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Photos available upon request:
PR@cso.org

SINGLE TICKETS FOR SELECT
2017/18 SPECIAL CONCERTS AT SYMPHONY CENTER
GO ON SALE JUNE 1

Riccardo Muti Leads CSO and Acclaimed Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter in
Symphony Ball Concert to open the 2017/18 season

New VIP Experience Ticket added for October 10 Concert with
Award-Winning Actor and Chicago’s own Bill Murray

Jon Batiste—Bandleader for TV’s “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert”—Joins
Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for October 14 Concert

Other Special Concert Highlights include Italian Pianist and Composer Ludovic
Einaudi, Jazz Great Herbie Hancock, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán and the
China NCPA Orchestra

CHICAGO—Tickets for select 2017/18 Special Concerts presented by the Chicago Symphony
Orchestra Association (CSOA) go on sale Thursday, June 1 at 10 a.m. These Special Concerts
are part of Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and Symphony Center Presents (SCP)
2017/18 season programming. Performances take place at Symphony Center, 220 South
Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

On Friday, September 22, at 6 p.m., the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s annual Symphony Ball
officially launches the 2017/18 season. This festive gala evening and concert is hosted by the
Women’s Board of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association and takes place at Symphony
Center. The evening begins with a pre-concert reception open to all ticketholders, followed by
the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s performance led by Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti that
includes Rossini’s Overture to William Tell and Tchaikovsky’s suite from The Sleeping Beauty
as well as Mozart’s Turkish Concerto featuring internationally celebrated violinist Anne-Sophie
Mutter as soloist. Gala patrons continue their evening with a post-concert dinner and dancing at the Four Seasons.

Actor Bill Murray and German cellist Jan Vogler make their joint Symphony Center debut with a new artistic collaboration on **Tuesday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m.** Violinist Mira Wang and pianist Vanessa Perez join Murray and Vogler for a lively evening of music and great literature. Musical highlights include works by Bach, Beethoven and Shostakovich. Murray mixes in readings of texts by Ernest Hemingway and Walt Whitman. A new VIP experience—*Pizza and Beer with Bill Murray*—has been added to the October 10 concert. This special, post-concert meet-and-greet event includes food, drinks and a photo with Murray with ticket proceeds supporting the many programs of the CSOA. A separate $150 ticket is required for entry to the *Pizza and Beer with Bill Murray* VIP experience and is only available to patrons with concert tickets.

Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO) perform two SCP Special Concerts on **Saturday, October 14, at 11 a.m.** and **Saturday, October 14, at 8 p.m.** Led by renowned trumpet player Wynton Marsalis, the 15-piece ensemble has made it their mission to not only entertain audiences, but also to enrich and expand the jazz community through performance, education and advocacy. The first program at 11 a.m. is a Jazz For Young People concert entitled *Who is Count Basie?*, which explores the legacy of piano player and band leader William Count Basie.

For the 8 p.m. program, Marsalis and JLCO welcome jazz pianist Jon Batiste. The New Orleans native and young jazz luminary recently joined Marsalis and JLCO for their critically-acclaimed 2017 recording *The Music of John Lewis*. Batiste is also familiar to audiences from his role as bandleader with “The Late Show with Steven Colbert,” as well as TV and film appearances on the HBO series *Treme* and Spike Lee’s *Red Hook Summer*. Batiste is also the Artistic Director At Large of Harlem’s National Jazz Museum.

On **Sunday, October 15, at 3 p.m.**, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán returns for their 11th annual Symphony Center appearance. The ensemble is recognized as a leader in traditional Mexican music. The group’s music has been featured in popular films such as *Transformers* and *Turbo* and their most recent release, *Boleros, Baladas y Bachataos*, offers a new take on the traditional Latin music genres.

Pianist Herbie Hancock comes to the Symphony Center for a special concert on **Saturday, October 21, at 8 p.m.** One of the most influential artists in jazz and R&B history, pianist and Chicago native Herbie Hancock is a 14-time Grammy Award-winning artist who continues to push musical boundaries and energize audiences with his performances.

Italian pianist and composer Ludovico Einaudi makes his Symphony Center debut on **Tuesday, October 24, at 8 p.m.** After studying at the Milan Conservatorio, Einaudi built his career on the exploration of blending classical and popular music melodies. He has built an online fan base with more than 2.3 million monthly Spotify listeners and has sold more than 750,000 recordings.
Einaudi has written a number of film scores for movies including the popular French drama *The Intouchables* and 2008 BAFTA winner *This is England*.

