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## **CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2024/25 SEASON PROGRAMMING**

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces 2024/25 Season programming for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and Symphony Center Presents (SCP). Marking its 134th season in 2024/25, the CSO is widely recognized as one of the top orchestras in the world, regularly collaborating with an impressive range of internationally acclaimed guest artists and conductors to share their exceptional artistry with audiences in Chicago, across the country and around the world.

Named CSO Music Director Emeritus for Life beginning with the 2023/24 Season, Riccardo Muti continues his extraordinary artistic partnership with the Orchestra next season across four distinct programs in Chicago and on a two-week domestic tour in January 2025. In the fall of 2024, Muti leads an all-Beethoven program that features the Piano Concerto No. 5 (*Emperor*) with celebrated pianist Mitsuko Uchida as soloist and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*). His second program in November features the world premiere of former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Osvaldo Golijov's CSO-commissioned suite from his score for the 2024 Francis Ford Coppola film *Megalopolis* alongside works of Verdi, Donizetti, Chabrier and Falla. Muti caps the season in June 2025 — first with a program featuring Principal Trumpet Esteban Batallán in his CSO debut as soloist in concertos by Telemann and Michael Haydn, followed by performances of Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* featuring mezzo-soprano Marianne Crebassa as Marguerite, tenor John Osborn in his CSO debut as Faust, bass-baritone Ildebrando D'Arcangelo in his subscription debut as Mephistopheles with the Chicago Symphony Chorus and Uniting Voices Chicago.

The CSOA is pleased to welcome internationally renowned pianist Daniil Trifonov as its CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2024/25 Season. His activities will include three appearances across the season — in November on the Symphony Center Presents Piano series, in recital with violinist Leonidas Kavakos on a Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music concert in March 2025 and as soloist in Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2 with the CSO in May 2025. As part of his Chicago residencies, Trifonov will also lead master classes and participate in engagement activities with CSO affiliate and volunteer groups across the season.

In September, the new season opens with two compelling programs featuring two of music's brightest stars: violinist Hilary Hahn — the inaugural CSO Artist-in-Residence through June 2024 — in the opening subscription concerts performing Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto and pianist Lang Lang performing Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 2 on the annual Symphony Ball concert. Acclaimed conductor Andrés Orozco-Estrada, who begins a new appointment as General Music Director for the City of Cologne, Germany beginning in the 2025/26 Season, leads both programs. In another highlight of the season, the CSO anticipates its performances of Mahler's Symphonies Nos. 6 and 7 led by Jaap van Zweden at the May 2025 Mahler Festival at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw with subscription concerts featuring these Mahler masterworks in Chicago in April and May 2025. The exploration of Mahler's rich and varied symphonic world also extends to April 2025 performances of Mahler's Symphony No. 3 led by critically heralded Finnish conductor Klaus Mäkelä, and featuring the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Uniting Voices Chicago and contralto Wiebke Lehmkuhl in her CSO debut.

New works and noteworthy collaborations include the March 2025 world premiere of the CSO-commissioned concerto *Indigo Heaven*, written for Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson by American composer Christopher Theofanidis with Williamson as soloist, and world premieres of two newly commissioned ballets on an April 2025 program that represents the third artistic collaboration since 2019 for the CSO and The Joffrey Ballet and The Mary B. Galvin Artistic Director Ashley Wheeler MBE. The Joffrey Ballet's Winning Works choreographer Amy Hall Garner sets her new ballet to Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson's Sinfonietta No. 1, and Joffrey choreographer Nicolas Blanc sets his new ballet to Darius Milhaud's boisterous work *Le Bœuf sur le toit* on a program led by acclaimed British conductor Harry Bicket that also includes the CSO's first performances of Symphony No. 1 of Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges.

Other CSO first performances of note are Florence Price's previously lost Violin Concerto No. 2 with rising American talent Randall Goosby as soloist in a June 2025 CSO debut and a recent work for organ and orchestra by Esa-Pekka Salonen with the composer conducting and organist Iveta Apkalna — one of two organists for whom the work was written — making her CSO debut in January 2025. Ravinia Festival Chief Conductor Marin Alsop also leads the first CSO performances of James Lee III's *Chuphshah! Harriet's Drive to Canaan*, inspired by the story of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, in October.

