



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

News

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Press Contact:
[Eileen Chambers](#), 312-294-3092

MUSIC DIRECTOR RICCARDO MUTI LEADS CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON EAST COAST TOUR

FEBRUARY 7-17, 2018

**Tour Programs Include Works by Verdi, Stravinsky, Mozart, Chausson, Brahms
and Britten and East Coast Premieres of New Works by
Two American Composers—Pulitzer Prize–Winner Jennifer Higdon and
CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Samuel Adams**

**The CSO’s Low Brass Join Muti and the CSO as Soloists in the Performances of
Jennifer Higdon’s Low Brass Concerto, Commissioned by the CSO**

**CSO Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson and Mezzo-Soprano Clémentine
Margaine Also Join Muti and the CSO as Soloists in Tour Concerts**

**Master Classes and Community Activities Presented by the
Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO Planned in Select Tour Cities**

**Tour Stops in Five Cities Include First Appearances for Muti and the CSO
Together at Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and Two Florida Venues;
Multi-Day Residency at Carnegie Hall in New York and a Return Appearance in
Chapel Hill, North Carolina**

CHICAGO—Music Director Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) embark on the second of two domestic tours during the 2017/18 season beginning on February 7, 2018, and continuing through February 17, 2018. This tour to the East Coast, as well as the Orchestra’s critically heralded tour to Kansas City and the West Coast in October 2017, are part of the 127th season.

The five-city, eight-concert East Coast tour opens on February 7 with a performance at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., presented by Washington Performing Arts. This represents the first appearance for Muti and the CSO together at The

RICCARDO MUTI
Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

Kennedy Center, as well as the Orchestra's first appearance at the venue since 2005 and Muti's first appearance at the venue since 2009. The concert also marks Muti's 350th concert leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since his podium debut in 1973. The tour continues with a two-day residency in New York City at Carnegie Hall on February 9 and 10, presented by Carnegie Hall. Next, Muti and the Orchestra mark their first appearances together at two venues in Florida: Frances Pew Hayes Hall in Naples on February 12, presented by Artis—Naples; and at the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach during a two-day residency on February 14 and 15, presented by the Kravis Center. Muti and the CSO return to Chapel Hill, North Carolina for the first time since 2015 to conclude the East Coast tour with a two-day residency on the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill campus on February 16 and 17, presented by Carolina Performing Arts.

Tour programs for the CSO's February 2018 tour feature a diverse set of works including Verdi's Overture to *I vespri siciliani*, Stravinsky's *Scherzo Fantastique*, Britten's Four Sea Interludes from *Peter Grimes*, and Brahms's Symphony No. 2, which was performed to critical acclaim as part of Muti and the Orchestra's October 2017 West Coast tour concerts and May 2017 subscription concerts featuring the complete Brahms symphonies in Chicago. Chausson's *Poème de l'amour et de la mer*, with mezzo-soprano Clémentine Margaine—who makes her CSO debut in February 2018 subscription performances of this work in Chicago—is featured on tour programs in New York (February 9), West Palm Beach, Florida (February 15) and Chapel Hill, North Carolina (February 16). CSO Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson, who performed Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with Muti and the CSO during several tour stops on the West Coast tour in October, performs the work on the East Coast tour in West Palm Beach, Florida on February 15.

New works by two American composers—Pulitzer Prize–winner Jennifer Higdon and CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Samuel Adams—are featured in the East Coast tour programs. Higdon's new Low Brass Concerto receives its East Coast premiere at Carnegie Hall on February 9. The new concerto is commissioned by the CSO and co-commissioned by the Philadelphia and Baltimore symphony orchestras and written for the Orchestra's renowned low brass section comprised of Jay Friedman (principal trombone), Michael Mulcahy (trombone), Charlie Vernon (bass trombone) and Gene Pokorny (principal tuba). The Higdon work is also featured on tour programs in Naples, Florida on February 12, in West Palm Beach, Florida on February 14 and in Chapel Hill, North Carolina on February 16. These performances follow the world premiere performances of the Low Brass Concerto on February 1-3, 2018, at Symphony Center in Chicago. The new CSO-commissioned work, *many words of love*, by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Samuel Adams receives its East Coast premiere in the tour's opening concert on February 7 at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. followed by additional performances in New York (February 10) and in Chapel Hill, North Carolina (February 17). These tour performances follow the work's world premiere by the CSO led by Riccardo Muti on March 16, 2017, at Symphony Center in Chicago.

