



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 12, 2011

Press Contacts:

[Raechel Alexander](#)

[Rachelle Roe](#)

[Maggie Berndt](#)

For photos: [Erin Dennis](#)

**RICCARDO MUTI AND
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
BEGIN 2011/12 SEASON WITH FREE COMMUNITY
CONCERT AT APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF GOD ON
CHICAGO'S SOUTH SIDE**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011, 7:30 PM

**Program Includes Solo Appearance by CSO Principal Flute
Mathieu Dufour and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony**

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO

CHICAGO —The Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Apostolic Church of God have collaborated to announce that the CSO's season-opening free community concert will take place at the church, located at 6320 S. Dorchester Ave. in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood. The free concert—which is open to all and will be led by CSO Music Director Riccardo Muti—takes place on [Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

The Apostolic Church of God is an ideal partner for this year's season-opening concert because of its long-standing commitment to ensuring that high-quality live music is available to all audiences in all Chicago communities, a dedication shared by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Riccardo Muti.

“Integral to Riccardo Muti's continued vision for the CSO is his dedication to helping redefine an orchestra's place in its city through community engagement, performances of the highest artistic caliber, creative partnerships and collaborations, education and access,” says CSO President Deborah Rutter. “Our relationship with Apostolic Church, which began more than 10 years ago, is a perfect example of the synergy of our commitment to community, which both of our organizations so strongly believe in and support. We're so grateful for the Apostolic Church's generous invitation to have Maestro Muti and our wonderful Orchestra perform there.”

RICCARDO MUTI
Music Director

WILLIAM A. OSBORN
Chairman

DEBORAH F. RUTTER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

“We have been blessed to have maintained a collaborative working relationship with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which began more than ten years ago with a vision of my parents, Bishop Arthur and Isabelle Brazier,” added Dr. Byron T. Brazier. “Their desire to create a musical program that benefits the skills of and opens up career opportunities in music for young people has come to fruition thanks to the initiatives of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Our Apostolic Church of God Youth Orchestra has more than 35 youth musicians who accompany our Joy of Christmas and Joy of Easter annual concerts and perform regularly throughout the year in both our church and the Chicagoland area. As pastor of the Apostolic Church of God, it is my pleasure to continue to promote musical excellence and expand the vision by continuing our efforts to bring classical musical programs to our church and our community.”

The centerpiece of the program is Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony, one of symphonic music’s most recognized and loved works. Also scheduled is Ibert’s Flute Concerto, featuring CSO Principal Flute Mathieu Dufour as soloist. Commentary and historical background about the pieces on the program will be integrated into the performance, to enhance to experience for concertgoers.

Prior to Maestro Muti and the CSO’s performance, young musicians from Apostolic Church of God’s music program will perform between 6:45 and 7:30 p.m. in the public spaces inside the church.

This concert is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required. Apostolic Church of God is located at 6320 S. Dorchester Ave. in Chicago’s Woodlawn neighborhood, and it is accessible by CTA and Metra trains. Free parking is available in church parking lots.

Born in Naples, Italy, **RICCARDO MUTI** first came to the attention of critics and the 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. Bank of America is the global sponsor of the CSO. For more information about the CSO, visit cso.org.

On Sunday, January 17, 1932, the **APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF GOD** (ACOG) was established in a rented space on the third floor of a building at 8 W. 57th St. by Elder Walter M. Clemons; in 1952 the church moved to 6344 S. Kimbark Ave. After Clemons' passing in 1959, the congregation continued under the pastorate of Elder Ahart Medders, assisted by Elder Robert McGee Sr. In 1960, Elder McGee and Deacon Gerald Nuckolls Sr. asked Reverend Arthur M. Brazier, then the leader of another church that shared space with ACOG, if he would consider becoming the pastor of ACOG. Reverend Brazier (elevated to Bishop Brazier in 1976) accepted, bringing along his congregation. The two churches merged, bringing a total active membership to approximately 100 parishioners. Since then, ACOG has grown exponentially, and it had many landmarks along the way. In 1977, the 500-member congregation raised enough money to build a new church edifice at 63rd and Kenwood Avenue, and that site was expanded again in 1983. In 1992, another expansion was completed, adding a 3,000-seat sanctuary, classrooms, offices and television control facilities at 6320 S. Dorchester Ave. A 37,000 square-foot wing that features a state-of-the-art banquet hall and meeting rooms was completed in 1998, and in 2007, the church's Youth and Family Center opened, adding much-needed space for youth and family-oriented ministry activities. The center includes a gymnasium that features a regulation-size basketball court, a recreation room with ping pong and pool tables, a nursery, a music room, a dance studio and several meeting spaces. In June 2008, Bishop Brazier retired after 48 years as pastor of the Apostolic Church of God. His son, Dr. Byron T. Brazier, became the fourth pastor in the church's history. In October 2010, Pastor Emeritus Bishop Arthur M. Brazier passed away, and his life, including his ministry and community work, was celebrated by more than 10,000 people who attend his funeral services, including First Lady Michelle Obama, and a million more who tuned in online.

Complete program details follow:

Community Concert

Apostolic Church of God
6320 S. Dorchester Ave.
Chicago

[Thursday, September 22, 2011, 7:30 p.m.](#)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

Mathieu Dufour, flute

Program to include:

IBERT Flute Concerto

TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, Op. 64

Tickets: Free and open to the public. No ticket required.

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.

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

###