



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

News

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Press Contacts:

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

Photos Available By Request

PR@CSO.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR RICCARDO MUTI RETURNS IN NOVEMBER TO LEAD CONCERTS WITH THE CSO AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 15–21, 2017

**Muti Leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in works by Puccini,
Richard Strauss and the Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1 with
Kirill Gerstein as soloist (November 16, 17, 18, & 21)**

**Muti Brings the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to Lane Tech College Prep
High School for the CSO's Annual Community Concert (November 15)**

CHICAGO—Music Director Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago in November for his second Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) residency of the 2017/18 season. Muti and the CSO appear in subscription concerts on [Thursday, November 16, at 8:00 p.m.](#), [Friday, November 17, at 1:30 p.m.](#), [Saturday, November 18, at 8:00 p.m.](#), and [Tuesday, November 21, at 7:30 p.m.](#) The program includes the CSO's first performances of Puccini's *Preludio sinfonico* and the Orchestra's first performances in more than a decade of Richard Strauss's Suite from *Le bourgeois gentilhomme* with Kirill Gerstein as the featured pianist. Gerstein also joins Muti and the CSO for Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1 in performances that mark his first appearances with Muti and the Orchestra since 2015 in Scriabin's *Prometheus, The Poem of Fire*.

On [Wednesday, November 15, at 7:30 p.m.](#), Muti and the CSO travel to Chicago's North Side to Lane Tech College Prep High School for a free concert. The program features Schubert's Symphony No. 8 (*Unfinished*) and Brahms's Symphony No. 2, two works performed during the Orchestra's October 2017 domestic tour. Since becoming music director in 2010, Muti has led free, annual CSO community concerts each year in different venues across the Chicago area including Millennium Park's Pritzker Pavilion, The Apostolic Church of God on Chicago's South

RICCARDO MUTI
Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

Side and Morton East High School in Cicero. This year's concert at Lane Tech marks the eighth event of its kind since the beginning of Muti's tenure as music director.

In advance of the concert, CSO musicians will participate in educational activities with band and orchestra students at Lane Tech supported by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO. On November 10, a CSO chamber ensemble led by CSO bass Bradley Opland will perform a program of diverse repertoire for music students at the school. On November 13, Assistant Concertmaster Yuan-Qing Yu and Assistant Principal Clarinet John Bruce Yeh lead master classes with Lane Tech students.

Also on November 15, Muti leads a CSO rehearsal open to donors and community groups including the CSO's newly formed African American Network.

The November subscription program opens with Puccini's *Preludio sinfonico*. Written in 1882 while Puccini was still a student at the conservatory in Milan, it is one of the few symphonic works he composed before turning almost exclusively to opera. Filled with rich harmonies, exquisitely crafted melodies and sense of movement, the piece points to a unique musical mastery which found its full potential in the musical dramas of Puccini's many popular operas.

Next on the program is Richard Strauss's nine-movement Suite from *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*, a charming showpiece for chamber orchestra, inspired by Molière's comedic play of the same. Drawing upon musical styles of its Baroque-era setting, the suite depicts vignettes of Molière's social-climbing protagonist dancing, fencing, and dining among an unwelcoming aristocracy. The work includes several solo parts which feature CSO principal players throughout the ensemble including violin, cello and clarinet, as well as a substantial piano part, which features Kirill Gerstein as soloist in these performances.

The program concludes with Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1. Completed when Brahms was only 25, the bold, large-scale concerto was his first major orchestral work to be performed publicly, and among the first to gain audience approval. From the thrilling timpani roll and powerful theme that open the concerto, to the musical meditation of its middle movement and electrifying rondo that serves as the work's finale, Brahms displays a new command of his rich musical language in this concerto.

Renowned pianist Kirill Gerstein has proven to be one of today's most intriguing and versatile musicians. His early training and experience in jazz has contributed an important element to his interpretive style, inspiring an energetic and expressive musical personality that distinguishes his playing. Gerstein has received several awards for his artistry, including the First Prize at the 2001 Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition, a 2010 Avery Fisher Grant, and the prestigious Gilmore Artist Award. Recent engagements have included performances with the Los Angeles and New York Philharmonics, and he has performed with the Berlin Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Weimar Symphony Orchestra, and the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo. Gerstein has recorded several records for Myrios Classics, including the 2014 album *Imaginary*

Pictures and a 2010 recording of works by Schumann, Liszt and Oliver Knussen, both of which were chosen by *The New York Times* as a best recording of the year. His latest recording of Liszt's *Transcendental Etudes* was released in September 2016. An American citizen since 2003, Gerstein now divides his time between the United States and Germany.