As Chicago's premiere showcase for a wide range of musical genres as well as ensembles and soloists, Symphony Center is host to several landmark concert events in the coming season, notably the return of John Williams, conductor and composer of more than 100 film scores and other orchestral works. He renews his celebrated collaboration with the incomparable Anne-Sophie Mutter when he conducts the CSO with Mutter as soloist in his Violin Concerto No. 2, commissioned by and written for her, on October 22. Following its 2022 sold-out performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 7, the Berliner Philharmoniker returns with its Chief Conductor Kirill Petrenko on November 26 to perform Bruckner's Symphony No. 5 in 2024, which marks the 200th anniversary of the influential composer's birth. The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis also makes its annual return in a two-day residency in January 2025.

[Explore](#) a chronological listing of CSOA-presented programs included in the 2024/25 Season.

### **Riccardo Muti CSO Residencies and Tour**

Riccardo Muti, the CSO's Music Director Emeritus for Life, returns to Chicago for two residencies in 2024/25, leading two subscription programs in the fall and the final two subscription programs of the season in June. These residencies continue the close artistic partnership developed over his 13 seasons as Music Director (2010-2023).

Muti's opening program includes Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 (*Emperor*) with Mitsuko Uchida and Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*) (October 31-November 3). This is followed by a varied program that features Verdi's *The Four Seasons* from *I vespri siciliani* and the world premiere of Osvaldo Golijov's *Megalopolis Suite*, distilled from his score for Francis Ford Coppola's 2024 film. The Argentinian-born Golijov has written scores for two other Coppola movies, *Youth Without Youth* (2007) and *Tetro* (2009). Completing the program are works inspired by the landscapes and culture of Spain, specifically Chabrier's *España* and Falla's Suite No. 2 from *The Three-Cornered Hat* (November 8-9).

Muti returns in June to close out the season with two highly anticipated concerts, the first showcasing Principal Trumpet Esteban Batallán, who was appointed by Muti to the principal position in 2019, in his CSO debut as soloist in two concertos, by Michael Haydn — performed by the CSO for the first time here — and by Telemann. On the same program are two Classical-era symphonies by Joseph Haydn (No. 48, *Maria Theresa*) and Franz Schubert (No. 4, *Tragic*) (June 12-14, 2025). Muti brings the season to thrilling conclusion with concert performances of Berlioz's landmark work, *The Damnation of Faust*. Called a "légende dramatique" by the composer, this landmark work involves the full forces of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Uniting Voices Chicago prepared by artistic director Josephine Lee, and an internationally renowned group of soloists (June 19-24, 2025).

Muti also leads the CSO on a domestic tour in January 2025 that begins with stops in four Florida cities, continues with a January 21 concert at New York's Carnegie Hall and concludes with a multi-day residency at The McKnight Center for the Performing Arts at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Full details to be announced.

### **Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Classical Concerts**

The world-class musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra unite to create their own signature sound. During the 2024/25 Season, the Orchestra welcomes an incredible array of today's noteworthy soloists and renowned conductors in programs that invite the listener to discover music from many eras and musical perspectives.

### **CSO Visiting Conductors**

The 2024/25 Season begins with Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Conductor Laureate of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, leading concerts with Hilary Hahn as soloist in Barber's Violin Concerto and the CSO's first performances of Michael Tilson Thomas' *Agnegram*, as well as music of Bernstein, Ginastera and Tchaikovsky (September 19-20). Orozco-Estrada also leads the annual Symphony Ball concert featuring pianist Lang Lang as soloist (September 21).

Danish conductor Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider conducts the CSO in Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 and introduces outstanding French violist Antoine Tamestit in a CSO debut performing Walton's Viola Concerto (September 26-28). Later in the season, Szeps-Znaider steps into the role of both conductor and soloist in Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1, also leading the Orchestra in Schumann's Symphony No. 3 (*Rhenish*) (March 27-29, 2025).