On **Saturday, October 28, at 8 p.m.**, the China NCPA Orchestra returns for its second appearance at Symphony Center. Led by conductor Lü Jia, the China NCPA is the resident orchestra of the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing. The program will feature Ning Feng performing the U.S. premiere of Zhao Jiping’s Violin Concerto No. 1 as well as pipa virtuoso and Silk Road Ensemble member Wu Man performing American Lou Harrison’s Pipa Concerto.

Tickets for these 2017/18 special concerts go on sale June 1, 2017, at 10 a.m. Subscriptions for all 2017/18 CSO and Symphony Center Presents series are also available.

Tickets and subscriptions are available by calling the Symphony Center box office at 312-294-3000, online at cso.org, or by visiting the Symphony Center box office at 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604. All performances take place at Symphony Center unless otherwise noted.

The Friday, September 22, Symphony Ball concert is generously sponsored by the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Symphony Ball**

**Friday, September 22, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Riccardo Muti**, conductor  
**Anne-Sophie Mutter**, violin

SMITH  
*The Star-Spangled Banner*

ROSSINI  
*Overture to William Tell*

MOZART  
Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major, K. 219 (*Turkish*)

TCHAIKOVSKY  
Suite from *The Sleeping Beauty*, Op.66a

Tickets: $45-$155 concert only; $1,000-$30,000, concert and post-concert gala ticket packages. For further information on purchasing Symphony Ball gala tickets, call 312-294-3185.
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<th>Symphony Center Presents</th>
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| Special Concert          | Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 7:30 p.m. | Bill Murray, Jan Vogler and Friends | Bill Murray, actor and vocals  
Jan Vogler, cello  
Mira Wang, violin  
Vanessa Perez, piano  
Tickets: $35-$125, concert only;  
$150, VIP experience- Pizza and Beer with Bill Murray. For further information on purchasing VIP experience tickets, visit cso.org. |
| Special Concert          | Saturday, October 14, 2017, 11:00 a.m. | Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis | Wynton Marsalis, trumpet  
Jazz for Young People: Who is Count Basie?  
Tickets: $25-$60 |
| Special Concert          | Saturday, October 14, 2017, 8:00 p.m. | Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis & Special Guest Jon Batiste | Wynton Marsalis, trumpet  
Jon Batiste, piano  
Tickets: $45-$100 |
| Special Concert          | Sunday, October 15, 2017, 3:00 p.m. | Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán | Tickets: $40-$115 |
| Special Concert          | Saturday, October 21, 2017, 8:00 p.m. | Herbie Hancock | Herbie Hancock, piano  
Tickets: $50-$110 |
Symphony Center Presents
Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 8:00 p.m.
Special Concert
Ludovico Einaudi

Ludovico Einaudi, piano

Tickets: $50-$110

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Symphony Center Presents
Saturday, October 28, 2017, 8:00 p.m.
Orchestras
China NCPA Orchestra
Lü Jia, conductor
Ning Feng, violin
Wu Man, pipa

ZHAO JIPING
Violin Concerto No. 1
[United States Premiere]

HARRISON
Pipa Concerto

BRAHMS
Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98

Tickets: $25-$85

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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 Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), he already had more than forty years of experience at the helm of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Philharmonia Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Teatro alla Scala. He is a guest conductor for orchestras and opera houses all over the world: the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna State Opera, the Royal Opera House, the Metropolitan Opera, and many others.

Muti studied piano under Vincenzo Vitale at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella in his hometown of Naples, graduating with distinction. He subsequently received a diploma in composition and conducting from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan, also graduating with distinction. His principal teachers were Bruno Bettinelli and Antonino Votto, principal assistant to Arturo Toscanini at La Scala. After he won the Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition—by unanimous vote of the jury—in Milan in 1967, Muti’s career developed quickly. In 1968, he became principal conductor of Florence’s Maggio Musicale, a position that he held until 1980.

