, and to present a wide array of concerts as part of our Symphony Center Presents series."

In 2017/18, the CSO continues a tradition of touring. Since its founding in 1891, the Orchestra has made 60 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents. The CSO also maintains a distinguished legacy of recording; recordings have earned 62 Grammy® awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, further contributing to the Orchestra's international reputation. Global engagement continues now also through webcasts, streaming and an online magazine, csosoundsandstories.org.

This season, Muti leads 10 weeks of subscription concerts in six residencies with the Orchestra in Chicago, with appearances in September and November 2017, and February, March, April and June 2018.

Program highlights of note in the 2017/18 season:

- Muti leads the CSO in world premieres of new works by three American composers: Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek, Pulitzer Prize-winner Jennifer Higdon and CSO viola and composer Max Raimi.
- Muti continues his exploration of Bruckner's symphonies, with performances of the Fourth Symphony (*Romantic*) on subscription concerts and on CSO tour programs.
- Several programs during the 2017/18 season mark major composer anniversaries including the 150th anniversary of Gioachino Rossini's death, the centennial of the birth of American composer Leonard Bernstein, the 150th birthday of Claude Debussy and the 200th birthday of Charles Gounod.
- Guest conductor Marek Janowski makes his anticipated subscription debut and guest conductor Herbert Blomstedt, who turns 90 this year, returns to lead the CSO for the first time since 2007.
- Acclaimed composer and conductor John Williams leads the CSO in a special concert program that includes his film music and selections from other classic film scores.

- Fifteen talented guest artists and conductors make their CSO debuts including violinist Isabelle Faust, and conductors Giovanni Antonini, Jiří Bělohlávek and John Storgårds.
- The CSO's acclaimed MusicNOW series celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2017/18. Full details to be announced in spring 2017.

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) brings today's leading artists and ensembles to Chicago. Highlights include the return of pianist Lang Lang for a solo recital, anticipated appearances by Evgeny Kissin, Mitsuko Uchida, Piotr Anderszewski and Maurizio Pollini, and the series debut of award-winning French pianist Lucas Debargue on the SCP Piano series. The SCP Orchestra series for 2017/18 features the Minnesota Orchestra with a program of Sibelius and Beethoven and the Mariinsky Orchestra led by Valery Gergiev.

The exceptional group of programs in the SCP Chamber Music series for 2017/18 include the debut of an all-star trio (Yo-Yo Ma, Leonidas Kavakos and Emanuel Ax) in an all-Brahms program, the return of violinist Joshua Bell, the debut of a unique artistic collaboration between Itzhak Perlman and Martha Argerich and a rare collaboration between pianist Evgeny Kissin with the Emerson String Quartet.

The 2017/18 SCP Jazz series programming details will be announced in April.

The programs of the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 2017/18 complement the CSO's subscription programs and demonstrate the commitment of Music Director Riccardo Muti, CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma and the CSOA to supporting young musicians and to serving the greater Chicago community through music.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Programs

Concerts with Riccardo Muti.....	5
Muti and the CSO on Tour.....	7
Bernstein at 100.....	8
Conductor/Soloists.....	8
Chicago Symphony Chorus.....	8
Wheaton College series.....	9
Mead Composers-in-Residence and MusicNOW.....	10
World Premieres.....	10
First Performances	11
Debuts	11
Returning Guest Conductors.....	13
Returning Guest Artists.....	15
CSO at the Movies.....	16
CSO Radio.....	16

Symphony Center Presents

Piano Series.....	17
Chamber Music	18

Orchestras.....18
Special Concerts.....19
Holiday Programs.....19

**Negaunee Music Institute
at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

School, Family and Community Programs.....20
Family and School Concerts.....21
The Civic Orchestra of Chicago.....23

Subscription and Ticket Information.....24

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAMS

CONCERTS WITH RICCARDO MUTI

Riccardo Muti leads 10 weeks of subscription programs with the CSO during the 2017/18 season. In addition, he conducts the CSO's annual Symphony Ball gala, a free community concert in November, four performances and makes a return appearance with the CSO at Wheaton College as part of the Orchestra's second annual concert series at that venue. His programs offer wide-ranging repertoire by CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek, Jennifer Higdon and George Walker, as well as Brahms, Bruckner, Copland, Dvořák, Rossini, Mozart, Debussy, Schubert, Tchaikovsky and Cherubini.

Muti's subscription programs continue his exploration of Bruckner's symphonies with the CSO, include masterworks from the choral repertoire, celebrate the musical legacy of Rossini, feature a collaboration with Yo-Yo Ma and honor a century of varied works by American composers and composers inspired by America. In addition, Muti leads three world premieres by contemporary American composers: the CSO-commissioned work by Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek, the new low brass concerto by Jennifer Higdon and a work for mezzo-soprano and orchestra by CSO Viola Max Raimi.

- Muti opens the CSO's 2017/18 season with a concert featuring Anne-Sophie Mutter in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. The program also includes the CSO's first-ever performances of Krzysztof Penderecki's compelling orchestral work, *The Awakening of Jacob*. (September 23, 26)
- In his second subscription concert, Muti continues his exploration of Bruckner's symphonies with the majestic Fourth, subtitled *Romantic* by the composer. Muti conducts the world premiere of a new composition by Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek, which is a CSO-commissioned work for full orchestra. The performance of Rossini's *William Tell* overture on this program launches a season-long commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the composer's death. (September 28, 29, and October 1)
- Muti reunites with renowned pianist Kirill Gerstein for Brahms' epic Piano Concerto No. 1. The two previously joined forces for Scriabin's *Prometheus*, a performance characterized by the *Chicago Tribune* as having "coiled-spring intensity." The program also includes Strauss' charming suite from *Le bourgeois gentilhomme* and Puccini's *Preludio sinfonico*. (November 16, 17, 18, 21)
- Muti and the Orchestra celebrate the CSO's famous low brass section with the world premiere of a colorful, virtuosic new concerto for trombones and tuba by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon. Completing the program are Britten's dark and dramatic *Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes* and Chausson's *Poem of Love and the Sea* with mezzo-soprano Clémentine Margaine. (February 1, 2, 3, 2018)
- Muti returns in March with a program of classical poise and beauty, uniting the composers Mozart and Haydn. Renowned violist Paul Neubauer joins CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen for Mozart's *Sinfonia*

concertante, and symphonies by Mozart (*Linz*) and Haydn (Symphony No. 89) round out the program. (March 15, 16, 17, 2018)