Christoph Eschenbach is known to Chicago audiences for his distinguished tenure as Music Director of Ravinia from 1995 to 2003. Also recognized as a renowned pianist and Mozart interpreter, the German conductor leads the charismatic Dutch duo, brothers Lucas and Arthur Jussen who recently made their SCP Piano series debut, in Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos in their CSO debut. The program opens with Strauss' Dreaming by the Fireside from *Intermezzo* and concludes with Beethoven's beloved Symphony No. 6 (*Pastoral*) (October 4-6).

Marin Alsop, Chief Conductor at the Ravinia Festival and Principal Guest Conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra beginning in the 2024/25 Season, leads the CSO and Czech pianist Lukáš Vondráček in Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 on a program that also includes the first CSO performances of *Chuphshah! Harriet's Drive to Canaan*, a work Alsop commissioned from composer James Lee III (October 10-11).

Principal Cello John Sharp is the featured soloist in the Richard Strauss tone poem *Don Quixote* on a program inspired by literature and fairytales conducted by Sir Donald Runnicles, who is General Music Director of the Deutsche Oper Berlin, as well as Principal Guest Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (October 24-26).

Renowned German conductor Marek Janowski returns to the CSO podium to lead Bruckner's monumental Symphony No. 3 in this year which marks the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth. Music of Weber opens the program that also includes Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 with late-19th century specialist Francesco Piemontesi as soloist (November 14-16).

Chief Conductor of the Finnish National Opera Hannu Lintu returns to lead the CSO in a program that includes Tchaikovsky's Suite from *Swan Lake* and Stravinsky's Violin Concerto of 1931 with award-winning Norwegian violinist Vilde Frang in her CSO debut (November 21-23).

Fabien Gabel, Principal Conductor Designate of the Tonkünstler Orchestra beginning in 2026, returns to the CSO podium to conduct a program of music inspired by the sea. Alongside Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer*, in which baritone Konstantin Krimmel makes his CSO debut, the stirring Four Sea Interludes from *Peter Grimes* by Benjamin Britten and Tchaikovsky's tone poem *The Tempest* are given here alongside the first CSO performances of Erich Korngold's Suite from the 1940 film *The Sea Hawk* that starred Errol Flynn (December 12-14).

Lahav Shani, music director of the Israel Philharmonic since 2020, Chief Conductor of the Rotterdam Philharmonic since 2018 and Chief Conductor Designate of the Munich Philharmonic, returns to conduct and make his debut as piano soloist with the CSO in Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2. He also leads Brahms' Symphony No. 1 and Beethoven's *Egmont* Overture on the program (December 19-21).

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the death of the influential and groundbreaking Hungarian composer Béla Bartók (1881-1945). The composer's work is at the core of a two-week residency led by conductor and composer Esa-Pekka Salonen, who has served as music director of the San Francisco Symphony since 2020. Salonen's CSO programs feature two of Bartók's works calling for large scale orchestra — the virtuosic Concerto for Orchestra and a concert performance of his 1918 one-act opera, *Bluebeard's Castle*. Along with Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, Salonen leads the first CSO performances of his own Sinfonia concertante for Organ and Orchestra with Iveta Apkalna in her CSO debut (January 30-31, February 1 and 4, 2025). *Bluebeard's Castle* brings together the full forces of the CSO with the vocally challenging roles of the two characters in the opera, Bluebeard and his new wife Judith, sung by bass Christian Van Horn and mezzo-soprano Ekaterina Gubanova. The opera shares the bill with Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 (February 6-8, 2025).

In February, the CSO performs Arnold Schoenberg's *Pelleas and Melisande*, the composer's lush early tone poem that premiered in 1903, only a year after Debussy's famous opera of the same name. The work has been associated with its champion, Pierre Boulez (former CSO principal guest conductor and conductor emeritus who recorded the work with the Orchestra), and is conducted this season by David Afkham, a protégé of Bernard Haitink and Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Spanish National Orchestra and Chorus. The program also includes Sibelius' Violin Concerto with the eloquent and expressive German violinist Christian Tetzlaff as soloist (February 14-16, 2025).

