



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION'S
SYMPHONY BALL SERVES AS FESTIVE FINALE FOR
RICCARDO MUTI'S OPENING RESIDENCY OF THE 2018/19 SEASON**

**Gala Concert Program Highlights include a selection of Brahms' Hungarian
Dances and works by Puccini, Josef Strauss and Johann Strauss Jr.**

**Celebrated pianist David Fray joins Muti and the CSO for
Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24**

Saturday, October 6, 2018, at 7 p.m.

CHICAGO— The Women's Board of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) and the Symphony Ball Committee host Symphony Ball, the CSOA's largest annual fundraiser, on [Saturday, October 6, at 7 p.m.](#) Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in a festive gala concert program that includes works by Brahms, Puccini, Josef Strauss and Johann Strauss Jr. Celebrated pianist David Fray also joins Muti and the Orchestra as soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24.

Symphony Ball 2018 is presented by the Women's Board of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, Elizabeth A. Parker, president. For this year's Symphony Ball, CSOA Women's Board member Leigh Ann Herman and her husband Casey Herman serve as Chairs and CSOA Trustee Donna L. Kendall and CSOA Life Trustee David E. McNeel serve as Co-Chairs. Former CSOA Board Chair and Life Trustee Richard Thomas and his wife Helen Thomas receive recognition as honorees for their longtime support for the symphony during the evening's program. Northern Trust is the presenting sponsor of Symphony Ball.

Red-carpet arrivals precede the concert as guests are greeted with live music performed by musicians of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. All concertgoers can toast the opening of the

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

season at a festive reception throughout Symphony Center. Immediately following the concert program in Orchestra Hall, gala ticketholders proceed to the historic Palmer House Hilton for a black-tie affair that includes a gala dinner, silent auction, special tribute to honor Richard and Helen Thomas and dancing to the music of the Maggie Speaks band Talk of the Town. The centerpiece of Symphony Ball is the evening's CSO concert in Orchestra Hall, led by Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti. The delightful concert program opens with a selection of Brahms' Hungarian dances, which feature characteristically mercurial and spirited Hungarian and Slavonic folk melodies. The program continues with Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24 in C Minor featuring David Fray as soloist. The *Chicago Tribune* says, "Fray is poetry on the keyboard." Following these selections are Puccini's Intermezzo to Act III from *Manon Lescaut* and Viennese waltzes including Josef Strauss' *Sphärenklänge (Music of the Spheres)* Waltz and Johann Strauss Jr.'s magnificent waltz medley *Rosen aus dem Süden (Roses from the South)* Waltz which incorporates melodies from his operetta *Das Spitzentuch der Königin (The Queen's Lace Handkerchief)*.

Tickets for all CSOA-presented events 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. Tickets for the Gala can be purchased by phone at 312-294-3185 or email at symphonyball@cso.org.

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

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Northern Trust is the Presenting Sponsor of Symphony Ball.

Other notable corporate supporters include Abbott, ITW, Kirkland & Ellis, Sidley Austin, Allstate Insurance Company, BMO Harris Bank, Bulgari, CIBC, Financial Economics Consulting, Jenner & Block, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Magellan Development Group, Mayer Brown, PricewaterhouseCoppers, McDermott Will and Emery, PNC Bank, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, Fifth Third Bank, Latham & Watkins, McKinsey & Company, Oxford Bank & Trust and William Blair.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Special Concert**

Saturday, October 6, 7:00 p.m.
Symphony Ball
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor
David Fray, piano

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| BRAHMS | Hungarian Dance No. 1 |
| BRAHMS | Hungarian Dance No. 3 |
| BRAHMS | Hungarian Dance No. 10 |
| BRAHMS | Hungarian Dance No. 5 |

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 24
PUCCINI Intermezzo to Act 3 from
Manon Lescaut
JOSEF STRAUSS *Sphärenklänge (Music of the Spheres)*
Waltz
JOHANN STRAUSS, JR. *Rosen aus dem Süden*
(Roses from the South) Waltz
Tickets: \$40-\$210 concert only; \$1,000-\$50,000, concert and
post-concert gala ticket packages. For further information on
purchasing Symphony Ball gala tickets, call 312-294-3185.

Featured Artist for this Performance:

[David Fray, piano](#)

Riccardo Muti (<http://www.riccardomutimusic.com/>)

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.

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 pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-in-Residence and Erina Yashima is the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice.

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.