



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF CHICAGO ANNOUNCES 2011/12 SEASON OF FREE PERFORMANCES AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND THROUGHOUT CHICAGO

CHICAGO — The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's training orchestra for young, pre-professional musicians, has announced its 2011/12 series of free orchestral and chamber music performances at Symphony Center and in neighborhoods throughout Chicago. The Civic Orchestra is a program of The Institute for Learning, Access and Training at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which offers a comprehensive sequence of programs intended to transform the lives of young people through active participation in music.

The Civic Orchestra presents six free full-orchestra performances at Symphony Center during the season. Highlights of the Symphony Center concerts include Civic's first-ever collaboration with **The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago**. In a concert led by **Sir Andrew Davis**, the Civic Orchestra will present singers from the Ryan Opera Center in a program featuring full acts from operatic masterworks by Mozart and Puccini.

The Civic also participates in the season-ending *Keys to the City* Piano Festival, performing a **concert exploring the evolution of the piano concerto with Emanuel Ax** on May 29, narrated by CSO Creative Director **Gerard McBurney**. Additional Civic concerts are led by **Civic Orchestra Principal Conductor Cliff Colnot**, as well as guest conductors **Susanna Mälkki, Sir Mark Elder** and **Mei-Ann Chen**.

Continuing his mission to inspire the next generation of musicians, **CSO Music Director Riccardo Muti leads the Civic in a free open rehearsal** of Franck's Symphony in D minor on Monday, February 6 at Symphony Center. This rehearsal offers a unique opportunity for the public to observe Maestro Muti working with young musicians.

In addition to its concerts at Symphony Center, the Civic Orchestra performs at sites throughout the Chicago area, including a **chamber concert as part of the Latino Music Festival** on November 20, a **full-orchestra concert at South Shore Cultural Center** on April 15, as well as **educational chamber music performances at Chicago Park District sites** around the city from January through April.

All Civic Orchestra performances are free, but tickets are required for the concerts at Symphony Center, and there is a \$2 handling fee per ticket; no tickets are required for Civic chamber performances.

RICCARDO MUTI
Music Director

WILLIAM A. OSBORN
Chairman

DEBORAH F. RUTTER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

Concerts at Symphony Center

- The Civic Orchestra of Chicago kicks off its 93rd season on [Sunday, September 25 at 3 p.m.](#) with **Principal Conductor Cliff Colnot** leading two orchestral masterpieces: Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 and Stravinsky's *Firebird* Suite. Colnot has conducted the Civic Orchestra since 1994 and was named principal conductor in 2005, and he also serves as principal conductor of the CSO's *MusicNOW* series. The *Chicago Tribune* named him a Chicagoan of the Year in music in 2001 and again recognized his multifaceted work in 2007; in 2005, he received the William Hall Sherwood Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts.
- On [Monday, October 17 at 8 p.m.](#), Finnish conductor **Susanna Mälkki** conducts a program that includes *Feria* by Finnish composer Magnus Lindberg and Schumann's *Rhenish* Symphony—inspired by the composer's trip down the Rhine with his wife Clara. Mälkki succeeded CSO Conductor Emeritus Pierre Boulez as music director of the Ensemble Intercontemporain in Paris, France, and she makes her first appearances with the CSO October 13-18.
- Acclaimed British conductor **Sir Mark Elder** returns to the Civic podium on [Monday, January 9 at 8 p.m.](#) His program includes Berlioz's Overture to *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, based on Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer*, and concludes with Rachmaninov's final composition, the complex and mesmerizing Symphonic Dances. Elder also leads the CSO in two weeks of subscription concerts in January devoted to exploring Shakespeare's influence on music.
- CSO Music Director **Riccardo Muti** leads the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in a free, open rehearsal on [Monday, February 6, at 7 p.m.](#) Under Muti's guidance, the orchestra rehearses Franck's Symphony in D minor, by far the best-known of the composer's orchestral works, which melds elements of the traditional symphony and symphonic poem to create a unique three-movement orchestral work.
- Civic Orchestra Principal Conductor **Cliff Colnot** conducts a program of 20th century favorites on [Monday, April 2 at 8 p.m.](#) The program opens with Ravel's *Rapsodie espagnole*, the only work that Ravel originally wrote as a concert piece for orchestra that pays tribute to the composer's Spanish heritage. The program concludes with Shostakovich's monumental and moving Symphony No. 5, written in reaction to the Stalin regime's harsh criticism of his works. This concert is sponsored by The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.
- On [Monday, May 7 at 8 p.m.](#), the Civic presents singers from the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center in a special, first-time-ever collaboration. Lyric Opera Music Director and Principal Conductor **Sir Andrew Davis** leads the Civic Orchestra and singers from the Ryan Opera Center in a program that features music from two beloved operas: Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* (Act II) and Puccini's *La bohème* (Act IV). This concert offers a chance to see the next generation of stars from the orchestral and operatic worlds together on stage at Symphony Center. Production of this concert is made possible with leadership support from Roger and Julie Baskes.
- Civic's 2011/12 season closes on [Tuesday, May 29 at 7:30 p.m.](#) with a special performance as part of the *Keys to the City* Piano Festival. The Civic is the featured ensemble for "Evolution of the Piano Concerto." Narrated by CSO Creative Director **Gerard McBurney**, this program offers a wide-ranging and rollicking exploration of how this signature form has evolved over the years. Conductor **Mei-Ann Chen** (making her Civic debut) leads the orchestra in a variety of pieces that trace the history of the form, concluding with a complete performance of Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto with guest artist and *Keys to the City* Festival Curator **Emanuel Ax**.