CSO concertmaster Robert Chen is the soloist in *The Lark Ascending* by Vaughan Williams and Ravel's *Tzigane*, when Dame Jane Glover of Chicago's Music of the Baroque conducts a program of music with English roots by Elgar and Britten, plus Haydn's Symphony No. 104 (*London*) (February 20-22, 2025).

Jakub Hrůša, Music Director Designate of The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, and known to Chicago audiences from his acclaimed appearances in recent seasons with the CSO and at Lyric Opera of Chicago, leads a program of Russian masterworks featuring Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11 (*The Year 1905*) and Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 1 with Simon Trpčeski as soloist (March 20-22, 2025).

As spring awakens in Chicago, American conductor Karina Canellakis conducts a program of two orchestral tone poems inspired by the natural world, Sibelius' *The Oceanides* and Dvořák's *The Wild Dove*, paired with Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances (April 3-5, 2025).

Harry Bicket, Artistic Director of The English Concert and Music Director of Santa Fe Opera, is at the helm of the program featuring the newest collaboration of the CSO and The Joffrey Ballet. Bicket conducts Haydn's Symphony No. 45 (*Farewell*) and the CSO's first performances of the Symphony No. 1 of 18th century violinist and composer Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges. The program also features newly commissioned ballets by choreographers Amy Hall Garner and Nicolas Blanc set to the music of Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson, a composer of

classical, jazz and popular music with ties to Chicago, and 20th-century French composer Darius Milhaud, respectively (April 10,11 & 13, 2025).

Renowned Dutch conductor Jaap van Zweden, a frequent guest on the CSO podium, leads an exclusive preview of the CSO's appearance as the only U.S. orchestra to perform at the 2025 Mahler Festival at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw when he conducts Mahler's shadowy and sometimes intangible Symphony No. 7 (April 17-19, 2025) and his Symphony No. 6 (May 8-9, 2025).

Klaus Mäkelä, the Oslo Philharmonic's chief conductor since 2020, Music Director of Orchestre de Paris since 2021 and Artistic Partner to Amsterdam's Concertgebouw orchestra since 2022, returns to the CSO podium for a two-week residency that opens with performances of Mahler's Symphony No. 3 (April 24-26, 2025). The following week, he leads a program that features CSO Artist-in-Residence Daniil Trifonov performing Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2, as well as Dvorak's Symphony No. 7 and the CSO's first performances of Pierre Boulez's *Initiale* for Brass Septet (May 1-4, 2025).

James Gaffigan, who recently started his post as General Director at the Komische Oper Berlin, leads an American-themed evening of music that includes Dvořák's *American Suite* and Bernstein's Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town* and Overture to *Candide*. The program also includes favorite selections from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* with soprano Janai Brugger as soloist and Gershwin's iconic *An American in Paris* (May 31, 2025).

Sir Mark Elder, conductor emeritus of the Hallé Orchestra, leads the Orchestra's first performances of American composer Florence Price's Violin Concerto No. 2 with rising violin talent Randall Goosby in his CSO debut. Completing the program are Prokofiev's Symphony No. 7 and a suite from Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (June 5-7, 2025).

### **Newcomers on the Podium**

Three acclaimed conductors make podium debuts next season. Following a 2017 CSO appearance at Ravinia, Russian-Finnish conductor Dima Slobodeniouk makes his CSO subscription debut on a program with acclaimed cellist Johannes Moser playing Lutosławski's Cello Concerto, a composition hailed as "one of the Polish composer's greatest achievements" (*The Guardian*). Grieg's iconic *Peer Gynt* Suite and Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 1 complete the program (December 5-7). A fellow Finn and principal conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, Santtu-Matias Rouvali makes his CSO debut leading a program featuring Sibelius' Symphony No. 5 and Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 with Seong-Jin Cho, winner of the 2015 Chopin International Competition, as soloist (February 27-March 2, 2025). Gustavo Gimeno, Music Director of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra, makes his subscription debut conducting the world premiere of CSO-commissioned *Indigo Heaven* by Christopher Theofanidis with CSO Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson, along with works of Barber and Ravel (March 6-8, 2025).

## **Programs with the Chicago Symphony Chorus**

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra joins forces several times each year with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, continuing a remarkable partnership and providing Chicago audiences with the opportunity to hear stirring performances of choral masterpieces by great composers.