A post-concert CD signing with Kirill Gerstein is open to all CSO patrons and takes place on November 18 in Grainger Ballroom.

Following his first CSO residency in September 2017, Muti returned to Chicago in October to join the Orchestra for the first of [two domestic tours](#) in the 2017/18 season. Launching on October 11 in Kansas City, Missouri at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, the tour continued on to the West Coast where Muti and the Orchestra performed in six California cities—Berkeley, for a multi-day residency of concerts and engagement activities (October 13-15); Costa Mesa in Orange County (October 16); San Diego (October 18); Palm Desert (October 19); Santa Barbara (October 21); and Los Angeles for Muti and the Orchestra's debut in Walt Disney Concert Hall (October 22). Muti led the Orchestra in three tour programs that featured works by Rossini, Bruckner, Schubert, Schumann and Brahms, as well as the Mozart Clarinet Concerto with CSO Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson as soloist and a new work, *All These Lighted Things*, by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek. The tour performances garnered exceptional critical acclaim for Muti and the Orchestra with *San Francisco Chronicle* critic Joshua Kosman making note of what he called a "full-throttle concert... and "a powerfully inspiring bulletin on the state of things in the Windy City." And, Mark Swed of *The Los Angeles Times* hailing the Orchestra's arrival in California saying "Chicago lands with grandeur."

During the fall tour, NASA released information about a main-belt asteroid that was recently named for Riccardo Muti. Discovered on Nov. 1, 1996, by Italian scientist V.S. Casulli at Colleverde Observatory in Guidonia Montecelio, Italy, about 14 miles northeast of Rome, the asteroid has been named 37735 Riccardomuti. The asteroid, which is 2.248 kilometers in diameter, was last observed on May 6, 2017. It has an absolute magnitude (the measure of a celestial object's luminosity) of 14.8 H (the more luminous an object, the smaller its AM numerical value) and an orbital period of 3.57 years. Main-belt asteroids move between the orbits of the planets Mars and Jupiter.

Following the tour, Muti returned to Europe to lead performances of the Verdi Requiem with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and soloists at Munich's Herkulesaal and the Cologne Philharmonie, including a performance on All Soul's Day, November 2.

Muti, who has a longstanding relationship with the Vienna Philharmonic, is featured on the new Deutsche Grammophon recording which was released on October 27 and includes performances of Bruckner's Symphony No. 2 and the Suite from *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* by Richard Strauss. On January 1, 2018, Muti leads the Vienna Philharmonic in their annual New Year's concert at the Musikverein. This marks the fifth time that Muti will conduct the New Year's concert in Vienna after previous appearances in 1993, 1997, 2000 and 2004. The New

Year's concert with Muti and the Vienna Philharmonic will be broadcast in more than 90 countries. In Chicago, the New Year's concert will air on WTTW-Channel 11 on January 1, 2018 at 8 p.m. in a *Great Performances* television broadcast.

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.

CSO Tuesday series concerts are sponsored by United Airlines.

The November 16, 17 and 18 performances are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The CSO Community Concert and related educational activities with CSO musicians are presented in part by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO in partnership with Lane Tech College Prep High School.

Tickets for all CSOA-presented concerts can be purchased by phone at **800-223-7114** or **312-294-3000**; online at **cso.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
Community Concert**
Lane Tech College Prep
High School
2501 W. Addison
Chicago, IL

[Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 7:30 p.m.](#)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

SCHUBERT Symphony No. 8 in B Minor, D. 759 (*Unfinished*)
BRAHMS Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

Tickets: This performances is free, but tickets are required.
Space is limited and tickets are subject to availability.
More information at cso.org.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

[Thursday, November 16, 2017, 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Friday, November 17, 2017, 1:30 p.m.](#)

[Saturday, November 18, 2017, 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Tuesday, November 21, 2017, 7:30 p.m.](#)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

Kirill Gerstein, piano

PUCCINI

Preludio sinfonico

R. STRAUSS

Suite from *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*

BRAHMS

Piano Concerto No. 1

Tickets: \$34-\$221

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

[Kirill Gerstein](#)

About Lane Tech College Prep

Lane Tech College Prep, Chicago's first selective enrollment high school, was established in 1908 and has upheld a tradition of excellence for 110 years. Located on Chicago's north side, Lane sits on 33 beautiful acres and currently enrolls over 4,500 students in grades 7-12, making it the largest high school in Chicago. Students come from Chicago's diverse neighborhoods to form a community of learners. Lane's 250 faculty and staff collaborate with parents and the school community to provide a challenging and rigorous college prep curriculum, focusing on both STEM programming as well as fine arts. In

addition, Lane Tech is known as the "School of Champions" for its powerful athletics programs and records.

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.