



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**MUSIC DIRECTOR RICCARDO MUTI
RETURNS TO CHICAGO FOR THREE WEEKS OF CONCERTS
WITH CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA,
JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 11, AT SYMPHONY CENTER**

**Concert Weeks Feature *Carmina burana* and World Premieres of CSO-
Commissioned Works by Mason Bates and Anna Clyne**

Muti Also Leads CSO in First Tour to California Together, February 13–20

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO

CHICAGO — Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago to lead the CSO in three weeks of subscription concert programming between January 26 and February 11, 2012.

The first week of concerts features Orff's *Carmina burana*, which Maestro Muti once led with the composer in the audience, who subsequently called Muti's interpretation a "veritable second premiere" of the work. Opening the program is the world premiere of Dmitri Smirnov's *Space Odyssey*, and Schubert's Third Symphony. Performances take place [Thursday, January 26](#), [Friday, January 27](#) and [Saturday, January 28 at 8 p.m.](#), and [Tuesday, January 31 at 7:30 p.m.](#) Joining Muti and the CSO on this program are the Chicago Symphony Chorus, under the direction of Duain Wolfe, and the Chicago Children's Choir, under the direction of Josephine Lee. Making their CSO debuts in *Carmina burana* are soprano Maria Grazia Schiavo, countertenor Max Emanuel Cencic and baritone Stéphane Degout.

The following week, Maestro Muti leads the CSO in the world premiere performances of Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates' *Alternative Energy*, a work commissioned by the CSO for full orchestra. Written in four movements, *Alternative Energy* includes electronic elements, performed by Bates, as he explores the uses of energy from past to future, including sounds recorded at Fermilab outside of Chicago. The program also includes Honegger's depiction of a steam train, *Pacific 321*, and Franck's Symphony in D Minor. Performances take place [Thursday, February 2](#), [Friday, February 3](#) and [Saturday, February 4 at 8 p.m.](#), and [Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

In Maestro Muti's final week before taking the Orchestra to California, he leads the world premiere of Mead Composer-in-Residence Anna Clyne's *Night Ferry*, also commissioned by the CSO, on a program with Schubert's Entr'acte No. 3 from *Rosamunde* and Symphony No. 9, (*Great*). Clyne describes her piece for full orchestra as "music of voyages, from stormy darkness to enchanted worlds. Exploring a winding path between explosive turbulent chaos and chamber lyricism, this piece weaves many threads of ideas and imagery." Clyne was inspired by poetry by Dante, Byron, Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and, particularly, Seamus Heaney's *Elegy for American poet Robert Lowell*, which influenced the title *Night Ferry*. The music was sketched out as she simultaneously painted canvasses of seascapes and jotting down poetic passages to match certain musical sections. Performances take place on [Thursday, February 9](#) and [Saturday, February 11 at 8 p.m.](#) and [Friday, February 10 at 1:30 p.m.](#)

Maestro Muti and the Orchestra then travel to California for their first West Coast tour since Muti became music director from February 13 to 20. Performances take place on February 14 and 15 in San Francisco, February 17 in Orange County, February 18 in Palm Desert and February 19 in San Diego. Tour programs include the Honegger/Bates/Franck program, as well as the Schubert/Clyne program.

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, the first of many occasions which led to the celebration of 40 years of splendid collaboration with this glorious Austrian Festival. Muti has served as music director of several international institutions: Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Philharmonia Orchestra of London, Philadelphia Orchestra and Teatro alla Scala. In 2004, Muti founded the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra, which consists of young musicians selected from all over Italy.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Riccardo Muti has conducted most of the important orchestras in the world, among them, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic and the Bayerischer Rundfunk. Maestro Muti made his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival in July 1973. He began his tenure as the CSO's tenth music director in September 2010, and subsequently won his first two Grammy awards for his recording of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* with the CSO and Chorus. Innumerable honors have been bestowed on Riccardo Muti; most recently in 2011, he was awarded Spain's Prince of Asturias Prize and named an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic and an honorary director for life at the Rome Opera. He is the recipient of the 2011 Birgit Nilsson Prize.

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 200,000 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.