Presented by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, a number of educational and engagement activities are planned during the tour. On February 9 and 10, CSO musicians

including Assistant Principal Viola Li-Kuo Chang, Principal Trombone Jay Friedman, Flute/Piccolo Jennifer Gunn, and Principal Timpani David Herbert lead master classes in the Resnick Education wing of Carnegie Hall featuring students from Juilliard and the Manhattan School of Music, as well as students from the National Youth Orchestra–USA. A CSO chamber ensemble is also scheduled to perform on February 10 at a venue in the community to be announced. As part of its two-day residency in West Palm Beach, Florida, members of the Chicago Symphony present the Once Upon a Symphony production of *Stone Soup* for the young students of Palm Beach Day Academy on February 15; also that day, an ensemble of CSO musicians offer free community chamber music performances at Palm Beach Day Academy and the Dreyfoos School for the Arts, where coaching sessions for the school's music students are also scheduled. Several CSO musicians are also planning a performance for patients at the Quantum House in the Palm Beach Children's Hospital.

After becoming music director in 2010, Muti first traveled domestically with the Orchestra in April 2011, appearing in New York's Carnegie Hall for performances that also featured the Chicago Symphony Chorus. Muti, the Orchestra and Chorus returned to Carnegie Hall in October 2012 and also in January and February 2015, each for three-performance residencies. In October 2015, Muti joined the Orchestra for a U.S. tour that included stops at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri; Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, Michigan; and a debut performance at Memorial Hall at the Carolina Performing Arts in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Muti and the CSO's East Coast tour follows their seven-city, 11-concert domestic tour in October 2017 to Kansas City and several stops in California including Berkeley, Costa Mesa, San Diego, Palm Desert, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. Tour highlights included debut performances for Muti and the CSO at the Granada Theater in Santa Barbara and at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, as well as a multi-day residency at UC Berkeley, which featured an open rehearsal and master classes with Muti and members of the CSO.

During the 2016/17 season, Muti and the CSO embarked on a tour to Europe in January 2017, marking the Orchestra's 60th international tour in its distinguished history and its 33rd tour to Europe. Tour highlights included debut appearances for Muti and the Orchestra at the new Philharmonie de Paris and at Hamburg's state-of-the-art Elbphilharmonie, with the CSO being the first foreign orchestra to perform in the new venue during its grand opening week. The landmark European tour also included the CSO's first appearance at Milan's Teatro alla Scala under Muti and a highly anticipated return to the Musikverein in Vienna.

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra has been touring—domestically and internationally—since the beginning of its history. First traveling to Canada in 1892, the Orchestra has since embarked on 60 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

For a chronological listing of the CSO's February 2018 tour dates and programs, click [here](#).

The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

Funding for Samuel Adams's *many words of love* comes from the Louise Durham Mead Fund.

Funding for Jennifer Higdon's Low Brass Concerto comes from the Edward F. Schmidt Family Commissioning Fund.

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Riccardo Muti

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. In 2017, Muti led the Orchestra of the Maggio Musicale in performances that were part of the historic G-7 Culture Summit which explored the use of culture as an instrument of dialogue among different peoples and nations.

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 now forty-five consecutive 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. Muti was also invited by the Orchestra to lead his fifth New Year's concert in 2018. 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. 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.

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.

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, and the gold medal from Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his promotion of Italian culture abroad. In March 2017, the Italian government recognized Muti with its prestigious *Presidente della Repubblica* award, presented to Muti for his exceptional contribution to Italian culture in the field of music. 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, including Chinese.

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 annual free concerts for the city of Chicago attract tens of thousands of people. 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.

<http://www.riccardomutimusic.com/>

Other Featured Artists for these Performances

[Samuel Adams](#), Mead Composer-in-Residence

[Jay Friedman](#), CSO Principal Trombone

Jennifer Higdon, Composer

[Clémentine Margaine](#), Mezzo-soprano

[Michael Mulcahy](#), CSO Trombone

[Charles Vernon](#), CSO Bass Trombone

[Stephen Williamson](#), CSO Principal Clarinet

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

Founded by Theodore Thomas 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. 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.