



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF CHICAGO ANNOUNCES DETAILS FOR 2017/18 SEASON PERFORMANCES AND ACTIVITIES

**CSO Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti Opens Civic Season
with Open Rehearsal on September 25**

**Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma Mentors Civic Musicians
through a Series of Creative Projects including the Fourth Annual Bach Marathon**

**Guest Conductors Include Eschenbach, Payare, Masur, Leece-Chong, Friedman,
Muñoz, Outwater and Yashima**

**The CSO's Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice Erina Yashima
to Lead the Civic in Symphonies by Beethoven and Rachmaninov, as well as the
CSO Crain-Maling Foundation Young Artist Competition Piano Finals**

**Internationally acclaimed conductor Christoph Eschenbach to lead the Civic
in a Program of Works by Wagner, Schoenberg and Brahms in February**

CHICAGO—The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association's prestigious training ensemble for emerging professional musicians and the only one of its kind affiliated with a major American orchestra, announces details for its [2017/18 season performances](#).

Founded in 1919 by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Music Director Frederick Stock, the Civic Orchestra is a signature program of the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). The Civic's unique alliance with the CSO has enabled it to

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
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YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

produce exceptional musical experiences that engage people of all ages and backgrounds under the guidance of musicians of the CSO, the CSO's Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti, Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, as well as numerous guest artists who visit Symphony Center each season.

The 2017/18 Civic season opens on September 25 with an open rehearsal led by CSO Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti. Muti has led the Civic in free open rehearsals each season since becoming CSO music director in 2010.

Yo-Yo Ma continues as the CSO's Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant for the 2017/18 season and leads Civic members in a broad range of activities in the year ahead beginning with a three-day residency at DePauw University. The season also includes community performances with Civic musicians as part of the fourth annual Bach Marathon, presented in partnership with the Merit School of Music and featuring guest conductor and harpsichordist Nicholas Kraemer, on Thursday, November 30, throughout the city, including several Chicago Public Schools and the Christkindlmarket.

The Civic's 2017/18 season also includes its 11th annual community concert at the South Shore Cultural Center, on March 25, and a community concert at a Chicago Public School (location to be announced), on April 29. The Civic's season is rounded out by the Civic Chamber Music Series, which features chamber ensembles of Civic Orchestra musicians in free public concerts that are presented at a variety of venues throughout Chicago.

Civic at Symphony Center

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago does not charge admission for open rehearsals and concerts. While admission is free, tickets are required. A \$5 per ticket processing fee applies. More information is available at cso.org.

Program information for the Civic Orchestra of Chicago's 2017/18 season at Symphony Center is listed below.

- CSO Zell Music Director **Riccardo Muti** leads an **open rehearsal** with the Civic Orchestra on [Monday, September 25, at 7 p.m.](#), that includes Rossini's Overture to *William Tell* and the first movement of Bruckner's Symphony No. 4 in E-flat Major (*Romantic*), two works that Muti will lead later in the month with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Bruckner's Symphony No. 4 was the first of the composer's symphonies to achieve significant popularity with its notable dramatic brass fanfare and bold, expansive melodies. Rossini's Overture to *William Tell* paints a musical picture of the Swiss Alps, containing four distinct parts: *Dawn*, *Storm*, *Ranz des raches* (or *Call to the Cows*), and *March of the Swiss Soldiers*. The familiar swift and galloping theme is prevalent in popular media, most famously in the American Western television series "The Lone Ranger."