Herbert von Karajan invited him to conduct at the Salzburg Festival in Austria in 1971, and Muti has maintained a close relationship with the summer festival and with its great orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, for more than forty-five years. When he conducted the philharmonic’s 150th anniversary concert in 1992, he was presented with the Golden Ring, a special sign of esteem and affection, and in 2001, his outstanding artistic contributions to the orchestra were further recognized with the Otto Nicolai Gold Medal. He is also a recipient of a silver medal from the Salzburg Mozarteum for his contribution to the music of W.A. Mozart. He is an honorary member of Vienna’s Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde (Society of the Friends of Music), the Vienna Hofmusikkapelle, the Vienna Philharmonic, and the Vienna State Opera.

Muti succeeded Otto Klemperer as chief conductor and music director of London’s Philharmonia Orchestra in 1973, holding that position until 1982. From 1980 to 1992, he was music director of the
Philadelphia Orchestra, and in 1986, he became music director of Milan’s Teatro alla Scala. During his nineteen-year tenure, in addition to directing major projects such as the Mozart–Da Ponte trilogy and Wagner Ring cycle, Muti conducted operatic and symphonic repertoire ranging from the baroque to the contemporary, also leading hundreds of concerts with the Filarmonica della Scala and touring the world with both the opera company and the orchestra. His tenure as music director, the longest of any in La Scala’s history, culminated in the triumphant reopening of the restored opera house with Antonio Salieri’s Europa riconosciuta, originally commissioned for La Scala’s inaugural performance in 1778.

Throughout his career, Muti has dedicated much time and effort to training young musicians. In 2004, he founded the Orchestra Giovanile Luigi Cherubini (Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra), based in his native Italy. He regularly tours with the ensemble to prestigious concert halls and opera houses all over the world. In 2015, he founded the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in Ravenna, Italy, to train young conductors, répétiteurs, and singers in the Italian opera repertoire. He was invited to bring a similar program to South Korea in 2016, establishing the first of its kind in Asia.

Since 1997, as part of Le vie dell’Amicizia (The paths of friendship), a project of the Ravenna Festival in Italy, Muti has annually conducted large-scale concerts in war-torn and poverty-stricken areas around the world, using music to bring hope, unity, and attention to present day social, cultural, and humanitarian issues.

Muti has received innumerable international honors. He is a Cavaliere di Gran Croce of the Italian Republic, Officer of the French Legion of Honor, and a recipient of the German Verdienstkreuz. Queen Elizabeth II bestowed on him the title of honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire, Russian President Vladimir Putin awarded him the Order of Friendship, and Pope Benedict XVI made him a Knight of the Grand Cross First Class of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great—the highest papal honor. Muti also has received Israel’s Wolf Prize for the arts, Sweden’s prestigious Birgit Nilsson Prize, Spain’s Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts, Japan’s Order of the Rising Sun Gold and Silver Star, and the gold medal from Italy’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his promotion of Italian culture abroad. He has received more than twenty honorary degrees from universities around the world.

Considered one of the greatest interpreters of Verdi in our time, Muti wrote a book on the composer, Verdi, l’italiano, published in Italian, German, and Japanese. His first book, Riccardo Muti: An Autobiography: First the Music, Then the Words, also has been published in several languages. Riccardo Muti’s vast catalog of recordings, numbering in the hundreds, ranges from the traditional symphonic and operatic repertoires to contemporary works. His debut recording with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of Verdi’s Messa da Requiem, released in 2010 by CSO Resound, won two Grammy awards. His second recording with the CSO and Chorus, Verdi’s Otello, released in 2013 by CSO Resound, won the 2014 International Opera Award for the Best Complete Opera.

During his time with the CSO, Muti has won over audiences in greater Chicago and across the globe through his music making as well as his demonstrated commitment to sharing classical music. His first annual free concert as CSO music director attracted more than 25,000 people to Millennium Park. He regularly invites subscribers, students, seniors, and people of low incomes to attend, at no charge, his CSO rehearsals. Muti’s commitment to artistic excellence and to creating a strong bond between an orchestra and its communities continues to bring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to ever higher levels of achievement and renown.

www.riccardomutimusic.com

Other featured artists
Anne-Sophie Mutter (September 22)
Bill Murray (October 10)
Jon Batiste (October 14)
Wynton Marsalis (October 14)
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org) and [www.csosoundsandstories.org](http://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. Yo-Yo Ma is the CSO’s 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 60 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](http://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 seven releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [www.cso.org/resound](http://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 led by Muti, 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. 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.