



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION REVIEWS ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 126th SEASON AND ANNOUNCES OPERATING RESULTS

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) released the results of fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017) at its Annual Meeting on November 1, 2017, at Symphony Center. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra marked its 126th season in 2016/17 with a number of significant artistic achievements and moments of community engagement, as well as substantial ticket sales, according to Helen Zell, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and CSOA President Jeff Alexander, who presented the artistic and financial highlights of the season. During the business portion of the meeting, six new CSOA Trustees were elected to three-year terms and officers of the CSOA board were re-elected, including Helen Zell as Board Chair.

“The Orchestra’s 126th season reminded us that the language of music is universal, and the voice of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra speaks volumes,” noted CSOA Board Chair Helen Zell. “Our remarkable Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti is a leader who champions the transformative power of music. He imparts that fervor to the members of the Orchestra, who in turn communicate that energy to our audiences at home and abroad. Our work continues in order to ensure that that the voice of the CSO can impact the lives of individuals, our community and the world. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to express our gratitude to our music director, musicians, patrons, staff, donors and volunteers for their exceptional commitment to the CSO during the past year.”

“The 126th season marked a year of extraordinary musical collaboration between Riccardo Muti and the musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra,” said CSOA President Jeff Alexander. “Receiving exceptional critical accolades for their 60th international tour to seven European cities and enthusiastic applause from audiences at its downtown home at Symphony Center as well as venues on Chicago’s South Side and in the Western suburbs, Muti and the Orchestra continue to share music making at the highest artistic level, all the while maintaining a deep commitment to providing access to all audiences.”

During the 2016/17 season, the CSOA presented more than 420 programs including concerts, community events and educational activities. The season included 46 sold out concerts and nine world premieres across the CSO Main series and MusicNOW contemporary music series,

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

and the launch of a new, three-concert series featuring the CSO at Wheaton College,. The CSO's Latino Alliance marked its fifth year and the African American Network was launched, with 925 patrons joining in its inaugural year. Audiences beyond Chicago accessed the programs of the CSO through radio broadcasts, recordings, tours and online platforms.

In 2016/17, digital audiences continued to engage with the CSO via popular social media platforms with Facebook followers numbering 181,500, Twitter followers numbering 72,000 and Instagram followers numbering more than 50,000. The CSO's YouTube channel, one of its most significant content hubs, houses one the Orchestra's most popular videos to date—Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 which surpassed 6.6 million views at the end of the 2016/17 season.

At the close of the 2016/17 season, more than 12,040 individuals gave support to the CSO through philanthropy. Of those, 8,972 supported the Annual Fund, including nearly 3,263 new donors and 1,731 reinstated lapsed donors, an increase of more than 35% over the prior season's reinstated donor total.

Ticket Sales and Earned Revenue for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

- Ticket sales totaled nearly \$22.2 million for 221 CSOA-presented events in a wide variety of venues. 2016/17 sales included 46 sold out concerts and record ticket revenues for the CSO at the Movies series of \$465,000, a 12% increase over the previous year.
- The new CSO three-concert series at Wheaton College attracted 1,361 subscribers in its first year and included a sold-out concert in March 2017 featuring Riccardo Muti with the CSO and acclaimed pianist Mitsuko Uchida.
- More than 348,000 tickets were sold for 221 ticketed concerts.
- The CSO Main series subscription renewal rate in FY17 was 90%, one of the highest rates for a major U.S. orchestra.
- In addition to ticket revenue, other revenue of \$9 million was earned from tour fees, merchandise sales, space rentals, royalties, recording fees and miscellaneous activities.
- Approximately 426,000 people attended CSOA performances and presentations at Symphony Center and in other venues in the greater Chicago area last season including Holy Name Cathedral, Edman Memorial Chapel at Wheaton College and St. Sabina Church. There were 200 free events that included CSO open rehearsals for students, seniors and community groups, All-Access chamber music concerts at Symphony Center and in three venues on Chicago's South Side, Chicago Youth in Music Festival events, partnership events with Chicago Public Schools, and programs for at-risk and incarcerated youth as well as the annual free CSO Community Concert at Apostolic Church of God in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood, Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances and chamber music performances by CSO and Civic musicians in neighborhoods across the city.

* Figures exclude CSO concerts at Ravinia Festival or on tour anywhere outside the Chicago area.

Contributed Revenues for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

- Overall, during the 2016/17 season, support for general operating, endowment, future year operating support and unrealized commitments totaled \$31.5 million.
- General operating support to the CSO was \$25.2 million. This total included approximately \$17.1 million in gifts from individuals, more than \$3.3 million from corporate sponsorships and partnerships, more than \$1.8 million in grants from foundations and government agencies, and \$3 million from in-kind contributions and unrestricted bequests in direct support of the CSO's operations.

Financial Information for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

- Operating revenues totaled \$70.8 million.
- Operating expenses totaled \$72.2 million, resulting in an operating deficit of \$1.4 million, or 1.9% of operations.