- The Civic's 2017/18 Chicago concert season opens on [Monday, October 30, at 8 p.m.](#), with a program of works by Mozart and Bruckner, led by guest conductor and CSO Principal Trombone **Jay Friedman**. The first half of the program features Mozart's energetic and celebratory Symphony No. 35 in D Major, K. 385 (*Haffner*), and concludes with the 1884-5 revised version of Bruckner's Symphony No. 7 in E Major, a memorial to Wagner's music and one of the composer's best-known symphonies.
- On [Monday, January 22, 2018, at 8 p.m.](#), following his CSO subscription series conducting debut the previous week, Venezuelan **Rafael Payare** makes his Civic podium debut as he leads the orchestra in a program of works by Bartók and Mahler. Bartók's Suite from *The Miraculous Mandarin*, Op. 19, is based on the grim story by Melchio Lengyl and depicts the disturbing experiences of modern urban existence and the dangers of materialism. The composer's signature use of rhythmic force and dissonance in the form of augmented octaves and minor seconds evokes emotions of confinement and discomfort. The program also includes Mahler's Symphony No. 1 in D Major, for which the composer borrowed themes from his earlier song cycle *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, or *Songs of a Wayfarer*.
- In addition to leading the CSO in subscription concerts that month, internationally acclaimed German conductor **Christoph Eschenbach** leads the Civic Orchestra on [Monday, February 26, 2018, at 8 p.m.](#) in a program of works by Wagner, Schoenberg and Brahms. Wagner's Overture to *Tannhäuser*, with its chorale-style Pilgrim's Chorus, opens the program, followed by Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony No. 1 in E Major, Op. 9, the composer's approach to a concise and brief symphony. The second half features Brahms' pastoral Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73.
- The CSO's third Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice, **Erina Yashima**, makes her second appearance leading the Civic Orchestra in a program to include works by Beethoven and Rachmaninov on [Monday, April 9, 2018, at 8 p.m.](#) Yashima, who made her podium debut with Civic last season, conducts Beethoven's Symphony No. 4 and Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2.
- **Ken-David Masur**, Assistant Conductor for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, returns for his second consecutive season to lead the Civic Orchestra in a program of works by Finnis, Strauss and Tchaikovsky on [Monday, April 30, 2018, at 8 p.m.](#) The program opens with Edmund Finnis' *The Air, Turning*. Finnis weaves instrumental lines against blocks of tonal colors, developing lattices of sound moving in waves to create subtly shifting harmonies. The program also includes Strauss' Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*, Op. 59, which opens with bellowing horns, becomes turbulent, and then proceeds to Viennese waltzes, and Tchaikovsky's great, final symphony, Symphony No. 6 in B Minor, Op. 74 (*Pathétique*), a work that explores the juxtaposition of life and death.
- In the midst of a CSO subscription series run that features the same work, **Emmanuel Krivine** leads the Civic Orchestra in an **open rehearsal** of Saint-Saens' Symphony No.

3 (*Organ*), featuring organist **Paul Jacobs**, on [Sunday, May 13, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.](#) In dedication to composer Franz Liszt, Saint-Saens' third and last symphony is considered the composer's biggest, most virtuosic work written at the artistic peak of his career.

- The Civic's 2017/18 season closes with **Francesco Lecce-Chong**, Music Director and Conductor of the Eugene Symphony, leading the Civic in a program of works by Bernstein and Holst on [Monday, June 4, 2018, at 8 p.m.](#) As part of a season-long survey of Bernstein works in recognition of the centennial of the composer's birth, the first half of the program includes Bernstein's programmatic Symphony No. 1 (*Jeremiah*), following the Biblical story of the prophet and featuring acclaimed mezzo-soprano Maya Lahyani. Closing the program is Holst's *The Planets*, an enduringly popular suite of seven movements depicting the astrological character and psychological influence of each planet. This performance features Chicago-based choral ensemble Bella Voce, whose artistic director is Andrew Lewis.

Prior to all Civic Orchestra concerts at Symphony Center, audience members can learn about that evening's program in free, guided conversations led by guest speakers and musical experts. The conversations begin 90 minutes prior to the performance in Grainger Ballroom. In the weeks following each Symphony Center concert, excerpts from the program are broadcast on WFMT 98.7 FM. See wfmt.com for a current schedule.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago and Yo-Yo Ma – DePauw University Residency

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago and Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma travel to DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., for a three-day residency that culminates in a performance by the Civic and Ma on Saturday, September 30, at 8 p.m., in the Kresge Auditorium at the Judson and Joyce Green Center for the Performing Arts on the DePauw University campus. **Edwin Outwater** will conduct a program of works by Debussy, Stravinsky and Golijov.

Opening the program is Debussy's well-known *Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun*, with its elusive harmonies and ambiguous tonalities depicting a flute-playing faun who is half man, half animal, seducing two sleeping nymphs in his dream. Following is Stravinsky's popular *Firebird* Suite, which was the composer's breakthrough piece that ultimately led to his collaboration with Diaghilev to produce *The Rite of Spring*, *Petrushka* and other major works. The second half of the program features Golijov's *Azul*. Contemplative, celestial and rich with cultural resonance, Golijov's aim was to create an environment resembling communal silence, with the orchestra serving as the mere "antenna" for the soloist, creating various background energies, auras and halos around the cello's music. *Azul* will feature Ma on cello, as well as Michael Ward-Bergeman on hyper-accordion and Jamey Haddad and Cyro Baptista on percussion.

In addition to the public concert on September 30, musicians from the Civic and DePauw University School of Music will present chamber concerts in community venues across the Greencastle, Ind., area on October 1.

