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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA RELEASES
FIFTH RECORDING BY RICCARDO MUTI AND THE CSO ON
CSO RESOUND LABEL:
BERLIOZ: SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE AND LÉLIO

Two-Disc Set Available Worldwide in Stores and for Digital Download
Beginning Friday, September 11

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s (CSO) fifth recording with Music Director Riccardo Muti on its own CSO Resound label, *Berlioz: Symphonie fantastique and Lélio*, will be released internationally via retail and download outlets on Friday, September 11, 2015.

The two-disc set was recorded live in September 2010 at Orchestra Hall, during Riccardo Muti’s first subscription concerts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the start of his tenure as music director.

“*Symphonie fantastique* was not intended to be a showpiece to end a concert. Instead, Berlioz meant it as the prologue to a deeper and more intense work. Audiences do not often hear these two works together, and I think it will be a revelation for them,” said Muti.

French actor Gérard Depardieu narrates *Lélio*, which also features the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Duain Wolfe, director, as well as tenor Mario Zeffiri and bass-baritone Kyle Ketelsen.

A *New York Times* review of the performance in 2010 by Anthony Tommasini called the concert “imaginative, elegantly performed and enthusiastically received.” John von Rhein for the *Chicago Tribune* praised the performance [of *Lélio*] saying that, “Muti drew out the radiant beauties in the score, performed with total commitment.”
The album was produced by David Frost, a Grammy Award winner, engineered by Christopher Willis, and mastered by Silas Brown.

Muti and the CSO’s first recording together—Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, released in 2010—won two Grammy Awards. Their second, Verdi’s *Otello*, also with the Chorus, was released in 2013, and won an International Opera Award. Muti’s third and fourth recordings with the CSO, *Riccardo Muti Conducts Mason Bates and Anna Clyne*, and Prokofiev: *Suite from Romeo and Juliet* were both released in 2014.

The CSO’s music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.
Riccardo Muti (riccardomutimusic.com)

Riccardo Muti, born in Naples, Italy, is one of the preeminent conductors of our day. In 2010, when he became the tenth music director of the world-renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), he had more than forty years of experience at the helm of Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in Florence (1968–1980), the Philharmonia Orchestra in London (1972–1992), the Philadelphia Orchestra (1980–1992), and Teatro alla Scala in Milan (1986–2005). He continues to be in demand as a guest conductor for other great orchestras and opera houses: the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic; the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in Munich, the Vienna State Opera, the Royal Opera House in London, the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, and many others. Muti is an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic, which gave him its Golden Ring as a special sign of esteem and affection.

Muti has received innumerable honors from Italy, the United States, France, Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Israel, Spain, Russia, Sweden, and the Vatican as well as more than twenty honorary degrees from universities around the world.

Passionate about teaching young musicians, Muti founded the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra in 2004. Through Le vie dell’Amicizia (The paths of friendship), a project of the Ravenna Festival in Italy, he has conducted in many of the world’s most troubled areas in order to bring attention to and advocate for civic and social issues. In Chicago and around the globe, Muti demonstrates his strong commitment to sharing classical music broadly by regularly offering free concerts and rehearsals to the public and by performing in schools, prisons, and other community venues.

Riccardo Muti’s vast catalog of recordings, numbering in the hundreds, ranges from the traditional symphonic and operatic repertoires to contemporary works. He also has written two books, Verdi, l’italiano (published in Italian and German) and Riccardo Muti: An Autobiography: First the Music, Then the Words, which has been published in several languages.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: www.cso.org and www.csosoundsandstories.org

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the preeminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Pierre Boulez is the CSO’s Helen Regenstein Conductor Emeritus, Yo-Yo Ma is its Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, and Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek are its Mead Composers-in-Residence.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 58 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at cso.org/radio. Recordings by the CSO have earned 62 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti’s recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi’s Messa da Requiem (Muti’s first of four releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at www.cso.org/resound.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world, and contemporary.
The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert with Muti and the CSO, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO. The CSO’s music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.