The Orchestra and Chorus come together in October in Mozart's celebratory Mass in C Major (*Coronation*), conducted by Music of the Baroque's Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer. Soprano Amanda Forsythe, well known for her interpretations of Baroque and Classical opera, is joined by three singers making their CSO debuts: countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, tenor Josh Lovell and bass-baritone Michael Sumuel (October 17-19).

The glorious voices of the Chicago Symphony Chorus are featured in festive vocal selections in the 2024 edition of Chicago's favorite holiday concert tradition, Merry, Merry Chicago! (December 18-23).

A major choral masterwork of the classical era, written when Napoleon and his army were threatening to take over Austria and the rest of Europe, Haydn's *Mass in Time of War* is presented in its first CSO performances, led by frequent CSO guest conductor Manfred Honeck. Joining the Orchestra and Chorus for these performances are soprano Joëlle Harvey, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano and baritone Joshua Hopkins, with Canadian tenor Andrew Haji making his CSO debut. Also on the program is Beethoven's Symphony No. 1, as well as the Orchestra's first performances of the beautiful and elegiac Largetto for Orchestra by prolific Scottish composer Sir James MacMillan, written in 2017 for Honeck's 10th anniversary as music director of the Pittsburgh Symphony (March 13-15, 2025).

Conductor Klaus Mäkelä leads Mahler's colossal Symphony No. 3, combining the artistic forces of the CSO along with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Uniting Voices Chicago and contralto Wiebke Lehmkuhl, in her CSO debut (April 24-26, 2025).

The final program of the 2024/25 subscription series brings together the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and a distinguished roster of international soloists for Berlioz's masterwork *The Damnation of Faust*, conducted by Riccardo Muti, the CSO's Music Director Emeritus for Life (June 19-24, 2025).

## **Symphony Center Presents (SCP)**

Building on years of presenting exceptional performances by visiting ensembles and the world's most renowned artists in solo and chamber music recitals, Symphony Center Presents continues its tradition of inviting audiences to experience extraordinary musical artistry in a must-see lineup of concerts for the coming season. The acclaimed Symphony Center Presents Jazz series programming will be announced in April 2024.

## **Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music**

The SCP Chamber Music series opens with a fabulous evening of baroque music when viol player and director Jordi Savall brings both his instrumental and vocal ensembles, Hespèrion XXI and La Capella Reial da Catalunya, to the Orchestra Hall stage to perform radiant music of

Monteverdi, Dowland, Holborne and Scheidt in a program entitled “Monteverdi: A Baroque Revolution” *“The Tears and the Fire of the Muses”* (October 8).

Grammy Award-winning pianist and the 2021 recipient of France’s Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Daniil Trifonov continues his activities as Artist-in-Residence for the season with the equally spectacular violinist Leonidas Kavakos in a recital of violin sonatas by Beethoven, Poulenc and Brahms, as well as the Rhapsody No. 1 of Bartók (March 9, 2025).

Versatile violinist Julia Fischer, a virtuoso who says “playing chamber music is, to me, the essence of my musical life,” collaborates with the talented pianist Jan Lisiecki in violin sonatas of Mozart, Schumann and Beethoven (March 30, 2025).

The series closes with a program featuring an illustrious trio of musicians including violin virtuoso Anne-Sophie Mutter, keyboard master Yefim Bronfman and Tchaikovsky Competition-winning cellist Pablo Ferrández. The critically acclaimed artists come together to perform piano trios by Beethoven and Tchaikovsky (May 7, 2025).

### **Symphony Center Presents Piano**

The SCP Piano series brings world-class pianists to Chicago’s Symphony Center for performances of an extraordinary array of keyboard music from many styles and eras.

Opening the SCP Piano series in November is 2024/25 CSO Artist-in-Residence Daniil Trifonov, in the first of three Symphony Center appearances during the season. Trifonov’s piano recital features the music of Chopin, Barber and Tchaikovsky, including music from his ballet *The Sleeping Beauty* and his posthumous Sonata in C-sharp Minor (November 17). In addition to Trifonov, three of the world’s most illustrious pianists — Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Emanuel Ax and Evgeny Kissin — all return to the Piano series in the 2024/25 Season. Thibaudet brings an all-French program with music of Debussy (January 19, 2025). Ax has programmed works of Beethoven and Schumann (April 27, 2025), while Kissin will play music of Beethoven, Chopin and Shostakovich (May 11, 2025).