Civic in the Community

Civic Orchestra of Chicago, with guidance from Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, celebrates the return of the annual **Bach Marathon** as they share the *Brandenburg* Concertos of J.S. Bach with audiences in schools and neighborhood venues and in a culminating concert at Fourth Presbyterian Church (126 E. Chestnut, Chicago) on [Thursday, November 30, at 7 p.m.](#) Conductor and guest harpsichordist **Nicholas Kraemer** joins the ensemble for the performance at Fourth Presbyterian Church (126 E. Chestnut St., Chicago). Launched in 2014, the event has become an anticipated tradition during the holiday season. The Bach Marathon represents one of several “artistic challenges” issued to the Civic Orchestra musicians this year by Ma.

On [Sunday, March 25, 2018, at 3 p.m.](#), the Civic Orchestra makes its 11th consecutive appearance at the **South Shore Cultural Center** (7059 S. South Shore Drive, Chicago), in Chicago’s historic South Shore neighborhood. Music Director of the Phoenix Symphony **Tito Muñoz** makes his Civic podium debut leading a program of American music by Bernstein, Ellington, Barber, Higdon and Copland. The program opens with an audience favorite, Leonard Bernstein’s Overture to *Candide*, and continues with select movements from Ron Collier’s orchestration of Duke Ellington’s Suite from *The River* and Samuel Barber’s Second Essay for Orchestra, Op. 17. The second half opens with Jennifer Higdon’s ethereal *blue cathedral* and Aaron Copland’s orchestral Suite from *Appalachian Spring*, which includes the familiar Shaker melody *Simple Gifts*.

The Civic Orchestra offers chamber concerts in neighborhoods across Chicago as part of its annual **Civic Chamber Music Series**. Performances take place between January and June each season. Performing ensembles and repertoire will be announced at a later date.

Civic Chamber Music Series concerts are free and are recommended for all audiences, including families with children ages 5 and up. The concerts are offered in a variety of accessible venues in a number of neighborhood locations including Indian Boundary Park, the National Museum of Mexican Art, Zhou B Art Center and the People’s Music School Uptown Academy.

Civic Fellows

Fourteen members of the Civic Orchestra have been appointed as Civic Fellows for the 2017/18 season and will participate in additional professional development activities throughout the year. The Fellowship program, which launched in fall 2014 with eight fellows, immerses the musicians in rigorous training that develops the participants’ skills and experiences in chamber music, teaching, community engagement and program planning. Fellow reflections on past events and information about upcoming events can be found on civicfellows.org.

CSO Craing-Maling Foundation Young Artist Competition

Since 1919, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Youth Auditions have featured extraordinary young soloists from across Illinois. Now known as the CSO Craing-Maling Foundation Young Artist Competition, this recently reimagined concerto competition identifies one outstanding young performer to be featured in a CSO School Concert during the 2017/18 season. This year's competition is open to pianists, and the four finalists will play one movement of a concerto onstage in Orchestra Hall, accompanied by the Civic Orchestra, in the final, public round. **Erina Yashima** conducts the orchestra for this year's finals on [Saturday, March 3, 2018, at 2 p.m.](#)

Supporters

The 2017/18 Civic Orchestra of Chicago season is generously sponsored by the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.

Major support for the Civic Orchestra of Chicago is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Nagaunee Foundation, Julian Family Foundation, Alphawood Foundation, Robert and Joanne Crown Income Charitable Fund, Barbara and Barre Seid Foundation, Michael G. Woll Fund at the Pauls Foundation, Ellen and Paul Gignilliat, and an anonymous donor.

Program & Ticket Details

All Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances at Symphony Center and in community locations are free, but tickets are required. Seating is general admission, and there is a nonrefundable \$5 per ticket service fee for all performances. There is a maximum of six tickets allowed per concert, per household.

Ticket reservations for Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances at Symphony Center can be made online at [cso.org](#), by phone at 312-294-3000 or in person at the CSO box office at 220 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604.

All Civic Chamber Music Series performances are free, and no tickets are required. For more information about the Civic Chamber Music Series concerts, please visit [cso.org](#) or call 312-294-3803.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

For more information about the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, visit [cso.org/civic](#).

Civic Orchestra of Chicago 2017/18 Performance Schedule and Program Listings available [here](#).

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Civic Orchestra of Chicago (cso.org/civic)

Since 1919, young artists have sought membership in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago to develop their talents and to further prepare for careers as professional musicians. Founded by Frederick Stock, second music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra is the only training orchestra of its kind affiliated with a major American orchestra.

The Civic Orchestra offers emerging professional musicians unique access to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) through immersive training with the musicians of the CSO and some of today's most sought-after conductors, including world-renowned CSO Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti. With additional guidance from CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, Civic Orchestra musicians develop as exceptional orchestral players and engaged artists, cultivating their ability to succeed in the rapidly evolving world of music in the twenty-first century.

