



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**EDWARD GARDNER MAKES CSO SUBSCRIPTION DEBUT IN
PROGRAM OF WORKS BY WAGNER, STRAUSS, AND NIELSEN**

Soprano Erin Wall is Featured as Soloist in Strauss' *Four Last Songs*

**Concert also features Nielsen's *Symphony No. 4 (The Inextinguishable)*,
part of CSOA's *A Time for Reflection—A Message of Peace* Programming**

Gardner Makes Civic Orchestra Podium Debut on December 12

December 6, 7, 8 & 11

CHICAGO—Edward Gardner, Chief Conductor of the Bergen Philharmonic, makes his subscription series debut at Symphony Center in performances on [Thursday, December 6, at 8:00 p.m.](#), [Friday, December 7, at 1:30 p.m.](#), [Saturday, December 8, at 8:00 p.m.](#) and [Tuesday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m.](#) The program includes Wagner's Overture to *Rienzi* and Strauss' *Four Last Songs*, featuring Soprano Erin Wall, as well as Nielsen's World War I-era *Symphony No. 4 (The Inextinguishable)*. The concerts are part of the CSOA's season-long programming, *A Time for Reflection—A Message of Peace*. Gardner also makes his Civic Orchestra of Chicago podium debut in a concert on [Wednesday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m.](#) with a program of works by Janáček, Lutosławski and Ravel.

The CSO program opens with the Overture to Wagner's opera, *Rienzi*. Displaying the orchestral brilliance and dazzling melodies of grand opera, the musical elements in the overture evoke the rousing story of the opera's hero, a young Roman populist who vows to lead Rome back to greatness. The program continues with Richard Strauss' *Four Last Songs*, one of the composer's most enduring works that contemplates life and love in radiant settings of four poems for soprano and orchestra—*Frühling*, *September*, *Beim Schlafengehen* and *Im Abendrot*.

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

The program concludes with Danish composer Carl Nielsen's Fourth Symphony (*The Inextinguishable*). "Music is life, and, like life, inextinguishable," wrote Nielsen when he completed the work in 1916, in the midst of the First World War. The music of this symphony is gripping, dramatic and poignant and the composer's use of tonality shifts in unexpected and thrilling ways. Taking a cue from the war-torn times around him, Nielsen also created an epic musical "battle" between two timpanists in the final movement, bringing the work to a memorable conclusion.

More information about CSOA-presented programs connected to *A Time for Reflection—A Message of Peace* is available at <https://csosoundsandstories.org/complete-schedule-of-events-for-a-season-of-peace/>.

Since October 2015, English conductor Edward Gardner has been the Chief Conductor of the Bergen Philharmonic, leading them on multiple international tours. Gardner is in great demand as a guest conductor, and has appeared with orchestras such as Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra and Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin. He has ongoing relationships with La Scala, Opéra National de Paris and New York's Metropolitan Opera, and was music director of English National Opera for ten years. An exclusive Chandos recording artist, Gardner's award-winning discography features music by Grieg, Walton, Bartók and Schoenberg. Gardner made his CSO debut in 2017 at the Ravinia Festival.

Acclaimed for her musicality and versatility, Canadian soprano Erin Wall has sung leading roles in many of the world's great opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala and Lyric Opera of Chicago, and appears in concert with leading maestri and symphony orchestras worldwide. Wall began her professional career in 2001 as a member of the Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and has since appeared with Lyric Opera as Marguerite in *Faust*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Konstanze in *Die Entführung auf dem Serail* and Antonia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. Among Wall's award-winning discography, her recording of Mahler's Eighth Symphony with the San Francisco Symphony in 2009 conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas earned a Grammy Award. Wall last appeared with the CSO and Chorus under Music Director Riccardo Muti in 2016 in a performance of Bruckner's *Te Deum*.

In addition to his concerts with the CSO, Gardner also makes his Civic Orchestra of Chicago podium debut on [Wednesday, December 12 at 8:00 p.m.](#) The program begins with Janáček's Sinfonietta, a colorful work with brass fanfares that was written in 1926 and dedicated to the Czechoslovak Army. Following is Lutosławski's Fourth Symphony, which opens with a dark, slow first movement and seamlessly flows into a quicker, dazzling, faster second movement. The program closes with Ravel's Suite No. 2 from Daphnis and Chloe, which was performed by the CSO in 1928 under the baton of the composer. As part of the Civic Orchestra's 2018/19 centennial season celebration, more than 20 Civic Orchestra alumni will join the Orchestra for this performance.

The [Thursday, December 6](#) concert is part of the CSO's Classic Encounter series and includes a lively preconcert scene complete with food and drinks. The December 6 event features a pre-concert conversation with guest speaker [Terri Hemmert](#) and [John Bruce Yeh](#), CSO Assistant Principal Clarinet. Single tickets for the Classic Encounter reception, priced at \$25, can be added to any concert ticket order for the December 6 event. Four-concert Classic Encounter series ticket packages are also available and include concert tickets and access to preconcert receptions. More information is available at cso.org/classicencounter.

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.

Discounted student tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040. CSO tickets for select programs are also available through the city's new Teen Arts Pass (TAP) program. More information available at <https://teenartspass.urbangateways.org/>.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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

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The appearance of Maestro Edward Gardner is made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The appearance of Erin Wall is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

[Thursday, December 6, at 8:00 p.m.](#)
[Friday, December 7, at 1:30 p.m.](#)
[Saturday, December 8, at 8:00 p.m.](#)
[Tuesday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Edward Gardner, conductor
Erin Wall, soprano

WAGNER Overture to *Rienzi*
R. STRAUSS *Four Last Songs*
NIELSEN Symphony No. 4 (*The Inextinguishable*)

Tickets: \$31-221

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 8:00 p.m.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Edward Gardner, conductor

JANÁČEK

Sinfonietta

LUTOSŁAWSKI

Symphony No. 4

RAVEL

Suite No. 2 from *Daphnis and Chloe*

Free and open to the public; tickets are required.

Featured Conductor and Artists for this Performance:

[Edward Gardner, conductor](#)

[Erin Wall, soprano](#)

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.