



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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MIKKO FRANCK RETURNS TO SYMPHONY CENTER TO LEAD THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN FINNISH MASTERWORKS

**Celebrated Violinist Hilary Hahn Makes Anticipated Return as Soloist
with the CSO in Sibelius's Violin Concerto**

**Program Also Includes Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2 and the
CSO's First Performances of Rautavaara's *A Requiem in Our Time*,
part of CSOA's *A Time for Reflection—A Message of Peace* Programming**

May 16, 17, 18 and 21

CHICAGO—Finnish conductor Mikko Franck returns to Symphony Center to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in subscription concerts on [Thursday, May 16 at 8:00 p.m.](#), [Friday, May 17 at 8:00 p.m.](#), [Saturday, May 18 at 8:00 p.m.](#) and [Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m.](#) The program features Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2, as well as works by Finnish composers Einojuhani Rautavaara and Jean Sibelius. Rautavaara's *A Requiem in Our Time* receives its first CSO performances in these concerts, and violinist Hilary Hahn, who last appeared as soloist with the Orchestra in her CSO debut in 2007, is soloist in Sibelius's Violin Concerto. The concerts are part of the CSOA's season-long programming, [A Time for Reflection—A Message of Peace](#).

The program opens with Rautavaara's *A Requiem in Our Time*. The composer's 1953 work for brass choir and percussion garnered wide critical acclaim for Rautavaara, even winning the accolades of fellow Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. The work's four movements – titled *Hymnus*, *Credo et dubito*, *Dies Irae* and *Lacrymosa* – suggest sections of the Requiem Mass, underscoring the work's dedication: "to the memory of my mother," who died during the Second World War. The program continues with Sibelius's Violin Concerto. The work opens with the violin soloist at the fore, tracing dramatic, virtuosic lines set in relief against a brooding orchestral backdrop. The second movement blooms with serene lyricism, offering some of the concerto's most beautiful melodic moments, before returning to rhythmic intensity filled with sparking virtuosity in the final movement. Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2 completes the program.

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Mikko Franck is the Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. Born in Helsinki, Finland in 1979, Franck's conducting career began at age 17, and he has since worked with leading orchestras and opera houses across the world. Previously, he served as Music Director of the Orchestre National de Belgique and was Artistic Director and General Music Director of the Finnish National Opera. During the 2017-18 concert season, Franck led concerts in Paris and Rome, as well as guest appearances leading the Cleveland Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic. Franck's 2018-19 season has already included a tour with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France to Germany and Austria, followed by a tour of Spain in March 2019. Franck is distinguished as a champion of Finnish music, and in particular of composer Einojuhani Rautavaara, and has released four recordings of works by Rautavaara. In addition to his duties as a conductor, Franck was nominated Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF France in February 2018. Franck's most recent CSO appearance was in November 2004.

Three-time Grammy Award-winning violinist Hilary Hahn is renowned for her clear and brilliant musicality, expansive interpretations of an incredibly varied repertoire, and organic connections with her audience. Her creative approach to music making and her commitment to sharing her experiences with a global community have garnered her an enthusiastic worldwide audience, especially across social media platforms. Hahn's 2018-19 season includes recital performances of Bach's Partita No. 1 and Sonata Nos. 1 and 2 in Vienna, Paris, New York, Washington D.C., San Francisco, Toronto, Tokyo, Seoul, Berlin, London, and Munich. Also in 2018-19, she is Artist-in-Residence at the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, with whom she performs the Sibelius Concerto in Austria, Germany, France, and Spain and premieres the final violin concerto of Einojuhani Rautavaara, written for Hahn and completed posthumously by Kalevi Aho. Hahn was admitted to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia at age 10, where she studied with Jascha Brodsky.

The Thursday, May 16 concert is part of the CSO's Classic Encounter series and includes a lively pre-concert scene complete with food and drinks. The May 16 event features a multimedia presentation and conversation with CSO Viola Max Raimi hosted by WXRT Radio and Radio Hall of Fame DJ Terri Hemmert. Single tickets for the Classic Encounter reception, priced at \$25, can be added to any concert ticket order for the May 16 event. More information is available at cso.org/classic-encounter.

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 program 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.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Mikko Franck, conductor

Hilary Hahn, violin

RAUTAVAARA

A Requiem in Our Time

SIBELIUS

Violin Concerto

RACHMANINOV

Symphony No. 2

Tickets: \$35 - \$224

Featured Artists for this Performance:

[Mikko Franck, conductor](#)

[Hilary Hahn, violin](#)

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 61 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.