

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
August 19, 2010

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***FESTA MUTI: CONCERT FOR CHICAGO***  
**RICCARDO MUTI**  
**LAUNCHES TENURE AS TENTH MUSIC DIRECTOR OF**  
**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
**WITH FREE CONCERT IN MILLENNIUM PARK**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, AT 5:30 PM**

**Preconcert Performance by Chicago-Area Youth Musicians Begins at 4:30 PM**

Additional Youth Performances Throughout Park Start at 2 PM

*Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO  
Concert supported in part by a generous grant from the McCormick Foundation*

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra celebrates the launch of its tenth music director, Riccardo Muti, with a “Concert for Chicago” on Sunday, September 19, at the Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park.

Both pavilion and lawn seating are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The program features Verdi’s Overture to *La forza del destino*, Liszt’s symphonic poem *Les préludes*, Tchaikovsky’s *Romeo and Juliet* and Respighi’s towering *Pines of Rome*.

This free performance, which marks the start of *Festa Muti*—Maestro Muti’s inaugural month at the artistic helm of the CSO—supports Muti’s vision to deepen and expand the Orchestra’s ongoing initiatives to engage the community and reach as broad an audience as possible. This celebratory concert is a unique opportunity for people from all over the city and surrounding suburbs to experience Riccardo Muti’s first performance as music director of the CSO.

Also integral to Maestro Muti’s vision for his tenure with the CSO is his commitment to advocating participation in music and encouraging young musicians to pursue their talents. Beginning at 2 p.m. that day, ensembles from Chicago-area youth music programs, schools and partners of the CSO will perform throughout Millennium Park, culminating with a performance in the pavilion at 4:30 p.m. by members of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chicago Children’s Chorus. The CSO performance begins promptly at 5:30 p.m.

Born in Naples, Italy, **RICCARDO MUTI** first came to the attention of critics and public in 1967, when he won the Guido Cantelli Competition for conductors in Milan. In 1971, Muti was invited by Herbert von Karajan to conduct at the Salzburg Festival; his association with the Vienna Philharmonic and the festival continues today. Muti has served as principal conductor of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, chief conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra, music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra and music director of the Teatro alla Scala. In 2006, he was appointed artistic director of Salzburg's Pentecost Festival, and in 2010 he also becomes director of the Rome Opera.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Riccardo Muti has conducted the most prominent orchestras in the world, from the Berlin Philharmonic to the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic to the Orchestre National de France. Maestro Muti made his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival in July 1973. His appointment as the CSO's tenth music director was announced in May 2008, and in September 2010 he assumes the post for a five-year contract.

A musical force in Chicago and around the world, the **CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** has been consistently hailed as one of the finest international orchestras since its founding in 1891. In collaboration with renowned conductors and guest artists on the international music scene, the CSO performs well over 150 concerts each year at its home, Symphony Center, and in summer residency at the Ravinia Festival. With the launch of The Institute for Learning, Access and Training, the CSO engages more than 150,000 Chicago-area residents annually. Music lovers outside Chicago enjoy the sounds of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra not only through its Chicago Symphony Orchestra Radio Broadcast Series and best-selling recordings on its acclaimed in-house record label CSO Resound, but also through sold-out tour performances in the United States and around the globe. Since 1971, the CSO has undertaken 36 overseas tours: 27 to Europe, six to the Far East, as well as one each to Russia, Australia and South America. Bank of America is the global sponsor of the CSO. For more information about the CSO, visit [cso.org](http://cso.org).

Complete event details follow:

**Concert for Chicago**

Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park  
201 E. Randolph St.

Sunday, September 19, 2010, 5:30 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

VERDI	<i>Overture to La forza del destino</i>
LISZT	<i>Les préludes</i> , Symphonic Poem No. 3
TCHAIKOVSKY	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
RESPIGHI	<i>Pines of Rome</i>

Preconcert youth performances onstage begin at 4:30 p.m.

Youth performances throughout the park begin at 2 p.m.

**FREE.** No tickets required. Seating is first-come, first-served in pavilion and on the lawn.

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*Concert supported in part by a generous grant from the McCormick Foundation.*

*Additional funding has been made available through the Music Performance Fund of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.*

*Riccardo Muti's Inaugural Residency with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is generously sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Dean L. Buntrock, McCormick Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Osborn and Mrs. Robert E. Sargent.*

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