Preconcert conversations are given before all Civic Orchestra concerts at Symphony Center, beginning 90 minutes before the performance, in Grainger Ballroom. Tickets for all Civic Orchestra concerts at Symphony Center are free but required. Seating is general admission, and there is a non-refundable \$2 per-ticket service fee. Tickets for these concerts can be reserved by calling 312-294-3000.

Performances in the Community

The Civic Orchestra's 2011/12 season features dozens of free events throughout the city, including a return visit to the South Shore Cultural Center and chamber music recitals in various Chicago parks.

- On [Sunday, April 15 at 3 p.m.](#), the Civic Orchestra makes its fifth consecutive appearance at the **South Shore Cultural Center** in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood. This concert is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Conductor and program details will be announced at a later date. This concert is offered through a partnership with the Chicago Park District and the Advisory Council of the South Shore Cultural Center.
- Members of the Civic Orchestra also perform as part of the 2011 Latino Music Festival on [Sunday, November 20 at 3 p.m.](#) Principal Conductor Cliff Colnot leads this free performance in Buntrock Hall at Symphony Center.
- Chamber ensembles from the Civic Orchestra present many **free educational concerts** in neighborhoods across Chicago, as part of the *MusiCorps* community engagement program. The ***MusiCorps "In the Park with Civic"*** series—free, interactive chamber concerts for families with children ages 5 and up—take place in Chicago Park District locations, including Gage, Harrison, Indian Boundary, Kosciuszko, North and Washington parks, and at the National Museum of Mexican Art. See the following listings for specific performance dates and times; ensembles and repertoire will be announced at a later date.

All Civic chamber performances are free and no tickets are required. For more information about *MusiCorps* "In the Park with Civic" concerts, please visit cso.org/civic or call 312-294-3803.

About the Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Founded in 1919 by CSO Music Director Frederick Stock, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago is the only training orchestra affiliated with a major American orchestra. It is a signature program of The Institute for Learning, Access and Training at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which offers a comprehensive sequence of programs intended to transform the lives of young people through active participation in music. The principal goal of the Civic Orchestra is to recruit a diverse group of gifted pre-professional musicians, train them at the highest level as orchestral players and further develop skills of advocacy and mentoring, which are essential to the role of orchestral musicians in communities, now and in the future.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago attracts the most talented young musicians from across the country. More than half of Civic's players have completed graduate degrees—many are alumni from the top-tier music schools in the nation. Civic Orchestra musicians go on to perform with many of the most prestigious orchestras in the United States and around the world. Fifteen current Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians are Civic alumni, and since the Civic's founding, more than 75 alumni have become CSO members. Over 700 Civic alumni are currently active in professional orchestras. In recent years, members of the Civic Orchestra have won positions with the New York, Mexico City and Hong Kong philharmonics; the major orchestras of Boston, Cleveland, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Oregon, San Diego, St. Louis and Toronto; and the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra, among others.

