



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FACT SHEET

- The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) is the parent organization for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Chorus, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Symphony Center Presents concert series, The Institute for Learning, Access and Training, and the Symphony Center facility. Symphony Center Presents is the CSOA's presenting arm, offering more than 50 concerts each season on its piano, orchestral, chamber music and jazz series, as well as the *MusicNOW* contemporary series. In addition, the CSO presents the Kraft Family Matinee Series and the CSO Chamber Music Series of recitals by CSO musicians. More than half a million people enjoy concerts and events at Symphony Center each year.
- Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Italian conductor Riccardo Muti, one of today's most celebrated maestros, assumed the podium as the tenth music director of the CSO in September 2010, and the eminent French composer-conductor Pierre Boulez, first appointed principal guest conductor in 1995, continues his service as Helen Regenstein Conductor Emeritus.
- The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is comprised of 106 of the world's finest orchestral players. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association is bolstered by an equally dedicated Board of Trustees, more than 1,200 volunteers and a committed full-time staff of 105. Deborah F. Rutter has been president of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association since August 2003, and William A. Osborn has served as chairman of the Board of Trustees since October 2006.
- The Chicago Symphony Orchestra performs more than 150 concerts each year (including several with the Chicago Symphony Chorus), with a stellar roster of the world's leading soloists and guest conductors. In addition to its downtown season at Symphony Center, the Orchestra is in residence each summer at the Ravinia Festival in Highland Park on Chicago's North Shore. The Orchestra's 119-year history reveals a strong track record of collaborations with the greatest artists and composers of its time.
- Throughout its history, Chicago Symphony Orchestra has presented nearly 345 world premieres and more than 300 United States premieres, and it has commissioned more than 95 new works.
- In May 2007, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra launched its own record label, CSO Resound, for CD and digital download releases. In its first three years, the label has sold more than more than 92,000 albums and 63,000 single-track downloads to music lovers in the United States and around the world. Two CSO Resound recordings won 2008 Grammy Awards: Shostakovich's Fourth Symphony under Bernard Haitink won for Best Orchestral Performance, and *Traditions and Transformations: Sounds of Silk Road Chicago* received the Grammy for Best Engineered Album, Classical.
- The *Chicago Symphony Orchestra Radio Broadcast Series* hit the airwaves in April 2007 and now reaches 24 million listeners per year via more than 300 stations across the country on the WFMT Network. CSO devotees all over the world also can access the broadcasts online at cso.org. The broadcasts offer a new and distinctive approach to classical radio programming, with lively and engaging content designed to provide deeper insight into the music and programmatic themes within the CSO's concert season.
- In October 2008, the CSO announced the launch of The Institute for Learning, Access and Training. The Institute's primary objective is to create lasting connections among youth—from infancy through early adulthood—in Chicago-area communities by promoting active participation in music and by providing increased access to the extraordinary resources of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The initiatives of the Institute build upon the foundation of the CSO's sustained school- and community-focused programming and will expand its reach to nearly 150,000 people in Chicago and beyond.
- In January 2010, Yo-Yo Ma became the CSO's first Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, appointed by Riccardo Muti for a three-year term. In this role, he serves as an invaluable partner to Maestro Muti and CSO staff and musicians; through his unparalleled artistry and unique ability to connect with others, Ma joins Muti to act as inspirational catalysts for the Chicago community, advocating for the transformative power that music can have. Ma will participate in the development and implementation of new initiatives, projects and music series under the auspices of The Institute for Learning, Access and Training.
- Two new Mead Composers-in-Residence appointed by Riccardo Muti begin two-year terms in the fall of 2010. Mason Bates and Anna Clyne curate the *MusicNOW* series, sharing their relevant and impactful work to audiences in Chicago. By partnering with artists in other art forms and from other institutions, they are committed to reaching across traditional boundaries and barriers and into the Chicago community with fresh ideas on collaboration, experience and creating unique concert events. In addition to the *MusicNOW* series, for which each composer is writing a new piece to be premiered in 2011, the CSO performs Clyne's <<rewind<< and Bates' *The B-Sides* this season, both under the direction of Maestro Muti.