- The following week, Muti returns to the choral music of Schubert, leading the Orchestra and Chorus in the Mass No. 6, written just months before the composer's death. Max Raimi's new work for mezzo-soprano and orchestra, *Three Lisel Müller Settings*, features soloist Elizabeth DeShong in her CSO debut and completes the program. (March 22, 23, 24, 2018)
- Muti returns in April with a program of works that embody the American spirit. Copland's inspirational *Lincoln Portrait* uses the words of Abraham Lincoln to convey the story of an individual life and a diverse nation. Dvořák's *New World Symphony* is one of the most beloved portraits of American folk music. The program also offers an opportunity to hear the music of 94-year-old Pulitzer Prize-winning composer George Walker. (April 12, 13, 14, 17, 2018)
- The following week, Muti conducts the music of Debussy and Tchaikovsky. Muti's program explores these very different composers' approach to two genres: the ballet (Tchaikovsky's Suite from *Swan Lake* and Debussy's *Sacred and Profane Dances* featuring CSO Principal Harp Sarah Bullen) and the symphonic poem (Tchaikovsky's *Francesca da Rimini*, and Debussy's ethereal *Nocturnes* featuring the Women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus). (April 19, 20, 21, 2018)
- Muti returns in June with his first of his two subscription programs featuring a collaboration with cellist Yo-Yo Ma who joins the CSO for Shostakovich's, Cello Concerto No. 2. Prokofiev's Symphony No. 3 completes the program. (June 14, 15, 16, 2018)
- A roster of distinguished vocalists joins Muti for the CSO's 2017/18 season finale. At its center, a performance of one of Rossini's last major works, the *Stabat mater*, preceded by two other choral works, Mozart's dramatic *Kyrie* in D minor and Cherubini's rarely heard *Chant sur la mort de Joseph Haydn*. (June 21, 22, 23, 24, 2018)

In addition, Muti conducts two one-night-only special concerts:

- Muti opens the CSO's 2017/18 season with the annual gala fundraising concert, Symphony Ball, complete with a preconcert reception and dinner and dancing following the performance. Anne Sophie Mutter is the soloist in Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5, on a program that also includes music by Rossini and Tchaikovsky. (September 22)
- Muti and the Orchestra appear in the CSO's annual, free concert for the community in November with a program that features Schubert's Eighth Symphony (*Unfinished*) and Brahms' Second Symphony. (November 15, Location TBA)

The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

MUTI AND THE CSO ON TOUR

Muti leads the CSO in two major U.S. tours during the 2017/18 season. Both tours highlight Muti's commitment to new music, with performances of works by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon and CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek and Samuel Adams. In October, the Orchestra tours California and makes a stop in Kansas City, Missouri, playing eight concerts, including a three-concert residency in Berkeley presented by Cal Performances, and a performance that marks its debut at the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. In February, Muti takes the Orchestra on a tour of the East Coast, including two performances at Carnegie Hall; a return to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. presented by Washington Performing Arts; a concert in Naples, Florida presented by Artis Naples; and two concerts at the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida.

- The CSO's West Coast tour in October begins with a performance in Kansas City, Missouri and continues with concerts in California cities including Berkeley, Costa Mesa, San Diego, Palm Desert, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. Featured repertoire includes the West Coast premiere of a new work by Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek, Bruckner's Fourth Symphony and Rossini's Overture to *William Tell*, music by Schubert and Schumann, performances of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto featuring CSO Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson and the second and third symphonies of Johannes Brahms. (October 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22)
- In February, Muti takes the CSO on an East Coast tour, which includes performances at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and in Florida. These tour programs feature the East Coast premieres of works by Mead Composer-in-Residence Samuel Adams and Jennifer Higdon, as well as works by Verdi, Stravinsky, Brahms, Chausson and Mozart. The new concerto for low brass by Jennifer Higdon features Principal Trombone Jay Friedman, Trombone Michael Mulcahy, Bass Trombone Charles Vernon and Principal Tuba Gene Pokorny as soloists. (February 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 2018)

CSO RUN-OUTS

The CSO maintains its commitment to regional touring with two run-out concerts at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa.

- Guest conductor James Gaffigan conducts the CSO in a performance at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in October. The program includes Bernstein's Symphonic Suite from *On the Waterfront*, Barber's Violin Concerto with James Ehnes as soloist and Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances. (October 28)
- Guest conductor Semyon Bychkov leads the CSO in a performance at the University of Iowa's Hancher Auditorium in May. The concert includes Tchaikovsky's dramatic *Manfred* Symphony, as well as Bruch's rarely performed Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra, featuring Katia and Marielle Labèque. (May 6, 2018)

BERNSTEIN AT 100

The CSO celebrates the centennial of the birth of musical luminary Leonard Bernstein, whose incredible contributions as a composer, conductor and educator shaped the cultural life of the 20th century and beyond. Bernstein notably drew inspiration from elements of popular American music, such as blues and jazz harmonies and rhythms, to create infectious melodies and compositions that pulse with energy. Bernstein's lasting influence is highlighted in the CSO's programs which feature iconic works from three genres: film (*On the Waterfront*), musical theater (*West Side Story*) and symphonic repertoire (Symphony No. 2, *The Age of Anxiety*).

- James Gaffigan conducts the Symphonic Suite from Bernstein's score for the 1954 crime drama *On the Waterfront*. (October 26, 27, 28)
- Rafael Payare conducts the Symphonic Dances from Bernstein's hit, Tony Award-winning 1957 Broadway musical *West Side Story*. (January 18, 20, 2018)
- Kent Nagano conducts Bernstein's Symphony No. 2 (*The Age of Anxiety*). Inspired by a poem by W.H. Auden, Bernstein wrote that the symphony deals with the search for meaning in our lives, particularly "our difficult and problematical search for faith." (March 29, 30, 31, 2018)

CONDUCTORS/SOLOISTS

In 2017/18, the CSO welcomes three distinguished artists who collaborate with the Orchestra both as soloists and as conductors, giving listeners a welcome opportunity to experience two different sides of these great artists: pianist Sir András Schiff, violinist Nikolaj Znaider and flautino soloist Giovanni Antonini.

- Sir András Schiff directs a program that highlights the Orchestra's diverse strengths. He conducts the CSO's woodwinds in Mozart's C Minor Serenade, its string section in Bartók's Divertimento, then directs the Orchestra from the piano in concertos by Bach and Beethoven. (November 2, 3, 4, 5)
- After leading the CSO from the soloist's position in Beethoven's Violin Concerto, Nikolaj Znaider picks up the baton to make his subscription debut as conductor in Shostakovich's monumental Fifth Symphony. (December 21, 22, 23)
- Giovanni Antonini appears with the CSO as both conductor and flautino soloist, in a program of virtuosos concertos by Vivaldi and Bach and symphonies by Boccherini and Haydn. The concert also features renowned mandolin soloist Avi Avital. (June 7, 8 & 9, 2018)

CHICAGO SYMPHONY CHORUS

The Chicago Symphony Chorus (CSC), the critically acclaimed professional ensemble that marks its 60th anniversary in the 2017/18 season, is under the leadership of Chorus Director and Conductor Duain Wolfe. The CSC appears with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra three times under the baton of Riccardo Muti during the

2017/18 season, as well as with guest conductors Alain Altinoglu and Charles Dutoit. Major choral repertoire includes Poulenc's *Gloria*, Schubert's Mass No. 6 and a season-finale program that features Rossini's *Stabat mater*.

