



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

News

For Immediate Release:

September 28, 2018

Press Contacts:

[Eileen Chambers](#)

312-294-3092

Photos available upon request

PR@CSO.org

[Dana Navarro](#)

312-294-3090

**ANDRÉS OROZCO-ESTRADA RETURNS TO SYMPHONY CENTER
TO LEAD CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
IN MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO. 3**

**Performances feature Women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Mezzo-Soprano
Kelley O'Connor and Anima – Young Singers of Greater Chicago**

October 11, 12, 13, 14

CHICAGO—Conductor Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Music Director of the Houston Symphony Orchestra and Chief Conductor of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in subscription concerts at Symphony Center [Thursday, October 11, at 8:00 p.m.](#), [Friday, October 12, at 1:30 p.m.](#), [Saturday, October 13, at 8:00 p.m.](#) and [Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.](#) Orozco-Estrada conducts Mahler's monumental Symphony No. 3 in these performances that feature the women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by Chorus Director Duain Wolfe, as well as mezzo-soprano Kelley O'Connor and the Anima – Young Singers of Greater Chicago.

Mahler's Third Symphony was composed over two summers in 1895 and 1896 in the composer's idyllic mountain retreat on the shores of Lake Atter in Upper Austria. Themes of nature inform the vast, six-movement work that opens on a grand scale with the first movement's prominent theme played by eight horns that gives way to music suggesting a view of a pastoral landscape. The symphony's next four movements offer great variety and individual musical character. The second movement's charming minuet, inspired by the sight of wildflowers in the meadow, leads to a playful scherzo featuring the distinct sound of the posthorn. The fourth movement features a mezzo-soprano who sings of man's joy and pain from a text to the "Midnight Song" from Friedrich Nietzsche's *Also sprach Zarathustra* and is followed by the bell-like chorus of women and children. The symphonic drama concludes in an adagio marked "Slow. Calm. Deeply felt" that offers the listener a sense of peace and tranquility.

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

Born in Colombia and trained in Vienna, Andrés Orozco-Estrada is one of the most sought after conductors of his generation. Orozco-Estrada was appointed as Music Director of the Houston Symphony and Chief Conductor of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra in 2014. He first came to international attention in 2004 when he stepped in to lead a concert with the Tonkünstler Orchestra at Vienna's Musikverein, and now appears with many of the world's leading orchestras, including the Vienna Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestras, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the Santa Cecilia Orchestra Rome and the Orchestre National de France. Orozco-Estrada developed a highly successful musical partnership with the Tonkünstler Orchestra, serving as Music Director from the 2009/10 season until 2015. His recent recordings include Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben* and *Macbeth*, both with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, released on Pentatone. Orozco-Estrada made his CSO debut in 2016.

Grammy Award-winning mezzo-soprano Kelley O'Connor has emerged as one of the most compelling performers of her generation. She has appeared with prominent orchestras including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra and Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich, among others. O'Connor's operatic highlights include Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* in a new production by Lillian Groag at the Boston Lyric Opera and at the Cincinnati Opera and Berlioz's *Béatrice et Bénédict* at Opera Boston. Her discography includes a Grammy Award-winning performance of Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar* with Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. O'Connor has made several CSO solo appearances over the last decade including a performance of Stravinsky's *Elegy for J.F.K.* led by Michael Tilson Thomas in 2013.

ANIMA – Young Singers of Greater Chicago's rich heritage has served as an artistic and educational model for many years. Charles Sundquist is the artistic director of ANIMA – Young Singers of Greater Chicago. Its six ensembles serve children from over 35 different Chicagoland communities, with outreach programs reaching 1,000 additional children annually. Performing frequently with Chicago's major musical organizations, ANIMA's singers have performed under conductors including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Bernard Haitink, Semyon Bychkov, John Nelson, Jane Glover, Christoph Eschenbach and Claudio Abbado. Also committed to new music, ANIMA has commissioned over 80 new works for young voices in its history. ANIMA was the first children's chorus in America to be recognized and funded by the National Endowment for the Arts for the professionalism of its work and captured four Grammy Awards for its performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Sir Georg Solti. ANIMA's most recent performance at the CSO was in Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* with Esa-Pekka Salonen.

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

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

The appearance of Andrés Orozco-Estrada is made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

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

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.

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.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

###

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

[Thursday, October 11, at 8:00 p.m.](#)
[Friday, October 12, at 1:30 p.m.](#)
[Saturday, October 13, at 8:00 p.m.](#)
[Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.](#)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Andrés Orozco-Estrada, conductor

Kelley O'Connor, mezzo-soprano

Women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus

Duain Wolfe, chorus director

Anima -- Young Singers of Greater Chicago, children's chorus

Charles Sundquist, artistic director

MAHLER Symphony No. 3 in D minor

Tickets: \$35-224

Featured Conductor and Artists for this Performance:

[Andrés Orozco-Estrada, conductor](#)

[Kelley O'Connor, mezzo-soprano](#)

[Chicago Symphony Chorus](#)

[Duain Wolfe, chorus director](#)

[Anima – Young Singers of Greater Chicago, children's chorus](#)

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.