



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

News

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
August 19, 2011

**Press Contacts:**  
[Rachelle Roe](#)  
[Maggie Berndt](#)  
[Erin Dennis](#)

**MUSIC DIRECTOR RICCARDO MUTI LEADS  
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND  
PIANIST YEFIM BRONFMAN IN SYMPHONY BALL  
PRESENTED BY THE WOMEN'S BOARD OF THE CSOA**

**Concert Includes Music by Verdi and Prokofiev**

**Saturday, September 24, at 7 PM**

*Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO*

The Women's Board of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association presents Symphony Ball, a one-night-only event on Saturday, September 24, featuring pianist Yefim Bronfman as soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director Riccardo Muti. Symphony Ball is an annual fundraising event that supports the CSO's operations and community engagement programs.

The gala evening features Bronfman performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2. To open the performance, Muti leads Verdi's Overture to *Giovanna d'Arco*; Verdi's *The Four Seasons* closes the program.

Gala packages include both the open preconcert prosecco reception in honor of Maestro Muti, performance, as well as postconcert dinner and dancing at Hilton Chicago. Dress is black tie. Gala packages can be purchased by calling 312-294-3185.

Tickets for the concert only are available through the box office, online at [cso.org](http://cso.org) or by calling 312-294-3000—The preconcert prosecco reception is also included for concert-only patrons.

Symphony Ball is presented by the Women's Board of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, Leslie Henner Burns, president. Co-chairs of the event are Annette Dezelan and Lisa Walker Rudnick. Honorary Women's Board members are Mrs. Maggie Daley and Mrs. Cristina Mazzavillani Muti.

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO. Symphony Ball sponsors are Northern Trust, ITW, Sidley Austin LLP, Baxter International Inc., Ernst & Young LLP, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, KPMG LLP, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, The Boeing Company, Exelon, JP Morgan, McKinsey & Company, Nicor, PNC, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, and William Blair & Co.

RICCARDO MUTI  
Music Director

WILLIAM A. OSBORN  
Chairman

DEBORAH F. RUTTER  
President

YO-YO MA  
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

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. This past April, he was honored at the sixth annual Opera News Awards, and in May 2011 he was awarded Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Prize for the Arts. In July 2011, he was named an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic.

**YEFIM BRONFMAN** is widely regarded as one of the most talented virtuoso pianists performing today. His commanding technique and exceptional lyrical gifts have won him consistent critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences worldwide, whether for his solo recitals, his prestigious orchestral engagements or his rapidly growing catalogue of recordings. Bronfman's most recent US season highlights include recitals in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Carnegie Hall as well as performances of Tchaikovsky's first piano concerto with the orchestras of Houston, Cincinnati and Saint Louis and Brahms' second with the orchestras of Atlanta, New York and Los Angeles. He has also recently made concerto appearances in Seattle, New Jersey, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Toronto, Montreal and Washington. With long-time friend and collaborator Pinchas Zukerman, he appeared in duo recital in Chicago in November of 2010. Also in 2010, he was honored as the recipient of the Jean Gimbel Lane prize in piano performance from Northwestern University.

Widely praised for his solo, chamber and orchestral recordings, Bronfman won a Grammy Award in 1997 for his recording of Bartók's three piano concertos with Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Bronfman studied music at Tel Aviv University as well as in the U.S. at The Juilliard School, Marlboro and the Curtis Institute. He became a U.S. citizen in 1989.

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](http://cso.org).

Complete event details follow:

**Symphony Ball**

Saturday, September 24, 2011, 7 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

**Yefim Bronfman**, piano

VERDI Overture to *Giovanna d'Arco*

PROKOFIEV Piano Concerto No. 2

VERDI *The Four Seasons* from *I vespri sicilliani*

Preconcert prosecco reception at Symphony Center begins at 6:15 p.m.

Gala packages (include preconcert prosecco, postconcert cocktails, performance, dinner and dancing): Call 312-294-3185.

Tickets (concert only— includes preconcert prosecco reception): \$58-\$194

*Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.*

*Symphony Ball sponsors: Northern Trust, ITW, Sidley Austin LLP, Baxter International Inc., Ernst & Young LLP, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, KPMG LLP, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, The Boeing Company, Exelon, JP Morgan, McKinsey & Company, Nicor, PNC, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, and William Blair & Co.*

*Official Airline of the CSO: United Airlines*

**TICKETS** for the 2011/12 season can be purchased by calling CSO ticketing services at **312-294-3000** or **800-223-7114**, online at [cso.org](http://cso.org), or by visiting the Symphony Center box office at 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604. Discounted student tickets can be purchased for select concerts, 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 ticket prices are subject to change.

###