Endowment

- The value of endowment investments increased to \$292 million.
- Total assets at year-end were \$500 million, and net assets were \$267 million, continuing to provide the foundation for artistic excellence, audience development and engagement and education initiatives.

Artistic Highlights for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

In his remarks reviewing the artistic highlights of the 2016/17 season, CSOA President Jeff Alexander made particular note of programs led by Riccardo Muti which introduced audiences to works that were performed by the CSO for the first time.

In the Orchestra's 126th season this included an opening program featuring American mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato in her CSO debut performing Giuseppe Martucci's orchestral song cycle *La canzone dei ricordi* (The Song of Memories). Also on that program, Muti led the first performances of Alfredo Catalani's *Contemplazione*, which was also part of the Orchestra's acclaimed tour programs in Europe in January 2017.

Muti's commitment to sharing works of great power and beauty with CSO audiences extended to the first CSO performances of Prokofiev's *Ivan the Terrible*, music written for the epic film by legendary Russian director Sergei Eisenstein. These performances, featuring acclaimed film and stage actor Gerard Depardieu as Ivan, mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, Mikhail Petrenko, the Chicago Children's Choir and Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by Duain Wolfe. *Ivan the*

Terrible was one of several moments in the season that recognized the 125th birthday of Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev and included other performances of orchestral works as well as works for ballet and cinema. To close the season, Muti led the CSO's first performances of Boito's Prologue to *Mefistofele* featuring bass Riccardo Zanellato with the Chicago Symphony Chorus and Chicago Children's Choir. These critically heralded performances were part an extraordinary program of Italian opera masterworks that also included famous choruses, overtures and interludes by Verdi, Mascagni and Puccini.

Muti also led the world premiere performances of *many words of love*, a CSO-commissioned orchestral work by Mead Composer-in-Residence Samuel Adams in March 2017. This was one of four world premiere works performed by the Orchestra in the 2016/17 season, which also included the premiere of Esa-Pekka Salonen's Cello Concerto led by the composer and featuring Yo-Yo Ma as soloist; *Five Hallucinations*, a concerto written for CSO trombone Michael Mulcahy by Australian composer Carl Vine; and *Proceed Moon* by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer Melinda Wagner. Five more world premieres, including a new violin concerto entitled *In Silence* by Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek, were part of the CSO's four-concert contemporary music series, MusicNOW, which is co-curated by Adams and Ogonek.

The 2016/17 season held several landmark moments for the Orchestra. These included a 125th birthday concert which served as the annual Symphony Ball program on October 16, 2017 and provided a thrilling conclusion to the various celebrations of the Orchestra's 125th season in 2015/16. For this birthday concert, Muti and the CSO recreated the Orchestra's first program from 1891 that included Wagner's *A Faust Overture*, Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1—featuring internationally acclaimed Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov, as soloist—and Dvořák's *Husitská Overture*. Muti and the CSO also returned to the Woodlawn neighborhood on Chicago's South Side for the season's free community concert at Apostolic Church of God performing an all-Beethoven program for a capacity audience during Muti's first residency of the season. In February 2017, Muti and members of the CSO performed Haydn's *The Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross* at Holy Name Cathedral. The performance of the nine-movement liturgical work included readings of passages from all four of the Gospels and reflections on the passages by Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago.

Other programming highlights for Muti and the Orchestra included a season-long survey of Beethoven's complete piano concertos with the third, fourth and fifth concertos being featured on CSO subscription concerts with soloists Yefim Bronfman, Mitsuko Uchida and Radu Lupu, respectively. Pianists Emanuel Ax and Richard Goode were featured in performances of the first and second piano concertos in performances with the CSO and with the Budapest Festival Orchestra, respectively. And, for two weeks in May 2017, CSO audiences traversed the rich symphonic landscape of composer Johannes Brahms in a critically acclaimed survey of Brahms's symphonies (Nos. 1-4) led by Muti.

The Orchestra also welcomed conductor James Levine back to the podium for his long-awaited

subscription concert debut at Orchestra Hall in November 2016. Levine, who led the CSO as music director at the Ravinia Festival (1973-1993), on numerous recordings—including several Grammy® Award winners—and in special concerts at Orchestra Hall in 1983 and 2005, returned to lead the CSO in a critically acclaimed program that included Mozart's Symphony No. 31, Schoenberg's Five Pieces for Orchestra and Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*. In April 2017, guest conductor Charles Dutoit launched a two-week CSO residency with a program that included the U.S. premiere of a newly rediscovered work by Igor Stravinsky, *Funeral Song (Pogrebal'naya Pesnya)*.

Beyond Chicago, Muti and the Orchestra completed a European tour—the CSO's 60th international tour—in January 2017. The historic tour included debut appearances for Muti and the Orchestra in the Philharmonie de Paris, Teatro alla Scala in Milan and Hamburg's new Elbphilharmonie in a concert that represented the first performance by a foreign ensemble in the venue's Grand Opening week. Additional stops on the seven-city, 11-concert tour included those in Aalborg, Denmark; Frankfurt, Baden-Baden and Vienna with special educational and community engagement activities taking place in three cities during the tour.

