



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**Photos Available By Request**

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## MUSIC DIRECTOR RICCARDO MUTI RETURNS IN APRIL FOR TWO WEEKS OF CSO SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS AND ACTIVITIES

APRIL 12–21, 2018

**Actor John Malkovich Makes CSO Debut as Narrator in  
Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* (April 12-17)**

**CSO Principal Harp Sarah Bullen is Soloist in Debussy's  
*Sacred and Profane Dances* (April 19-21)**

CHICAGO—Music Director Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago in April to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in two subscription concert programs and two invited open rehearsals. Muti and the CSO perform a program of works that embody the American spirit on [Thursday, April 12, at 8:00 p.m.](#), [Friday, April 13, at 8:00 p.m.](#), [Saturday, April 14, at 8:00 p.m.](#) and [Tuesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m.](#) In addition to Pulitzer Prize-winning African American composer George Walker's *Lyric for Strings* and Dvořák's *New World Symphony*, the program includes Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* featuring distinguished actor John Malkovich reciting the words of Abraham Lincoln. For the second program of Muti's April CSO residency the Women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, under the direction of Duain Wolfe, join Muti and the Orchestra to perform Debussy's *Nocturnes* in subscription concerts on [Thursday, April 19, at 8:00 p.m.](#), [Friday, April 20, at 1:30 p.m.](#) and [Saturday, April 21, at 8:00 p.m.](#) This program also features CSO Principal Harp Sarah Bullen as soloist in Debussy's *Sacred and Profane Dances* and concludes with Tchaikovsky's symphonic poem *Francesca da Rimini* and the Suite from *Swan Lake*, in performances that mark the conclusion of the CSO's season-long recognition of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tchaikovsky's death. Muti also leads two open rehearsals for invited groups during his April residency including an April 11 rehearsal open to CSOA donors and an April 18 rehearsal open to senior, community and veterans groups.

In the first program of his April CSO residency ([April 12-15 & 17](#)), Muti leads a program that

RICCARDO MUTI  
Music Director

HELEN ZELL  
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER  
President

YO-YO MA  
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

surveys a century of American music and music inspired by America. The program opens with Lyric for Strings by composer George Walker. Composed in 1946, the work was originally the middle movement to the composer's String Quartet No. 1 and titled "Lament" as an elegy to Walker's grandmother. The program continues with Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, featuring texts written by Abraham Lincoln. Copland's homage to one of America's most important historical figures includes stately, sweeping themes and quotations of American folk songs that offer a musical portrait of an individual life and a diverse nation. Completing the program is Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 (*From the New World*). One of Dvořák's most familiar works, the Ninth Symphony was written in 1893 during the Czech composer's expatriate years in the United States. Fascinated and influenced by traditional and folk music melodies that he found in his adopted country, the composer once described the symphony as his "impressions and greetings from the New World."

Muti's second April program ([April 19-21](#)) features celebrated works by Debussy and Tchaikovsky. The first half of the program opens with Debussy's *Nocturnes*. Inspired by the impressionistic paintings of American artist James McNeill Whistler, *Nocturnes* suggests scenes of a bustling festival and idyllic cloudscapes through colorful, atmospheric orchestration. CSO Principal Harp Sarah Bullen is the featured soloist in Debussy's Sacred and Profane Dances, a virtuosic showpiece for strings and harp. Appointed as Principal Harp of the CSO in 1997 by then-music director Daniel Barenboim, Bullen has performed more than 50 concertos during her career including performances with the CSO under Barenboim and Pierre Boulez and with the New York Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta and Erich Leinsdorf. Also an author and committed educator, Bullen was recognized by *Harp Column* magazine as one of the foremost harpists of the 20th century. The second half of the program opens with Tchaikovsky's *Francesca da Rimini*, a brooding, dramatic symphonic poem inspired by the story of the doomed lovers Francesca and Paolo in Dante's *Divine Comedy*, followed by the Suite from the ballet *Swan Lake*.

During his most recent CSO residency in March, Muti led the CSO in two subscription programs, an open rehearsal for invited community groups and a free open rehearsal with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. The first of these programs, presented March 15-17, featured works by Haydn and Mozart, including Mozart's Symphony No. 36 (*Linz*). This program was also performed at Wheaton College as part of the CSO's annual series at the venue in Chicago's west suburbs. The second program, presented March 22-24, included Weber's Overture to *Oberon* as well as the world premiere of Three Lisel Mueller Settings by CSO Viola Max Raimi, the third world premiere of a new work by a contemporary American composer led by Muti this season. These concerts also marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, which was featured in Schubert's Mass in E-flat Major.

Following his April CSO residency, Muti heads to Australia to lead the Australian World Orchestra in concerts at the Sydney Opera House and Hamer Hall, Melbourne on May 2, 4 and 5, featuring Brahms's Symphony No. 2 and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4. On May 17, Muti conducts the Orchestre National de France at Maison de la Radio in Paris, leading a program of works by Brahms and Schumann. Muti then returns to Paris to launch a European tour (May 25-

30) with the Cherubini Youth Orchestra that includes stops in Paris, Luxembourg, Geneva and Turin and features an all-Italian program featuring works by Catalani, Mascagni, Leoncavallo, Martucci, Giordano, Puccini and Verdi.

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 Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

United Airlines is the official airline of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The performances on April 19, 20 and 21 are supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The appearance of the Chicago Symphony Chorus is made possible by a generous gift from Jim and Kay Mabie.

Support for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chicago Symphony Chorus is provided by the Walter E. Heller Foundation in honor of Alyce DeCosta.

Tickets for all CSOA-presented concerts can be purchased by phone at **800-223-7114** or **312-294-3000**; online at **csso.org**, or at the Symphony center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

[Thursday, April 12, 2018, 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Friday, April 13, 2018, 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Saturday, April 14, 2018, 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 7:30 p.m.](#)

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

**John Malkovich**, narrator

WALKER

Lyric for Strings

COPLAND

*Lincoln Portrait*

DVOŘÁK

Symphony No. 9 (*From the New World*)

Tickets: \$55-280

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

[Thursday, April 19, 2018, 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Friday, April 20, 2018, 1:30 p.m.](#)

[Saturday, April 21, 2018, 8:00 p.m.](#)

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Riccardo Muti**, conductor  
**Sarah Bullen**, harp  
**Women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus**  
**Duain Wolfe**, chorus director

DEBUSSY	<i>Nocturnes</i>
DEBUSSY	<i>Sacred and Profane Dances</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	<i>Francesca da Rimini</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	Suite from <i>Swan Lake</i>

Tickets: \$36-250

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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**

[John Malkovich, narrator](#)

[Sarah Bullen, harp](#)

[Women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus](#)

[Duain Wolfe, chorus director](#)

**The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org) and [www.csosoundsandstories.org](http://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](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 eight 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. 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.