French pianist Alexandre Kantorow, winner of the 2019 International Tchaikovsky Competition (the first French performer to earn this accolade) and the prestigious Gilmore Award, is a rising star who makes his SCP recital debut in this wide-ranging recital of works by Bartók, Brahms, Rachmaninov, Liszt and Bach (February 2, 2025). Another young pianist rapidly rising in international circles is Mao Fujita, the silver medal winner of the 2019 International Tchaikovsky Competition. His program features music of Chopin and Mozart, as well as Beethoven’s Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, Op. 57 (*Appassionata*) (March 16, 2025).

Maria João Pires, one of the world’s leading interpreters of Mozart, also returns to the series following her radiant recital in 2023 (May 25, 2025). Icelandic pianist Víkingur Ólafsson makes his return appearance after performing for a capacity audience at his 2023 SCP Piano series debut for a recital featuring the final three piano sonatas by Beethoven (June 8, 2025).

## **Featured Concerts and Events**

The annual Symphony Ball concert serves as a festive launch to the new season as the CSO welcomes international piano star Lang Lang as soloist for Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 2. The sparkling *Roman Carnival* Overture of Berlioz and a suite from Stravinsky's ballet music for *The Firebird* round out this program conducted by Andrés Orozco-Estrada (September 21).

The CSO reunites with the iconic Oscar and Grammy Award-winning composer John Williams as he conducts his own Violin Concerto No. 2 with the incomparable Anne-Sophie Mutter as soloist. The concert will also include selections from some of Williams' best known film scores (October 22).

Grammy Award-winning vocalist Lila Downs returns to Symphony Center in October for her *Día de los Muertos* program, celebrating Mexican traditions with music, dance and colorful folklórico costumes (October 27).

Internationally renowned conductor Kirill Petrenko has been chief conductor of the Berliner Philharmoniker since 2019. Following a memorable concert at Orchestra Hall in November 2022, Petrenko and the Berliner Philharmoniker perform Bruckner's Symphony No. 5 in Chicago as part of a 2024 North American tour (November 26).

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass, led by CSO Trombone Michael Mulcahy, is featured in their annual program of brass selections from a variety of musical eras and composers. (December 17).

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis makes its annual return to Symphony Center for a two-day residency, including one concert on the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series and a special concert the following night. Program details to be announced (January 24-25, 2025).

The virtuosic Japanese taiko drumming of Kodo is always eagerly anticipated. The name Kodo has the literal meaning "heartbeat," and this breathtaking program of precision drumming, choreography and Japanese culture will have listeners' hearts beating fast! (February 23, 2025).

The all-star Sphinx Virtuosi orchestra performs orchestral masterworks by Black and Latino composers and makes its Symphony Center debut with a program that features pianist Awadagin Pratt performing *Rounds* by former CSO Mead Composer-In-Residence Jessie Montgomery, who was recognized with a 2024 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Classical Composition for this inventive new work (February 25, 2025).

Pink Martini brings its inimitable style to classics and original songs when the popular group returns with vocalist China Forbes to Symphony Center as part of their 30th anniversary tour. Describing the multilingual and genre-crossing music the band is known for, bandleader Thomas Lauderdale says, "if the United Nations had a house band in 1962, hopefully we'd be that band" (February 28, 2025).

The rock-star strummers of the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain have won legions of fans with their quicksilver arrangements that span genres from pop to classical and add a dash of

signature British wit. Now in its 40th year, the 12-member ensemble provides “superbly tuneful fun” (*The New York Times*) where “nothing is spoof-proof” (*Chicago Tribune*) (April 15, 2025).

In what has become one of Symphony Center’s most popular celebrations of music from across cultures, Zakir Hussain and the Masters of Percussion return for one night only. While Hussain’s name is practically synonymous with the tabla, the drum with a multitude of tones that is indispensable in Indian classical music, a world of percussion opens up with the drummers Hussain brings together from across the globe (April 18, 2025).