- Alain Altinoglu conducts a program of French choral works, including Poulenc's sparkling *Gloria* and Gounod's radiant *Saint Cecilia* Mass. The program opens with Prokofiev's mischievous suite from *The Love for Three Oranges*. (October 5, 6, 7)
- Riccardo Muti returns to the choral music of Schubert (the Chicago Symphony Chorus performed Schubert's Mass No. 5 with Muti and the CSO in 2014), with the composer's radiant Mass No. 6. CSO Viola Max Raimi's new work for mezzo-soprano and orchestra, Three Lisel Müller Settings, completes the program. (March 22, 23, 24, 2018)
- Charles Dutoit conducts an all-Ravel program in April, and the Chicago Symphony Chorus is featured in the final work on the program, the composer's ballet *Daphnis and Chloe*. Dutoit's program is also part of a series of concerts that he conducts and that commemorates Ravel's historic 1928 tour of the USA during which he led the orchestras of New York, Boston, Cleveland, Chicago and San Francisco and which receives support from the Ravel Foundation in Paris. (April 5, 6, 7, 10, 2018)
- The CSO's season-long celebration of Debussy's 150th anniversary culminates in a performance of the *Nocturnes* for Orchestra led by Riccardo Muti. The final movement, *Sirènes*, features the women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. (April 19, 20, 21, 2018)
- The Chicago Symphony Chorus is the focus of Riccardo Muti's season finale concerts. The centerpiece is a performance of Rossini's choral work, *Stabat mater*. This work is preceded by Mozart's Kyrie in D minor and Cherubini's rarely heard *Chant sur la mort de Joseph Haydn*. (June 21, 22, 23, 24, 2018)

WHEATON COLLEGE SERIES

The CSO continues its commitment to audiences in Chicago's western suburbs in 2017/18. For the second season, the Orchestra plays a series of three concerts at Wheaton College's Edman Memorial Chapel. The concerts can be purchased individually or as a series. Subscriptions to the series are now available.

- Guest conductor Christoph von Dohnányi directs a program that celebrates radiant late works by two generations of Austrian composers, Schubert's Symphony No. 9 and Berg's Violin Concerto with Arabella Steinbacher as soloist. (November 10)
- Guest conductor Manfred Honeck leads the CSO in Mahler's Fifth Symphony and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 with Till Fellner as soloist. (January 26, 2018)
- Muti and the CSO highlight works by classical masters Mozart and Haydn. Renowned violist Paul Neubauer joins CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen for Mozart's Sinfonia concertante. Mozart's *Linz* Symphony and Haydn's rarely performed Symphony No. 89 complete the program. (March 16, 2018)

MEAD COMPOSERS-IN-RESIDENCE AND MUSICNOW

Elizabeth Ogonek and Samuel Adams enter their third year as Mead Composers-in-Residence. This season, Riccardo Muti gives the world premiere of Elizabeth Ogonek's CSO-commissioned work for the Orchestra and revisits Adams' 2016 work, *many words of love*, on CSO tour programs.

The CSO's MusicNOW series celebrates its 20th anniversary in the 2017/18 season. Created in December 1998 to explore the richness and variety of the contemporary classical music, the series is curated by Ogonek and Adams. This four-concert series is performed by CSO musicians and guest performers, and takes place at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance and other venues TBA.

MusicNOW concerts highlight the diverse range of music being written today, and each event engages audiences through an innovative program format with video introductions by featured composers, special lighting and visual elements, as well as a chance for musicians, composers and the audience to mingle at post-concert receptions. MusicNOW concerts in 2017/18 take place on four Mondays. (October 2, November 13, April 2, 2018 and May 21, 2018)

MusicNOW receives funding through a leadership challenge grant from the Irving Harris Foundation, Joan W. Harris. Major support is provided by Cindy Sargent and the Sally Mead Hands Foundation and the Zell Family Foundation.

WORLD PREMIERES

The CSO's 2017/18 season shines a spotlight on the unparalleled talents of the CSO's own musicians and composers with three world premieres, conducted by Riccardo Muti, consisting of:

- A work for orchestra by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek and her first CSO-commissioned work performed by Muti and the Orchestra. Commissioned by the Louise Durham Mead Fund. (September 28, 29 and October 1)
- A concerto for the CSO's acclaimed low brass section, by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon, a composer known for her distinctive, colorful orchestral works. This concerto will be Higdon's first commission from the CSO and was commissioned for the Orchestra by the Edward F. Schmidt Family Commissioning Fund. (February 1, 2, 3, 2018)
- Three Lisel Müller Settings, a new work inspired by the poetry of the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and written for mezzo-soprano and orchestra by CSO viola and composer Max Raimi. The premiere features soloist Elizabeth DeShong in her CSO debut. This commission is supported by a grant from the Poetry Foundation. (March 22, 23, 24, 2018)

First Performances

In addition to world premieres, the CSO performs seven works for the first time during the 2017/18 season:

- Boccherini Symphony No. 6 in D Minor, G. 506, Op. 12 No. 4 (*La casa del diavolo*) (June 7, 8, 9, 2018)
- Bruch Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra, Op. 88a (May 3, 4, 5, 2018)
- Cherubini *Chant sur la mort de Joseph Haydn* (June 21, 22, 23, 24)
- Gounod *Saint Cecilia* Mass (October 5, 6, 7)
- Penderecki *The Awakening of Jacob* (September 23, 26)
- Puccini *Preludio sinfonico* (November 16, 17, 18, 21)
- Vivaldi Mandolin Concerto in C Major, RV 425 (June 7, 8, 9, 2018)

DEBUTS

Fifteen guest artists make debuts with the CSO during the 2017/18 season:

- Italian conductor Giovanni Antonini, founder of the innovative early music ensemble il Giardino Armonico, makes his CSO debut as both conductor and flutino soloist in a program of virtuoso concertos and symphonies. (June 7, 8 & 9, 2018)
- Grammy-nominated Israeli mandolinist Avi Avital makes his debut with the CSO in a program of dazzling concertos by Vivaldi and Bach. Avital, called a “superstar” by *The New York Times*, is among the world’s most adventurous and engaging musicians. (June 7, 8 & 9, 2018)
- American tenor Paul Appleby, one of today’s rising opera stars, makes his debut with the CSO as a soloist in Schubert’s Mass No. 6. Praised by *The New York Times* as a “tenor with a sweet, beautifully sculptured tone” Appleby has found particular praise as an interpreter of the music of Schubert and his contemporaries. (March 22, 23 & 24, 2018)
- Czech conductor Jiří Bělohlávek, chief conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, makes his CSO debut in a program of music by fellow countrymen Dvořák and Smetana. The conductor also partners with cellist Alisa Weilerstein in Barber’s Cello Concerto. (December 7, 8, 9 & 12)
- CSO Principal Bassoon Keith Buncke makes his CSO solo debut in Mozart’s youthful Bassoon Concerto. Buncke was appointed principal bassoon in 2015 by Music Director Riccardo Muti, after previously serving as principal bassoon of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, a post to which he was appointed while still attending the Curtis Institute of Music. (January 18 & 20, 2018)
- American mezzo-soprano Elizabeth DeShong makes her CSO debut in the world premiere of Three Lisel Müller Settings, Max Raimi’s new work for voice and orchestra. DeShong is familiar to Chicago audiences from her performances with Lyric Opera of Chicago. (March 22, 23, 24, 2018)

- The renowned, award-winning violinist Isabelle Faust has captivated Europe with her combination of technical precision and musical intelligence. She brings her unique musical voice to Schumann's Violin Concerto in her CSO debut. (May 11, 12 & 15, 2018)
- Bass-baritone Andrew Foster-Williams makes his CSO debut in Gounod's *Saint Cecilia* Mass. Foster-Williams enjoys a vibrant career on both the opera and concert stage and sings a broad repertoire, ranging from Bach to Mozart to Stravinsky. (October 5, 6, 7)
- Russian tenor Dmitry Korchak makes his CSO debut in Rossini's *Stabat mater*. Korchak regularly appears at the world's finest opera houses, and has been particularly lauded for his performances of works by Rossini. (June 21, 22, 23 & 24)
- French mezzo soprano Clémentine Margaine makes her CSO debut in Chausson's seductive *Poem of Love and the Sea*, conducted by Muti. Margaine has gained international acclaim in recent seasons at Europe's most renowned opera houses, and in 2016/17 made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago. (February 1, 2 & 3, 2018)
- American violist Paul Neubauer, "a master musician" (*The New York Times*), makes his CSO debut in Mozart's Sinfonia concertante, alongside CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen. (March 15, 16 & 17, 2018)
- French soprano Sandrine Piau makes her CSO debut in Gounod's *Saint Cecilia* Mass and Poulenc's *Gloria*. A renowned figure in the field of Baroque music, Piau also embraces the lyric repertoire, and regularly works with renowned orchestras and conductors around the world. (October 5, 6, 7)
- Argentine bass Nahuel di Pierro makes his CSO debut as a soloist in Schubert's Mass No. 6. Di Pierro, an acclaimed young singer who makes regular appearances at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden and Paris Opéra, comes to Symphony Center for the first time. (March 22, 23 & 24, 2018)
- Finnish conductor John Storgårds makes his CSO debut with music by fellow countryman Jean Sibelius. Storgårds is principal guest conductor of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra, and artistic partner of the Munich Chamber Orchestra. (November 30, December 1, 2 & 3)
- Swiss-born American pianist Gilles Vonsattel, a rising star in the piano world, makes his CSO debut in Leonard Bernstein's Symphony No. 2 (*The Age of Anxiety*). The recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant, Vonsattel has been called "a study in intensity" by *The New York Times*. (March 29, 30, 31, 2018)

RETURNING GUEST CONDUCTORS

Guest conductors returning to the CSO podium in 2017/18 include:

- Alain Altinoglu returns to lead the CSO after his previous appearance was hailed by *The Chicago Tribune* for its “voluptuous colors and sensuous atmosphere.” Altinoglu’s program includes the French choral works Poulenc’s *Gloria* and Gounod’s *Saint Cecilia* Mass featuring the Chicago Symphony Chorus. The program opens with Prokofiev’s mischievous Suite from *The Love for Three Oranges*. (October 5, 6, 7)
- American-born and Swedish-raised conductor Herbert Blomstedt, one of the world’s most respected conductors, returns to lead the CSO for the first time since 2007. Blomstedt conducts a program of symphonies by Mozart and Beethoven. (March 1, 2, 3, 2018)
- Semyon Bychkov, returns to lead the CSO in Tchaikovsky’s *Manfred* Symphony and a performances of Bruch’s rarely performed Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra featuring Katia and Marielle Labèque. (May 3, 4, 5, 2018)
- Guest conductor Christoph von Dohnányi returns to the CSO with a program that celebrates radiant late works by two generations of Austrian composers, Schubert’s Symphony No. 9 and Berg’s Violin Concerto. (November 9, 10, 11)
- Charles Dutoit joins the CSO for a program of diverse works including Debussy’s *La mer*, Kodály’s *Háry János* Suite, Mussorgsky’s *Khovanshchina* and Shostakovich’s Violin Concerto No. 1, with Leonidas Kavakos as soloist. (March 8, 9, 10, 11, 2018)
- Charles Dutoit returns in April 2018 with an all-Ravel program of *Daphnis and Chloe* ballet featuring the Chicago Symphony Chorus alongside the *Left Hand* Piano Concerto with soloist Jean-Yves Thibaudet and orchestrations of two Debussy piano works. (April 5, 6, 7, 10, 2018)
- Christoph Eschenbach returns with a program of evocative works from the early 19th century, conjuring fairies (Mendelssohn’s *Midsummer Night’s Dream* overture), gruesome beings (Weber’s Overture to *Der Freischütz*), and the landscapes of Italy (Mendelssohn’s Fourth Symphony). (February 22, 23, 24, 27, 2018)
- James Gaffigan returns to the CSO with a program of thrilling virtuosity and dazzling orchestral colors: Bernstein’s jazzy suite from *On the Waterfront*, Barber’s lyrical Violin Concerto (with soloist James Ehnes) and Rachmaninov’s Symphonic Dances. (October 26, 27, 28)
- Austrian conductor and Pittsburgh Symphony Music Director Manfred Honeck returns to the CSO, to lead the Orchestra in a performance of Mahler’s Fifth Symphony and Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 25 with Till Fellner as soloist. (January 25, 26, 27, 30, 2018)