The importance of the Civic Orchestra's role in Greater Chicago is underscored by its commitment to present concerts of the highest quality at no charge to the public. In addition to the critically acclaimed live concerts at Symphony Center, excerpts from Civic Orchestra performances at Symphony Center can be heard locally on WFMT (98.7 FM).

Civic musicians also expand their creative, professional, and artistic boundaries and reach diverse audiences through performances at Chicago Public Schools, "artistic challenges" led by Yo-Yo Ma, and a series of chamber concerts at various locations throughout the city including Chicago Park District field houses, the National Museum of Mexican Art, and Zhou B Art Center.

To further expand its musician training, the Civic Orchestra launched the Civic Fellowship program in the 2013–14 season. Now engaging fourteen members of the Civic Orchestra, Fellows participate in a rigorous curriculum above and beyond their orchestral activities that is designed to build and to diversify their creative and professional skills.

The Civic Orchestra's long history of presenting full orchestra performances without charge includes concerts at the South Shore Cultural Center (in partnership with the South Shore Advisory Council), the Apostolic Church of God, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, the New Regal Theater, Benito Juarez Community Academy, Senn High School, Schurz High School, Northside College Preparatory High School and Kenwood Academy.

The Civic Orchestra is a signature program of the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The Negaunee Institute offers a wide range of education and community programs that engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages, incomes, and backgrounds each year, in Chicago and around the world. For more information on the Institute and its programs, please visit cso.org/institute.

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.

Yo-Yo Ma (yo-yoma.com)

In 2009, Yo-Yo Ma was first appointed the Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) by Music Director Riccardo Muti. In this role, Mr. Ma provides musical leadership and guidance for the CSO's Negaunee Music Institute. Institute programs, which range from music and storytelling for audiences ages 3-5 to the Civic Orchestra, a pre-professional training ensemble now in its 97th year, have flourished under Ma's guidance, engaging a wide variety of audiences, students and communities in outstanding music-making.

Yo-Yo Ma's multifaceted career is testament to his continual search for new ways to communicate with audiences and for artistic growth and renewal. Whether performing a new concerto, revisiting a familiar work from the cello repertoire, coming together with colleagues for chamber music or exploring musical forms outside of the Western classical tradition, he strives to find connections that stimulate the imagination.

One of Ma's goals is the exploration of music as a means of communication and as a vehicle for the migration of ideas across a range of cultures throughout the world. Expanding upon this interest, in 1998, Ma established Silkroad, a nonprofit organization that works at the intersections between education, business, and the arts. In the 2006/07 season, partnering with the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the City of Chicago, Silkroad presented *Silk Road Chicago*, a citywide exploration of the artistic legacy of the ancient trade routes. In 2009/10, Silkroad introduced *Silk Road Connect*, a multidisciplinary educational initiative for New York City middle-school students.

Mr. Ma's discography of over 100 albums (including 18 Grammy Awards) reflects his wide-ranging interests. Ma's recent recordings include "The Goat Rodeo Sessions," with Edgar Meyer, Chris Thile and Stuart Duncan, which received the 2013 Grammy for Best Folk Album. Ma's most recent album, "Songs from the Arc of Life," with pianist Kathryn Stott, was released in September 2011. His most recent release, "Sing Me Home," recorded with the Silk Road Ensemble, was released in April 2016 as the companion album to documentary film *The Music of Strangers*. Created by Oscar-winning producer Morgan Neville, the film follows the Ensemble's more than 50 musicians, composers, visual artists and storytellers as they explore the ways art can both preserve traditions and shape cultural evolution.

Ma is strongly committed to educational programs that not only bring young audiences into contact with classical music but also allow them to participate in its creation. He has received numerous awards, including the Avery Fisher Prize (1978), the Glenn Gould Prize (1999), the National Medal of the Arts (2001), the Dan David Prize (2006) and the Sonning Prize (2006). In February 2010, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor, from President Obama. Yo-Yo Ma serves as a UN Messenger of Peace. He was also recognized as a 2011 Kennedy Center Honoree and a 2012 Polar Music Prize Laureate. Ma also serves as an honorary co-chair of the Campaign for Creative Schools, which was launched in October 2014 and supports an expanded arts program and arts education plan for Chicago Public Schools (CPS).

Born to Chinese parents living in Paris, Ma began to study the cello with his father at the age of four and, later with Leonard Rose at The Juilliard School. He graduated from Harvard University in 1976. He plays a 1733 Montagnana cello from Venice and the 1712 Davidoff Stradivarius.

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 pre-eminent 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 59 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 eight 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 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. 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.