In addition to intensive rehearsals with Principal Conductor Cliff Colnot, Civic members are coached by musicians of the CSO and participate in various educational and family programs of the Institute for Learning, Access and Training to enhance their professional development experience. The Civic Orchestra made its highly praised Carnegie Hall debut under the direction of Daniel Barenboim in March 2000.

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2011/12 Civic Orchestra of Chicago Full-Orchestra Performances

All concerts at Symphony Center unless otherwise noted.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Sunday, September 25, 2011, 3 p.m.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Cliff Colnot, conductor

STRAVINSKY *The Firebird Suite*

BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67*

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Monday, October 17, 2011, 8 p.m.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Susanna Mälkki, conductor

LINDBERG *Feria*

SCHUMANN *Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 97 (Rhenish)*

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Latino Music Festival

Buntrock Hall, Symphony Center

Sunday, November 20, 2011, 3 p.m.

Members of the **Civic Orchestra of Chicago**

Cliff Colnot, conductor

Program to be announced

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Monday, January 9, 2012, 8 p.m.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Sir Mark Elder, conductor

Soloist to be announced

BERLIOZ *Béatrice et Bénédict: Overture*

MAHLER *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen (Songs of a Wayfarer)*

RACHMANINOV *Symphonic Dances, Op. 45*

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Open Rehearsal

Monday, February 6, 2012, 7 p.m.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Riccardo Muti, conductor

FRANCK *Symphony in D Minor*

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Monday, April 2, 2012, 8 p.m.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Cliff Colnot, conductor

RAVEL *Rapsodie espagnole*

SHOSTAKOVICH *Symphony No. 5 in D Minor, Op. 47*

Civic Orchestra of Chicago
South Shore Cultural Center
7059 S. South Shore Drive

Sunday, April 15, 2012, 3 p.m.
Civic Orchestra of Chicago
Conductor and program to be announced

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Monday, May 7, 2012, 8 p.m.
Civic Orchestra of Chicago
Sir Andrew Davis, conductor
Members of **The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago**, guest artists

MOZART *The Marriage of Figaro*, K. 492, Act II
PUCCINI *La bohème*, Act IV

Civic Orchestra of Chicago
Keys to the City Piano Festival

Tuesday, May 29, 2012, 7:30 p.m.
Evolution of the Piano Concerto
Civic Orchestra of Chicago
Mei-Ann Chen, conductor
Emanuel Ax, piano
Gerard McBurney, narrator

Program to include:
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58

2011/12 MusiCorps "In the Park with Civic" Chamber Concerts

Ensembles and repertoire to be announced.

Gage Park, 2411 W. 55th St.
Friday, February 3 6:30 p.m.
Friday, March 2, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.

Harrison Park, 1824 S. Wood St.
Friday, April 20, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.

Indian Boundary Park Cultural Center, 2500 W. Lunt Ave.
Sunday, February 12, 3 p.m.
Sunday, March 11, 3 p.m.
Sunday, April 22, 3 p.m.
Sunday, May 6, 3 p.m.

Kosciuszko Park, 2732 N. Avers Ave.
Saturday, January 28, 11 a.m.
Saturday, February 25, 11 a.m.
Saturday, March 24, 11 a.m.
Saturday, April 28, 11 a.m.

National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St.
Sunday, January 22, 3 p.m.
Sunday, March 18, 3 p.m.

North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd.
Saturday, January 14, 11 a.m.
Saturday, February 11, 11 a.m.
Saturday, March 10, 11 a.m.
Saturday, April 14, 11 a.m.

Washington Park Refectory, 5531 S. Russell Dr.
Sunday, January 29, 3 p.m.
Sunday, February 26, 3 p.m.
Sunday, March 25, 3 p.m.
Sunday, April 29, 3 p.m.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago is supported in part by awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

The April 2 concert is sponsored through a generous grant from The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation

The April 15 concert is offered through a partnership with the Chicago Park District and the Advisory Council of the South Shore Cultural Center.

Production of the May 7 concert with Lyric Opera of Chicago is made possible with leadership support from Roger and Julie Baskes.

MusiCorps is generously sponsored by United Airlines.

"In the Park with Civic" is presented through a partnership with the Chicago Park District.

The concerts in Harrison Park are generously sponsored by JPMorgan Chase & Co. through the CSO's Pilsen Partnership Program.

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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