- Polish-born German conductor Marek Janowski makes his long awaited subscription concert debut with the Orchestra in a program of works by Weber, Beethoven and Wagner. (May 31, June 1, 2, 3, 2018)
- French conductor Emmanuel Krivine returns to lead the CSO after his acclaimed debut in 2016. Krivine's program with the CSO features Brahms' *Tragic Overture*, Schumann's Violin Concerto with Isabelle Faust as soloist and Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3 (*Organ*). (May 11, 12, 15)
- Kent Nagano returns to the CSO for a program featuring Bernstein's Second Symphony (*The Age of Anxiety*), alongside Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* and Schumann's Symphony No. 1. (March 29, 30, 31, 2018)
- Venezuelan conductor Rafael Payare made a "riveting" (*Chicago Tribune*) Ravinia Festival debut in 2015, and this season he makes his subscription concert debut, leading performances of Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* and Mozart's Bassoon Concerto. (January 18, 20, 2018)
- Renowned composer and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen makes a welcome return for two programs with the CSO. In the first, Mahler's deeply personal Ninth Symphony comprises the entire program, the second consists of Bartok's Third Piano Concerto, with Mitsuko Uchida as soloist, alongside Brahms' Variations on a Theme by Haydn and Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night*. (May 17, 18, 19, 22 & May 24, 25, 26, 2018)
- Sir András Schiff returns to the CSO as conductor and pianist. Schiff directs a program that highlights the Orchestra's diverse strengths, as a wind ensemble (Mozart's Serenade in C minor), string section (Bartók's Divertimento), and chamber ensemble (Bach and Beethoven concertos). (November 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Jaap van Zweden, New York Philharmonic music director designate beginning in 2017/18 and regular CSO guest conductor, returns to lead the Orchestra in Wagner's Prelude to Act 1 of *Lohengrin*, Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony and Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto with Daniil Trifonov as soloist. (December 14, 15, 16, 19)
- Beloved American composer and conductor John Williams joins the CSO for a special program that celebrates his astonishing contribution to the film world and the concert stage. Williams conducts a program that features his Oscar-winning film music performed by the CSO. (April 26, 27, 28, 29, 2018)
- Nikolaj Znaider returns to the CSO, doing double duty in a fascinating program. Znaider leads the Orchestra as soloist in Beethoven's Violin Concerto, then picks up his baton, making his subscription debut as conductor in Shostakovich's searing Fifth Symphony. (December 21, 22, 23)

RETURNING GUEST ARTISTS

Guest artists returning to perform with the CSO during the 2017/18 season's subscription series include:

Piano

- Till Fellner (January 25, 26, 27, 30, 2018)
- Kirill Gerstein (November 16, 17, 18, 21)
- Daniil Trifonov (December 14, 15, 16, 19)
- Mitsuko Uchida (May 24, 25, 26, 2018)
- David Fray (February 22, 23, 24, 27, 2018)
- Jean-Yves Thibaudet (April 5, 6, 7, 10, 2018)
- Katia Labèque (May 3, 4, 5, 2018)
- Marielle Labèque (May 3, 4, 5, 2018)

Violin

- Anne-Sophie Mutter (September 22, 23, 26, 2016)
- James Ehnes (October 26, 27, 28, 2016)
- Arabella Steinbacher (November 9, 10, 11)
- Gil Shaham (November 30, December 1, 2, 3)
- Robert Chen, CSO Concertmaster (March 15, 16, 17, 2018)

Cello

- Alisa Weilerstein (December 7, 8, 9, 12)
- Yo-Yo Ma, CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant (June 14, 15, and 16, 2018)

Clarinet

- Stephen Williamson, CSO Principal Clarinet (October 14, 16, 19, 21; February 15, 2018)

Trombone/Tuba

- Jay Friedman, CSO Principal Trombone (February 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 2018)
- Michael Mulcahy, CSO Trombone (February 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 2018)
- Charles Vernon, CSO Bass Trombone (February 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 2018)
- Gene Pokorny, CSO Principal Tuba (February 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 2018)

Harp

- Sarah Bullen, CSO Principal Harp (April 19, 20, and 21)

Voice

- Amanda Forsythe, soprano (March 22, 23, 24, 2018)
- Nicholas Phan, tenor (March 22, 23, 24, 2018)
- Krassimira Stoyanova, soprano (June 21, 22, 23, 24, 2018)
- Ekaterina Gubanova, mezzo-soprano (June 21, 22, 23, 24, 2018)
- Eric Owens, bass-baritone (June 21, 22, 23, 24, 2018)

CSO AT THE MOVIES

CSO at the Movies offers a unique opportunity to hear live performances of great film scores played by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Performances include feature films or film excerpts projected above the stage. The program dates for this popular Friday-evening concert series are November 24, January 28, 2018 and April 27, 2018. The April 27 program is *John Williams Returns*, a special evening of music by the legendary film composer led by Williams from the podium. Additional programs will be announced at a later date.

CSO RADIO

The weekly CSO Radio Broadcast Series is syndicated nationally to more than 300 radio stations, reaching over 250,000 listeners each week nationwide via the WFMT Radio Network. In 2016, on-demand streaming led to over 1 million plays of music and interviews from CSO Radio programs.

With commentary designed to illustrate the stories of the music and to provide insight into the themes of the CSO's concert season, the current radio series has offered a distinctive approach to classical music radio since 2007. The broadcasts include recorded concert performances by the CSO; produced segments featuring interviews with musicians of the Orchestra, guest artists and composers; and explorations of the CSO's rich catalog of commercial recordings. This series builds on a rich tradition of CSO radio broadcasts that have connected the Orchestra to listeners in the U.S. and abroad for decades.

A strong online presence at cso.org/soundsandstories gives music lovers access to full radio broadcasts along with additional content, including full-length interviews and commentary, program notes and biographical information.

The series is heard locally on 98.7 WFMT in Chicago on Sunday afternoons at 1 p.m. For other cities, please check local listings.

SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) offers a range of programs highlighting the exceptional artistry of the world's most distinguished musicians. Chicago's premier presenter of international artists and ensembles offers four series—Piano, Chamber Music, Orchestras and Jazz, as well as Special Concerts.

SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS PIANO

The Symphony Center Presents Piano series celebrates keyboard artistry at the highest level in 10 Sunday afternoon concerts each season. Legendary keyboard masters and the next generation of virtuosos perform repertoire from musical eras ranging from Baroque to contemporary. Highlights of the 2017/18 season include the SCP Piano series debuts of French pianist Lucas Debargue and German pianist Martin Helmchen, and return appearances for Evgeny Kissin, Maurizio Pollini, Piotr Anderszewski, and Mitsuko Uchida.