### **CSO at the Movies**

Audiences can explore orchestral music in a new way as they watch popular and classic movies on the big screen with scores performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The 2024/25 Season of CSO at the Movies opens with perhaps the most beloved of movie musicals, *The Wizard of Oz*. The program anticipates the 125th anniversary of the release of the *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in 2025. Written in Chicago by L. Frank Baum, the book inspired the classic movie that generations have called their favorite of all time. Audiences can experience this timeless film with the CSO performing the treasured tunes of Harold Arlen. Conducted by Richard Kaufman (November 29-December 1).

The popular Jon Favreau film *Elf*, starring Will Farrell, continues to be a cherished part of holiday traditions more than 20 years after its initial release. Members of the CSO perform the music from this iconic holiday movie that features John Debney’s original score and includes classics like *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, Leroy Anderson’s *Sleigh Ride*, and selections from Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker*. Performances are conducted by Justin Freer (December 13-15).

Chinese-born American composer Tan Dun won an Academy Award for Best Original Score for for Ang Lee’s groundbreaking, epic martial-arts-action-fantasy film, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. A visual feast filled with breathtaking adventure; this is a rare opportunity to hear a live performance of Tan Dun’s extraordinary music played by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Sarah Hicks (January 10-11, 2025).

The film series continues with the fan-favorite Phil Alden Robinson film *Field of Dreams*, starring Kevin Costner. Nicholas Buc makes his CSO debut conducting James Horner’s lush score for the 1989 movie. Horner’s memorable music captured the dreamlike atmosphere of the film, which received an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Score (May 30 & June 1, 2025).

Experience Robert Zemeckis’ 1985 sci-fi adventure *Back to the Future*, starring Michael J. Fox, on the big screen as the CSO performs Alan Silvestri’s score, conducted by David Newman (June 26-28, 2025).

### **CSOA Holiday Programming**

Holiday programming at Symphony Center includes an array of musical offerings that bring friends and family together for festive traditions. Celebrating the music of the season is at the heart of Merry, Merry Chicago!, with the Chicago Symphony Chorus joining members of the CSO led by Grammy-nominated conductor Alastair Willis for this annual presentation (December 18-23). Other popular programs include the Christmas movie *Elf* with Justin Freer

conducting members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in a score full of seasonal delights (December 13-15), as well as the return of the Vienna Boys Choir with its *Christmas in Vienna* program (November 30) and *A Chanticleer Christmas* in a performance at Symphony Center (December 10).

### **CSO for Kids**

Children and families have long been an important part of the Symphony Center audience. Two distinct series are presented to give young people and their caregivers the opportunity to share the transformative experience of music. CSO for Kids programming is created with support from the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which advances education, training and community engagement programs for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.

The Once Upon a Symphony series was developed to introduce young music listeners ages 3-5 to the magical sights and sounds of storytelling, featuring members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with Chicago Children's Theatre. The 2024/25 Season tells the tale of the Little Red Hen and her farmyard friends (December 7, January 11 & February 1, 2025). The second program in the series features Pete Seeger's adaptation of the African folktale *Abiyoyo*, which tells the story of musicians overcoming the threat of a scary monster (April 5, April 19 & May 10, 2025).

The CSO has been introducing children and families to different facets of the symphony orchestra and the power of music in our lives for more than 100 years. As part of this initiative, the CSO offers programs to school groups through the Youth, School and Family Matinee concert series. After the CSO's landmark recording and first performances of *Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra* by former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates, the popular work returns in the opening CSO for Kids concerts of the new season, conducted by Eric Jacobsen. Created by Bates along with Oscar-winning sound designer Gary Rydstrom and animator Jim Capobianco (*Finding Nemo*), *Philharmonia Fantastique* is a visual and musical spectacular (October 19). A special program exploring the relationship between music and our emotions features members of the CSO conducted by Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser (March 8, 2025). In May, a program showcasing community pride features the winner of the January 2024 Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition and is conducted by Thomas Wilkins (May 3, 2025).

