



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**MUSIC DIRECTOR RICCARDO MUTI LEADS
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON TOUR TO
KANSAS CITY AND WEST COAST**

OCTOBER 11-22, 2017

**Tour Programs Feature Symphonies by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms and
Bruckner, Rossini's *William Tell* Overture and a New Work by
CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek**

**CSO Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson joins Muti and the CSO for
Performances of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto for Five Tour Stops in California**

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

**Tour Includes Multi-Day Residency at UC Berkeley and Debut for Muti and the
CSO at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles**

CHICAGO—Music Director Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) embark on the first of two domestic tours during the 2017/18 season beginning on October 11, 2017. The tours to Kansas City and the West Coast in October 2017 and to the East Coast in February 2018 take place during the Orchestra's 127th season.

Launching with a return appearance at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri on October 11 presented by the Harriman-Jewell series, Muti and the CSO continue with a six-city tour of the U.S. West Coast that begins with a multi-day residency presented by Cal Performances at UC Berkeley (October 13-15). This is followed by stops in Costa Mesa at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts on October 16, presented by the Philharmonic Society of Orange County; San Diego at Copley Symphony Hall on October 18, presented by the La Jolla Music Society; and Palm Desert at the McCallum Theatre on October 19, presented by the Palm Springs Friends of Philharmonic. The tour concludes with CSO debut

RICCARDO MUTI
Music Director

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appearances at the Granada Theater in Santa Barbara on October 21, presented by Community Arts Music Association of Santa Barbara; and at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles on October 22, presented by the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association.

Repertoire for the CSO's October 2017 tour includes Rossini's *William Tell* Overture, Bruckner's Symphony No. 4 (*Romantic*), Schubert's Symphony No. 8 (*Unfinished*), Schumann's Symphony No. 2, Brahms Symphonies Nos. 2 and 3; and Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with CSO Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson, as soloist. Muti and the CSO performed the complete Brahms symphonies to critical acclaim in May 2017 at Symphony Center. Performances of Rossini's *William Tell* Overture, Schumann's Symphony No. 2 and Bruckner's Symphony No. 4 (*Romantic*) garnered praise from the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Musical America* and were part of Muti's programs that launched the CSO's 2017/18 season in September 2017. Also featured on the tour programs in Kansas City and Berkeley is *All These Lighted Things*, a CSO-commissioned work by Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek, which received its world premiere by the CSO led by Riccardo Muti on September 28, 2017 at Symphony Center.

Presented by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, a number of educational and engagement activities are planned during the tour. CSO musicians including Concertmaster Robert Chen, Assistant Principal Viola Li-Kuo Chang, CSO Principal Bass Alexander Hanna, CSO Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh, Trombone Michael Mulcahy, Flute/Piccolo Jennifer Gunn and Assistant Principal Clarinet John Bruce Yeh lead master classes on October 11 at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. The CSO's three-day residency at UC Berkeley includes a master class with the UC Berkeley Symphony led by CSO Music Director Riccardo Muti on October 12 at 6:30 p.m.; a Composer Colloquium featuring remarks by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek on October 13, at 3:00 p.m.; and an invited open rehearsal with Muti and the CSO for local students and campus musicians on October 14. The events at UC Berkeley are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. A free community chamber music performance featuring a quintet of CSO musicians (Hermigne Gagne and Cornelius Chiu, violins; Danny Lai viola; Daniel Katz, cello; and Dan Armstrong, bass) is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18 at the San Diego Public Library, Tierrasanta Branch (4985 La Cuenta Drive).

After becoming music director in 2010, Muti and the Orchestra—along with the Chicago Symphony Chorus—first traveled domestically to New York's Carnegie Hall in 2011. In 2012, Muti performed with the Orchestra as part of a California tour that included concerts at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa, Copley Symphony Hall in San Diego and a debut at McCallum Theater in Palm Desert. Muti and the CSO's most recent domestic tour took place in October 2015 with 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 most recent tour was to Europe in January 2017, marking the Orchestra's 60th international tour in its distinguished history and its 33rd tour to Europe. The tour included

concerts in Paris; Hamburg; Aalborg, Denmark; Milan; Vienna; Baden-Baden and Frankfurt. 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 in January 2017. 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 October 2017 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 Elizabeth Ogonek's *All These Lighted Things* comes from the Louise Durham Mead Fund.

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for the 2017/18 season.

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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. 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

[Elizabeth Ogonek, Mead Composer-in-Residence](#)

[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. 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.