



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**RICCARDO MUTI LEADS
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
IN TWO-WEEK TOUR OF RUSSIA AND ITALY**

APRIL 15 – 28, 2012

**April Tour Marks CSO's First Appearances in Russia in
More Than Two Decades**

**CSO's 29th European Tour Includes Performances in Moscow,
St. Petersburg, Rome, Naples, Brescia and Ravenna**

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO

CHICAGO —Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) make their second overseas tour together since Maestro Muti became the Orchestra's music director in September 2010, visiting Russia and Italy from April 15 – 28, 2012. Tour performances are scheduled in Moscow at the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory; at the Great Hall of the Philharmonia in St. Petersburg; and in Italy at the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome, the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, the Teatro Grande in Brescia, and at the Palazzo Mauro De André in Ravenna. Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.

The CSO's previously announced performances in Abu Dhabi in April 2012 have been deferred to a future season. Repertoire for the performances in Russia and Italy will be announced at a later date.

The CSO's concerts in Russia are presented under the auspices of the Obama-Medvedev Bilateral Presidential Commission, which takes place throughout the 2011/12 season in the four Russian cities where there are U.S. Embassies or Consulates. The CSO is the centerpiece of its upcoming year-long cultural festival called "American Seasons in Russia"—a concept that evokes the spirit of the Diaghilev's "Russian Seasons" in Paris many years ago. The goal of this festival is to promote awareness and disprove stereotypes between Americans and Russians through the cultural arts by presenting a variety of American performers and exhibitions. A range of arts genres will also be presented, such as dance companies, theater, jazz, Cajun, gospel and bluegrass performers. The CSO's previous and only appearance in Russia was in November 1990, and since then, no other major American orchestra has performed there.

RICCARDO MUTI
Music Director

WILLIAM A. OSBORN
Chairman

DEBORAH F. RUTTER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

Following the concerts in Russia, Maestro Muti and the CSO travel to Italy for four performances, three of which mark debuts for the CSO. The first concert is in Rome, where they last performed together in 2007, and the remaining concerts in Naples, Brescia and Ravenna mark the first time that the CSO has performed in these cities.

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.

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 assumed the post for a five-year contract. Maestro Muti and the CSO's first recording together—Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*—on the CSO Resound label was awarded two Grammy awards, marking Muti's first such honor. In March 2011, Riccardo Muti was selected as the second-ever winner of the Birgit Nilsson Prize, awarded by the Birgit Nilsson Foundation every two or three years to a singer or conductor who has had a significant impact in the classical field.

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. This tour marks the 29th trip to Europe, and 38th overseas tour overall. Bank of America is the global sponsor of the CSO. For more information about the CSO, visit cso.org.

Tour Itinerary

**Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory
Moscow, Russia**

Wednesday, April 18, 2012
Thursday, April 19, 2012
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

**Great Hall of the Philharmonia
St. Petersburg, Russia**

Saturday, April 21, 2012
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

**Teatro dell'Opera di Roma
Rome, Italy**

Monday, April 23, 2012
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

Teatro San Carlo
Naples, Italy

Tuesday, April 24, 2012
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

Teatro Grande
Brescia, Italy

Thursday, April 26, 2012
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

Palazzo Mauro De André
Ravenna, Italy

Friday, April 27, 2012
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

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