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) programming during the 2016/17 season highlighted extraordinary artists and musical artistry through its Piano, Chamber Music, Orchestras and Jazz series, as well as a number of Special Concerts.

Significant programs included a SCP Special Concert that brought together the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO) with Wynton Marsalis for a world premiere performance of a new arrangement of Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition* to conclude a multi-day residency with JLCO. Additionally, New Orleans jazz legend Dr. John made his SCP jazz series debut in his *Spirit of Satch* project honoring trumpeter Louis Armstrong and an evening-long tribute to jazz piano icon Oscar Peterson welcomed an all-star roster of pianists including Ramsey Lewis and Kenny Barron to perform.

The SCP Piano series saw the return of pianist Daniil Trifonov, the critically acclaimed Chicago debut of Igor Levit and a sensational duo-piano program featuring Leif Ove Andsnes and Marc-André Hamelin. The SCP Chamber Music series presented a much-anticipated return of violinist Gidon Kremer with his Kremerata Baltica and cellist Yo-Yo Ma with bassist Edgar Meyer and mandolinist Chris Thile in an all-Bach program. And, in a highlight of the Orchestras series, the Cleveland Orchestra returned to Orchestra Hall after an absence of 15 years. An SCP Special Concert in January 2017 also represented a first-time collaboration with American Public Media to host a live broadcast of *A Prairie Home Companion* with its new host, Chris Thile during the show's national tour.

In the 2016/17 season, the CSO at the Movies enjoyed record ticket sales overall in response to a three-program series which included Steven Spielberg's *E.T. The Extra Terrestrial*, Milos Forman's *Amadeus* featuring the music of W. A. Mozart and Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*.

The CSO Resound label released two new recordings in 2016/17 including the September 2016

release *Schoenberg: Kol Nidre and Shostakovich: Suite on Verses of Michelangelo Buonarroti*. The seventh recording with Riccardo Muti, it captured live performances in Orchestra Hall from 2012 with Russian bass Ildar Abdrazakov joining the Orchestra for the Shostakovich and the Chicago Symphony Chorus (prepared by Duain Wolfe) and tenor Alberto Mizrahi, a leading interpreter of Jewish music, for the Schoenberg. Muti and the Orchestra's recording of Bruckner's formidable Symphony No. 9—Muti's eighth on the Resound label—was released in June 2017 to widespread critical acclaim. Special video content with CSO musicians discussing Bruckner's music increased visibility for the new recording via social media and online sales channels such as iTunes and Apple Music.

Educational and engagement activities for 2016/17 were supported by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO and included more than 200 free events connecting young musicians, students and community members to the musical resources of the CSO.

These events took place at Symphony Center, in schools and community venues across Chicago and on tour. Institute programming included an interactive recital for more than 40 young men at the Illinois Youth Center in Chicago featuring performances by Riccardo Muti with renowned singers Eric Owens and Joyce DiDonato, as well as CSO musicians; an open rehearsal led by Riccardo Muti during the annual Youth in Music Festival; the annual Bach Marathon with participation by Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma and musicians of the Civic Orchestra; and in-school partnerships with CPS schools including Disney Magnet School and Kenwood Academy, where Ma and musicians of the Civic Orchestra participated in special culminating programs. The Institute was also instrumental in organizing a Concert for Peace at St. Sabina Church with participation by Yo-Yo Ma, as well as musicians of the CSO and Civic Orchestra and Chicago Children's Choir.

CSOA Trustees, Governing Members and Officers Elected

- Six new CSOA Trustees were elected to three-year terms: Leslie Henner Burns, former futures trader at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange; Christopher L. Culp, senior advisor at Compass Lexecon; Donna Kendall, philanthropist and former fashion designer; James P. Kolar, PricewaterhouseCoopers' Central Market Managing Partner; Renée Metcalf, Market Executive of Illinois Middle Market for Bank of America, and; Mary Pivrotto Murley, volunteer and philanthropist.
- Four new CSOA Life Trustees were also elected: William "Bill" Adams IV, recently retired Co-president of Nuveen; Robert A. Kohl, President of Robert Kohl Company; John F. Manley, private investor, and; David E. McNeel, Senior Advisor at PrivateBank.
- Nine Trustees were reelected to additional 3-year terms, and 38 new Governing Members were installed. Special acknowledgement was given to 28 individuals who have served on the CSOA Board of Trustees for 30 years or more.
- The following individuals were elected as officers of the CSOA: Helen Zell, Chair; Mary Louise Gorno, Robert A. Kohl and Liisa Thomas, Vice Chairs; and James W. Mabie, Treasurer.

- A moment of silence was observed for those trustees who passed away during the 2016/17 season: Melvyn E. Bergstein, W. Robert Reum and John M. Richman.
- New donors now listed on the CSOA's donor wall were recognized in remarks by CSOA Board Chair Helen Zell.

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.