- Canadian pianist Louis Lortie returns to the SCP Piano series with a program of music by Franz Liszt. Lortie has immersed himself in Liszt's world, and he brings selections from the composer's musical travel guides, including the *Années de pèlerinage* (Years of Pilgrimage), works he has recorded to great acclaim. (October 8)
- Polish pianist Piotr Anderszewski offers a diverse program that demonstrates his immaculate control of touch and color including works by Mozart and Chopin and selections from Janáček's set of folk-song-inspired miniatures, *On the Overgrown Path*. (October 22)
- French pianist Lucas Debargue makes his Chicago and SCP Piano series debut this season. Debargue has rapidly garnered audience and critical acclaim for his intellectual and lyrical performances. (November 19)
- Mitsuko Uchida returns to captivate audiences with an all-Schubert program, featuring three of the composer's great piano sonatas. (February 18, 2018)
- In a rare U.S. appearance, acclaimed Russian pianist Boris Berezovsky makes his SCP Piano series debut in a program of thrillingly virtuosic solo piano works. (March 25, 2018)
- Emanuel Ax returns to Symphony Center with a typically thoughtful SCP recital, in which two Beethoven sonatas frame a program that includes Bach's Partita No. 5 and Liszt's *Tre sonetti del Petrarca*. (April 8, 2018)
- Legendary Italian pianist Maurizio Pollini returns to the SCP Piano series. Pollini is one of the most respected performers on the international stage, renowned for noble, aristocratic interpretations of a broad repertoire, most notably the music of Chopin and Beethoven. (April 22, 2018)
- Evgeny Kissin makes a much-anticipated return in his first recital appearance at Symphony Center since the 2015/16 season. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, "Connoisseurs of the keyboard are ever

ready to pounce on opportunities to catch [Kissin] whenever he comes to town.” Kissin’s recital program includes Beethoven’s *Hammerklavier* sonata and Rachmaninov preludes from Op. 23 and 32 and the Prelude in C-sharp Minor, Op. 3, No. 2. (May 13, 2018)

- Yefim Bronfman returns to SCP with a typically varied program. Two whimsical collections of humoresques by Schumann and contemporary German composer Jörg Widmann set the stage for a performance of Stravinsky’s Three Movements from *Petrushka*. (May 20, 2018)
- German pianist Martin Helmchen, who performed as a soloist with the CSO in 2016, makes his debut on the SCP Piano series. Helmchen’s recital is a celebration of the variation form, and includes examples by Beethoven, Schubert and Mendelssohn, as well as the German contemporary composer Helmut Lachenmann. (June 10, 2018)

SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS CHAMBER MUSIC

The 2017/18 Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music series is a true blockbuster. Highlights of the series include the Chicago debut of a trio comprising CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, violinist Leonidas Kavakos and pianist Emanuel Ax, and a very special collaboration between Itzhak Perlman and Martha Argerich, appearing together for the first time in Chicago.

- Violinist Joshua Bell has captivated Chicago audiences for many years with his thrillingly energetic virtuosity, and his return to SCP is cause for celebration. (November 10)
- A trio of classical music masters—cellist Yo-Yo Ma, violinist Leonidas Kavakos and pianist Emanuel Ax—come together for performances of Brahms’ complete piano trios. (February 25, 2018)
- Violinist Itzhak Perlman and pianist Martha Argerich appear in Orchestra Hall together as a duo for the first time. These two legendary musicians have played together on only a handful of occasions during their long careers and their SCP Chamber Music series appearance is highly anticipated. The program includes Bach’s Violin Sonata No. 4 and Franck’s Violin Sonata. (March 18, 2018)
- A pianist of phenomenal eloquence and technique, Evgeny Kissin appears alongside the superb Emerson String Quartet on this SCP Chamber Music program, which includes works by Mozart, Fauré and Dvořák. (April 15, 2018)

SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS ORCHESTRAS

The Symphony Center Presents Orchestra series honors a long-standing tradition of welcoming the world’s finest orchestras to Orchestra Hall. In 2017/18, the series features appearances by the Mariinsky Orchestra and Minnesota Orchestra.

- The Mariinsky Orchestra and Valery Gergiev return to perform music from their homeland—Shostakovich’s Ninth Symphony and Prokofiev’s Second Piano Concerto with Denis Matsuev as soloist

and to give their unique stamp to Strauss' dramatic *Ein Heldenleben*. (November 8)

- The Minnesota Orchestra, led by its music director Osmo Vänskä, brings a program of Sibelius and Beethoven, signature composers for this renowned ensemble. Tchaikovsky's popular First Piano Concerto, with soloist Inon Barnatan, rounds out the program. (January 28, 2018)

SPECIAL CONCERTS

During the 2017/18 season, the CSO and Symphony Center Presents offer an array of non-subscription special concerts that showcase today's internationally renowned soloists and ensembles in a range of genres—classical, world, folk and jazz—as well as unique holiday programs.

- Chicago native and award-winning actor and comedian Bill Murray joins internationally acclaimed cellist Jan Vogler and musicians Mira Wang (violin) and Vanessa Perez (piano) for a lively evening of music and great literature. Musical highlights include works by Bach, Beethoven and Shostakovich. Murray mixes in readings of texts by Walt Whitman, Ernest Hemingway and Walt Whitman. (October 10)
- The China NCPA Orchestra brings an eclectic program of symphonic works to Symphony Center. Led by Chief Conductor Lü Jia, the program features American composer Lou Harrison's Pipa Concerto, which spotlights a traditional Chinese instrument, played in this performance by the renowned pipa virtuoso and Silk Road Ensemble member, Wu Man. Brahms' Symphony No. 4 and a work by Qigang Chen are also part of the program. (October 28)
- The legendary brass section of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, renowned for its incredible power, matchless brilliance and dazzling virtuosity, performs a concert of symphonic masterworks and traditional favorites. (December 20)
- Named by *Time* magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World," the musical phenomenon Lang Lang returns to Symphony Center for an afternoon recital. (March 4, 2018)

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

- Returning for its annual Symphony Center appearance, the Vienna Boys Choir performs its festive *Christmas in Vienna* program of traditional and contemporary vocal selections. (November 25)
- Called the "world's reigning male chorus" by *The New Yorker*, the Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer makes its annual visit to Chicago with *A Chanticleer Christmas*, a program of familiar and new seasonal pieces in a *cappella* arrangements. (December 5, 6. Note location: Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut, Chicago)
- *Home Alone*, a true holiday favorite returns to Symphony Center for three family-friendly performances. This screening of the beloved comedy classic features renowned composer John Williams' charming and delightful score performed by Members of the CSO led by conductor Richard Kaufman and featuring Anima-Young Singers of Greater Chicago led by Emily Ellsworth. (December 9 and 10)

- Ring in the holidays at Symphony Center with *Merry, Merry Chicago!* This festive program, led by guest conductor Emil de Cou, features Members of the CSO and the Chicago Children’s Choir performing treasured carols and sharing in a spirited sing-along of holiday favorites, as well as a visit by a very special guest from the North Pole. (December 15, 16, 17, 22, 23)

THE NEGAUNEE MUSIC INSTITUTE AT THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Across Chicago and around the world, the Negaunee Music Institute (NMI) connects individuals and communities to the extraordinary musical resources of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Under the visionary leadership of the CSO’s Music Director Riccardo Muti and Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, the Institute’s programs focus on artistic excellence, broad access, deep and enduring impact, as well as mentorship and responsiveness.