- The CSO has taken an active approach to building audiences and attracting new listeners, developing innovative ways to address the changing needs and buying patterns of today's orchestral patrons. Alongside traditional subscription series, the CSO offers series designed for those new to classical music or those interested in receiving added insight into the music (*ClassicEncounter* and *Beyond the Score*); series reflecting audience feedback regarding when they would like to attend CSO concerts (*Afterwork Masterworks*); series that reach out to new audiences (*Classical Tapestry*); and performances that offer new programming elements designed to attract new audiences and provide high-quality artistic experiences for existing patrons (*Friday Night at the Movies* as well as collaborations with leading arts partners in theater, art and dance).
- *Beyond the Score*, a popular and widely acclaimed audience-development series launched in 2005, is designed for both newcomers looking to delve deeper into the world of classical music and classical music aficionados. The programs offer a live multimedia documentary of one select score, sharing the illuminating stories found "inside" the music. Since the launch of online video downloads in 2007, beyondthescore.org has yielded a total of more than 270,000 streams and downloads. Owing to its tremendous success, the CSO has licensed *Beyond the Score* presentations to orchestras around the world as part of their own audience-development efforts, including the New York Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, Philadelphia Orchestra and Toronto Symphony, among others.
- Recordings have been a significant part of the Orchestra's history since its first in 1916; recordings by the Orchestra have received 60 Grammy Awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.
- The Chicago Symphony Orchestra has embarked on 36 overseas tours since Sir Georg Solti led the first European tour in 1971, most recently to Europe in fall 2009 (its 27th tour to that continent). The CSO has traveled to the Far East seven times—most recently in early 2009, visiting Tokyo, Yokohama, Hong Kong, and Shanghai and Beijing for the first time—as well as once each to Russia, Australia and South America.
- An ardent commitment to free and low-cost programs—including free concerts by the CSO at Symphony Center, in downtown Chicago's Millennium Park and other neighborhood venues; Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances; and *All-Access* chamber performances—encourages newcomers to sample great musical experiences. Myriad programs designed for young people enable whole families to experience classical music together.
- The internationally acclaimed Chicago Symphony Chorus was founded in 1957 by Margaret Hillis, at the invitation of Music Director Fritz Reiner. With concerts in Chicago, tours in the United States and abroad, and many award-winning recordings to its credit, the Chicago Symphony Chorus, under the current leadership of Duain Wolfe, has earned respect as one of the finest ensembles in the world. Duain Wolfe has been director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus since 1994.
- The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, founded in 1919 by Music Director Frederick Stock, is the only training orchestra affiliated with a major orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The Civic recruits a diverse group of the best pre-professional musicians from around the world, trains them at the highest level as orchestral players, and further develops skills of advocacy and mentoring, essential in the role of orchestral musicians. The Civic Orchestra gives six to ten free performances at Orchestra Hall each season under the direction of world-class conductors such as Bernard Haitink, Pierre Boulez, Myung-Whun Chung, Christoph Eschenbach, and Kent Nagano, plus many additional concerts in the community.
- The Chicago Symphony Orchestra performed its first 13 seasons under the direction of its founder and first music director, Theodore Thomas, at Chicago's Auditorium Theatre. Thomas was determined to build a new concert hall that would be the right size and provide excellent acoustics for the Orchestra. In 1902, famed Chicago architect and CSO Trustee Daniel H. Burnham began plans for what would become Orchestra Hall. Theodore Thomas proclaimed upon the completion of the hall in 1904 that the project was a "complete success—quality exceeds all expectations." The Orchestra's first concert in Orchestra Hall took place on December 14, 1904. Orchestra Hall has remained the Chicago Symphony's home for more than a century and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- In June 1993, the Board of Trustees approved a plan to significantly renovate and expand Orchestra Hall. The \$120 million project resulted in the completion of Symphony Center, the Orchestra's new music complex featuring a beautifully restored and acoustically renovated Orchestra Hall; Buntrock Hall, a new rehearsal and performance space; a multistory arcade with skylit atrium; Rhapsody, a stylish, new restaurant; and new administrative offices. Symphony Center was completed in October 1997. The Symphony Center renovation and expansion marked the first major alterations to Daniel Burnham's original 1904 building.