The **CHICAGO SYMPHONY CHORUS**, under the current leadership of Duain Wolfe, has earned respect, admiration and critical acclaim as one of the finest symphonic choruses in the world through its performances with the Orchestra in Chicago, throughout the United States, and abroad. The Chorus also is frequently featured on recordings with the CSO, most recently on the CSO Resound label. The Grammy Award-winning ensemble is composed of the finest Chicago-area vocalists and each year performs 15–20 concerts with the Orchestra at Symphony Center and at the Ravinia Festival during the summer.

DUAIN WOLFE was appointed chorus director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus by Daniel Barenboim in the spring of 1994, succeeding founding director Margaret Hillis. He has prepared the Chicago Symphony Chorus for nearly a hundred programs in Orchestra Hall and at the Ravinia Festival, as well as in a dozen works for commercial recordings. Wolfe also directs choral works at the Aspen Music Festival and the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and he is founder-director of the Colorado Symphony Chorus, a position that he maintains along with his Chicago Symphony Chorus post.

Wolfe retired in 1999 from the Colorado Children's Chorale, an organization that he founded and conducted for 25 years. Also active as an opera conductor, he worked as conductor of the Central City Opera Festival for 20 years. Wolfe's activities have earned him an honorary doctorate and numerous awards, including the Bonfils Stanton Award in the Arts and Humanities, the Colorado Governor's Award for Excellence and the Denver Mayor's Award for Excellence in an Artistic Discipline. He is a past chairman of the board of Chorus America, the national service organization for choruses.

Founded in 1956, **CHICAGO CHILDREN'S CHOIR** is a multiracial, multicultural choral music education organization, shaping the future by making a difference in the lives of children and youth through musical excellence. The Choir currently serves 2,700 children, ages 8–18, through choirs in 40 schools, after-school programs in eight Chicago neighborhoods and the internationally acclaimed Concert Choir. Under president and artistic director **JOSEPHINE LEE**, the Choir has undertaken many highly successful national and international tours, received a Chicago/Midwest Emmy Award for the 2008 documentary *Songs on the Road to Freedom*, and has been featured in nationally broadcast television and radio performances, most recently on *The Oprah Show*, NBC's *Today* and the PBS series *From the Top: Live from Carnegie Hall*.

Complete program details follow. All concerts are at Symphony Center (220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago) unless otherwise indicated:

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

[Thursday, January 26, 2012, 8 p.m.](#)
[Friday, January 27, 2012, 8 p.m.](#)
[Saturday, January 28, 2012, 8 p.m.](#)
[Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 7:30 p.m.](#)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor
Maria Grazia Schiavo, soprano
Max Emanuel Cencic, countertenor
Stéphane Degout, baritone
Chicago Symphony Chorus
Duain Wolfe, chorus director
Chicago Children's Choir
Josephine Lee, artistic director

SMIRNOV *Space Odyssey* (World premiere)
SCHUBERT *Symphony No. 3 in D Major, D. 200*
ORFF *Carmina burana*

Tickets: \$35–\$276

These concerts are sponsored in part by Mr. and Mrs. Sanfred Kolton.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

[Thursday, February 2, 2012, 8 p.m.](#)
[Friday, February 3, 2012, 8 p.m.](#)
[Saturday, February 4, 2012, 8 p.m.](#)
[Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 7:30 p.m.](#)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

HONEGGER *Pacific 231*
BATES *Alternative Energy* (World premiere, CSO commission)
FRANCK *Symphony in D Minor*

Tickets: \$27–\$207

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

[Thursday, February 9, 2012, 8 p.m.](#)
[Friday, February 10, 2012, 1:30 p.m.](#)
[Saturday, February 11, 2012, 8 p.m.](#)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

SCHUBERT *Entr'acte No. 3 from Rosamunde*, D. 797
CLYNE *Night Ferry* (World premiere, CSO commission)
SCHUBERT *Symphony No. 9 in C Major*, D. 944 (*Great*)

Tickets: \$29–\$209

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.

Alternative Energy and Night Ferry were commissioned for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra by the Louise Durham Mead Fund for new music.

CSO Tuesday series concerts are sponsored by United Airlines.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is partially supported by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

TICKETS for all 2011/12 Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Center Presents, and Civic Orchestra of Chicago concerts can be purchased by calling CSO ticketing services at **312-294-3000** or **800-223-7114**, online at cso.org, or by visiting the Symphony Center box office at 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604. Discounted student tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040. Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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