Building on the CSO’s rich history of education and community engagement that originated in the early part of the 20th century, the Institute was created in 2008 as an umbrella for the CSO’s education and community programs. Originally called the Institute for Learning, Access and Training, it was renamed in 2014 after the CSO received a generous gift from the Negaunee Foundation that endows the Institute in perpetuity.

Each year, musicians of the CSO participate in a variety of the Institute’s programs making direct connections with students, young musicians, and diverse communities across the city. In addition to their performances at CSO community concerts and School and Family Concerts, CSO chamber ensembles offer performances at approximately 35 school and community sites each season, including the schools participating in the Institute’s CPS partnerships and community sites connected to the Adventures in Music program. Dozens of CSO musicians also serve as coaches for the musicians of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago; work with young musicians at the Chicago Youth in Music Festival; and lead master classes during the Orchestra’s domestic and international tours. Some CSO musicians also accompany Music Director Riccardo Muti for annual, interactive recitals for youth who are incarcerated at Illinois Youth Centers in Chicago and Warrenville.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO presents opportunities for people of all ages with diverse backgrounds in music to actively participate in the life of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. cso.org/institute

SCHOOL, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

One of the signature programs of the Institute is a series of age appropriate CSO concerts for school and family audiences that are supported by a suite of school and community partnerships, curricular and preparatory resources, and other activities.

Through the CSO’s School and Family concerts, the Negaunee Music Institute offers 40 performances each year that reach more than 250 schools and 45,000 audience members. These concerts are geared specifically to various age groups: ages 3 to 5, ages 5 and up, grades K through 3 and grades 4 and above. For the 2017/18 season, the CSO’s School and Family concerts explore the theme—*In Harmony*.

Continuing a decades-long commitment to supporting access to music education in Chicago Public Schools, the Institute offers partnership programs that share the resources of the CSO with seven schools through teacher professional development, collaboratively designed musical instruction, in-school performances and workshops, as well as support for the development of a customized arts plan in several of the participating schools. All students participating in these programs attend one of the CSO's School Concerts. Additionally, in association with the CSO's performances at Wheaton College, the Institute partners with band and orchestra programs at six schools in DuPage County, offering chamber performances and masterclasses.

Established in 1995, the Percussion Scholarship Program marked its 20th anniversary during the 2014/15 season. The program offers intensive, individual, weekly and year-round percussion instruction for young musicians on a full scholarship basis. Participating students—all of whom are Chicago residents in grades 4 through 12—are selected for the group through a rigorous application and personal interview process, by which 5-10 new students are identified annually. As an ensemble, the Percussion Scholarship Group has had numerous compositions arranged especially for it by nationally known artists. The group performs twice a year in Buntrock Hall at Symphony Center and has appeared on WTTW, on WGN and WFMT radio, on NPR's "From the Top" and as soloists with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as part of CSO Youth Concerts, the CSO Family Matinee Series and holiday concerts, as well as the Chicago Youth in Music Festival. Graduates of the Percussion Scholarship Program have gone on to attend top-tier universities and music conservatories, later assuming notable careers within and outside of music.

The Chicago Youth in Music Festival is a celebration of young musicians from across the city and suburbs. Presented in partnership with Greater Chicago's leading community music schools and youth orchestra programs, the Festival creates connections to the CSO and Civic Orchestra that support and inspire young musicians who are passionate about classical music. While each Festival is unique, the flagship event is an open rehearsal of the Festival Orchestra—an ensemble composed of the most advanced players from Chicago-area community music schools and youth orchestras—led by the CSO's Music Director Riccardo Muti.

The Festival also includes the Crain-Maling CSO Young Artist's Competition which is presented by the League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association and engages young musicians between the ages of 14 and 17 who are residents of Illinois. Each year, one outstanding soloist is selected via audition to perform with the CSO. Select finalists are also awarded scholarships to music camps. A three-year rotation schedule determines the eligible instruments for each competition: strings, piano and woodwinds/brass/percussion. Auditions in the 2017/18 season will be open to piano.

Launched by Riccardo Muti during his inaugural season as CSO Music Director, the biennial Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprenticeship offers one promising conductor two years of rare access to and guidance from an honored tradition of musical leadership. Building on the legacy of the late Sir Georg Solti (CSO Music Director 1969-1991) and his work in opera, Maestro Muti identifies and mentors young conductors who can not only lead an orchestra and command a broad repertoire but also skillfully coach artists from the piano as well. In September 2015, German-born conductor Erina Yashima was announced as the next Solti Conducting Apprentice. Yashima started her two-year apprenticeship in February 2016 and spends approximately 10 weeks a year studying and assisting Riccardo Muti in Chicago during his residencies with the CSO. In addition, the Apprenticeship also offers an opportunity for close work with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the CSO's training orchestra for young professional musicians, including the opportunity to lead several rehearsals and a

performance with the Civic Orchestra each year. An international competition to identify the next Apprentice will take place during the 2017/18 season, with competition finals occurring in spring of 2018. Details will be announced in August 2017.

The Institute's ongoing musical projects for Underserved and Incarcerated Youth are inspired by the visionary leadership of Riccardo Muti and engage dozens of youth people who are in the care of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, Cook County or the Department of Children and Family Services. Muti, who first visited a Juvenile Justice facility during his inaugural season as Music Director in 2010, maintains a commitment to make an annual visit to a Chicago-area correctional facility to present an interactive recital alongside guest opera singers and CSO musicians. Additionally, site-specific projects are implemented by the Institute in partnership with specialists in the field of youth development and juvenile justice, responding to the unique needs of each partner organization and the youth they serve.

The Institute also coordinates an annual series of CSO open rehearsals for invited school and community groups.

FAMILY AND SCHOOL CONCERTS

In Harmony

Harmony: [här-mə-nē]

1. The simultaneous combination of tones, especially when blended into chords pleasing to the ear
2. Agreement; accord; harmonious relations

What do music and friendship have in common? Both are at their best when we listen to one another and work together despite our differences. The 2017/18 CSO Family Matinee and School Concerts focus on the importance of harmony. Programs featuring the members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra explore great examples of unity and extraordinary possibilities that are within reach when we strengthen our connections with one another.