### **Other Series Announcements Coming Soon**

#### **SCP Jazz**

Presenting the biggest names in jazz for more than 30 years in unforgettable concert experiences, the SCP Jazz series welcomes the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis back to its second home at Symphony Center on January 24, 2025. More artists and dates to be announced in April 2024.

## **CSO MusicNOW**

The contemporary music series featuring musicians from the CSO invites audiences to discover new music from today's most innovative compositional voices in curated programs. For the 2024/25 Season, programming for the CSO MusicNOW series will be shaped by two Mead Composer/Curators. Information on the selected artists and programming will be announced later this spring. In addition, current CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence and recent Grammy Award-winner Jessie Montgomery will remain connected to her work with the CSOA's Young Composers Initiative, which she helped to create in 2022, during the upcoming season.

## **CSO Chamber Music**

Revel in traditional and contemporary chamber music selections performed by the exceptional musicians of the CSO. Season details coming summer 2024.

## **Civic Orchestra of Chicago**

The CSO's prestigious training ensemble for early-career musicians performs at Symphony Center and in community venues across Chicago. Season programming to be announced in September 2024.

## **Patron Information**

Subscriptions for the 2024/25 Season of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Center Presents are now available through curated and create your own series packages of three or more concerts.

Subscribers to curated series packages initially save up to 40% on standard ticket prices and save 15% on additional tickets ordered throughout the season. Additional subscriber benefits include priority seating, flexible ticket exchange privileges, access to reduced parking rates and offers at the Symphony Store.

Subscribe online, by phone, by mail or in person at the Symphony Center Box Office. Convenient payment plan options are available for purchases made by credit card. Individual concert tickets for 2024/25 Season go on sale to the public in August.

Patron Services representatives are available to assist by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org), by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000) (Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.) or by emailing [patronservices@cso.org](mailto:patronservices@cso.org). Groups of 10 or more may call [312-294-3040](tel:312-294-3040). Symphony Center, home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, is located at 220 S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago.

To learn more about the musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, performers, affiliate and visiting artists, visit [cso.org/about/performers](https://www.cso.org/about/performers).

All artists and programs are subject to change.

Leadership support for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's 2024/25 Season is generously provided by The Negaunee Foundation and the Zell Family Foundation.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

The Artist in Residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is made possible through a generous gift from James and Brenda Grusecki.

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

Generous support for CSO concerts, guest artists and guest conductors has been provided by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence and the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

Generous support for the Chicago Symphony Chorus has been provided by The Grainger Foundation.

# # #

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](https://www.cso.org)**

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the world's great orchestras. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, was named Music Director Emeritus for Life beginning with the 2023/24 Season. Jessie Montgomery is Mead Composer-in-Residence, and Hilary Hahn is CSO Artist-in-Residence.

The CSO commands a vast repertoire, from baroque through contemporary music. Its renowned musicians perform more than 150 concerts annually, in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in downtown Chicago and each summer at the Ravinia Festival in suburban Highland Park. The ensemble regularly tours nationally, and since 1892, has made 64 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

Patrons around the globe enjoy weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings via the WFMT Radio Network and online at [cso.org/radio](https://www.cso.org/radio). Launched in 2007, [CSO Resound](https://www.cso.org/resound) is the ensemble's Grammy Award-winning independent record label, featuring live performances with world-class conductors and guest artists. Since 1916, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have amassed an extensive discography that has earned 65 Grammy awards from the Recording Academy.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA), which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Symphony Center Presents, and the Negaunee Music Institute. The [Chicago Symphony Chorus](https://www.cso.org/chicago-symphony-chorus), founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919–20 season, the [Civic Orchestra of Chicago](https://www.cso.org/civic-orchestra-of-chicago) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. [Symphony Center Presents](https://www.cso.org/symphony-center-presents) features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The [Negaunee Music Institute](https://www.cso.org/negaunee-music-institute) offers community and educational programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds throughout the Chicagoland area.

Through the Institute and numerous other activities — including annual free community concerts in Chicago neighborhoods — the CSO is committed to using the power of music to strengthen bonds with its longtime patrons and create connections with new audiences.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.