Once Upon a Symphony, for Children Ages 3 to 5

In the 2017/18 season, the Institute presents two Once Upon a Symphony programs: *Stone Soup* and *The Elves and the Shoemaker*, a new production. Both program connect with the season theme, *In Harmony*, and feature a small ensemble of CSO musicians and a storyteller. Programs are produced and presented in partnership with Chicago Children's Theatre.

Each Once Upon a Symphony program is designed especially for children ages 3 to 5, and includes age-appropriate music, storytelling, video projections, activities, sets and costumes, to give young children a fun introduction to classical music, explore basic musical concepts, and encourage them to make music at home.

The Once Upon a Symphony concert experience for families also includes preconcert activities designed in partnership with music education faculty from the DePaul University School of Music, an opportunity to meet the musicians after the performance, and the chance to see, hear and touch musical instruments in an informal

setting organized by a Chicago area community music school. Once Upon a Symphony programs are presented on Saturdays for families with children ages 3 to 5 and on some corresponding Mondays for preschool, daycare and Head Start audiences.

Stone Soup performance dates are Saturdays—November 18, 2017; January 20 and February 3, 2018

The Elves and the Shoemaker performance dates are Saturdays—March 3, April 14 and 28, 2018.

Family Matinees (Saturdays), for Children Ages 5 and Up

Friends in Harmony

What is the sound of friendship? Though our world is made up of diverse and beautiful people, speaking 6,500 languages, every community on planet uses the common language of music to express who they are and to bring people together. This program led by Thomas Wilkins explores ways that composers from across the world communicate a spirit of unity and brotherhood through music. (*December 2*)

Planet Earth

Composers have been inspired to represent magnificent vistas, sweeping panoramas and rolling streams in music for hundreds of years. But we also live in a world that is changing dramatically. This program, conducted by Edwin Outwater, explores our natural world in flux and, drawing from amazing works of orchestral music, encourages each audience member to ensure the sustainability of our beautiful planet. Music will include selections from Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 (*Pastoral*), Alan Hovhanness' *And God Created Whales*, and Vaughan Williams' Sinfonia Antarctica. (*March 17, 2018*)

The Firebird

What would it be like to live in a world without harmony? Guest conductor Tania Miller leads members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and guest dancers, transporting listeners to a distant land ruled by the evil sorcerer Kastchei. With the heroic efforts of Prince Ivan and a magical Firebird, evil is defeated and harmony is restored to the people of the world. Repertoire will include music from Stravinsky's powerful ballet, *The Firebird* (1919). (*May 5, 2018*)

School Concerts (Fridays), for Children Grades K-3 and 4-12

The Institute's School Concerts for student groups in grades K-3 offer weekday performances of each of the Family Matinee programs in the 2017/18 season. These take place on the Friday preceding each Family Matinee concert, on December 1, 2017; March 16 and May 4, 2018. Additionally, a set of concerts for older students, grades 4-12, will be offered on March 14 and 15, 2018.

THE CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF CHICAGO

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association's prestigious training ensemble for emerging professional musicians, is the only one of its kind affiliated with a major American orchestra.

Founded in 1919 by then-Music Director Frederick Stock, it looks forward to its centennial celebration in the 2018/19 season.

The Civic's unique alliance with the CSO, propelled by an expansive vision, has enabled the training program to produce exceptional musical experiences that engage people of all ages and backgrounds leading to the development of an annual concert schedule of more than 30 performances that reach 14,000 audiences members. The 90 young professional musicians of the Civic Orchestra also benefit from the guidance of a world-class faculty that includes the CSO's Music Director Riccardo Muti, Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, a faculty of musicians of the CSO who serve as coaches, and many guest artists and conductors who visit Symphony Center each season.

The Civic's 2017/18 season includes a full roster of free performances at Symphony Center as well as its annual community concert at the South Shore Cultural Center. It also includes the free Civic Chamber Music Series presented at sites including the National Museum of Mexican Art and Zhou B Art Center, as well as Chicago Park District locations across the city. The roster of conductors and programs will be announced at a later date.

Select members of the Civic Orchestra are chosen as Civic Fellows, who are immersed in additional rigorous training that enhances their participation in the full orchestra. The two-year Civic Fellowship program, introduced in 2013/14 and inspired by the vision of CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, has been adopted as a core initiative of the Civic Orchestra. Through an array of experiences designed to build and diversify creative and professional skills, the fellowship program empowers its participants to realize their full potential as artistically excellent, collaborative, civically-engaged, and entrepreneurial musicians. Learn more about the Civic Fellows and their work at civicfellows.org.

SUBSCRIPTION AND TICKET INFORMATION

Subscription materials for the 2017/18 season of Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Center Presents concerts are now available, offering savings of up to 38% off regular single ticket prices on a wide variety of concert packages, from three to 10 concerts each. Subscriptions to the CSO's three-concert series at Wheaton College are also now available. Subscribers receive reduced prices on additional tickets when purchased by August 11, 2017, plus ticket exchange options and other subscriber-only benefits, including priority service, pre-paid parking options and discounts on Symphony Center merchandise and at tesori restaurant at Symphony Center. Box seat and 10-concert subscribers receive unlimited free ticket exchange privileges and additional benefits throughout the season.

Tickets for Special Concerts are currently available for purchase only with subscriptions. Subscriptions may be purchased or renewed by any of four methods: online, by phone, by mail or in person at the box office. The CSO provides an easy payment plan option for subscribers: subscription purchases made by credit card by April 17, 2017 are eligible for the payment plan and will be automatically charged in two, three or four monthly installments.

For more information, patrons should call CSO Patron Services at 312-294-3000 or 800-223-7114, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; or visit the CSO's website at

cso.org. Groups of 10 or more who are interested in subscribing to the 2017/18 season should call Symphony Center's Group Sales Department at 312-294-3040.

Patrons may also visit cso.org to order tickets and parking, learn about other nearby attractions and restaurants, purchase CSO merchandise and make donations. For background on the performances and the performers, patrons should go to CSO Sounds and Stories, the CSO's online magazine at www.csosoundsandstories.org. It features program notes, articles and audio and video to enhance patrons' experience before and after the performance.

Symphony Center, home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, is at 220 S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago.

CSO Tuesday series concerts are sponsored by United Airlines.

###

Media contacts:

Eileen Chambers, chamberse@cso.org, 312-294-3092

Clay Baker, bakerc@cso.org, 312-294-3089