



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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## **MUSIC DIRECTOR RICCARDO MUTI LEADS CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON TOUR TO FLORIDA**

**Tour Stops in Three Florida Cities Include First Appearance for Muti and the CSO  
Together in Miami and Return Appearances in West Palm Beach and Naples**

**Muti and the CSO's 2019 Appearance in Naples Launches  
Three-Year Residency Presented by Artis—Naples**

**Tour Programs Feature Beethoven's Fifth and Seventh Symphonies and  
Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade***

**Master Classes and Community Activities Presented by the  
Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO Planned in All Three Tour Cities**

**FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 3, 2019**

CHICAGO—Music Director Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) embark on the second of two tours during the 2018/19 season from February 25 to March 3, 2019. This Florida tour, as well as the Orchestra's acclaimed tour to Asia in January and February 2019, are part of the 128<sup>th</sup> season.

Muti and the CSO open the 2019 Florida tour with a return appearance at the Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. Concert Hall in West Palm Beach, Florida on February 26, presented by the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts. The tour continues with the first performance for Muti and the CSO together at the Knight Concert Hall in Miami on February 27, presented by the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. Additionally, the 2019 performances in Frances Pew Hayes Hall on February 28 and March 2 presented by Artis—Naples, mark the beginning of a three-year residency for the CSO in Naples, which will include community performances and education activities each year through the 2020/21 season.

Muti and the CSO's appearances at Florida venues during their 2018 East Coast tour were met with wide popular and critical acclaim. *South Florida Classical Review* affirmed that Muti and the CSO "impressively demonstrated that they remain one of the world's best," and the *Palm Beach*

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Music Director

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Chair, Board of Trustees

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*Daily News* remarked that the Orchestra's performance in West Palm Beach "was a reminder of why it enjoys a top ranking."

The first of two programs for the Florida 2019 tour features three works by Beethoven, including Symphony No. 5 and Symphony No. 7. The program, performed in West Palm Beach on February 26 and in Naples on February 28, opens with Beethoven's *Leonore* Overture No. 3 and continues with Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, perhaps the composer's most widely recognized work. Full of a palpable rhythmic drive and joyful energy, Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 closes the program. Muti and the CSO performed Beethoven's Seventh Symphony for the first time together in September 2016 at Symphony Center, prompting the *Chicago Sun-Times* to declare "Muti and the CSO make you hear it anew, infusing it with a grand singing beauty, alternately frenzied and rapturous."

Reprising a program that they presented on tour to Asia in January and February 2019, Muti and the CSO perform Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade* at the tour stops in Miami (February 27) and Naples (March 2). Muti and the Orchestra performed a survey of Tchaikovsky's symphonies during the 2014/15 season and return to the composer's dramatic Symphony No. 5 for the 2018/19 tour programs. The *Chicago Tribune* hailed their performance of the Fifth Symphony saying "the qualities that have marked his [Muti's] cycle all along were again in evidence: scrupulous attention to dynamic markings, elastic handling of phrasing and transitions, purposeful shaping of harmonic tension and release, a richly sonorous soundstage." The September 2018 performance of *Sheherazade* by Muti and the Orchestra in Chicago caused the *Chicago Tribune* to remark "No doubt listeners will hear *Sheherazade* many times again, but rarely with as much integrity and truth."

Presented by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, a number of educational and engagement activities are planned during the 2019 Florida tour.

During the stop in West Palm Beach, members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra perform the Once Upon a Symphony (OUAS) production of *The Ugly Duckling* for the young students of Palm Beach Day Academy and Opportunity Early Childhood Education & Family Center on February 25. The Once Upon a Symphony (OUAS) production of *The Ugly Duckling* is produced and presented in collaboration with Chicago Children's Theatre and features CSO musicians Emma Gerstein (Flute); Lora Schaefer (Oboe); David Griffin (Horn); Gary Stucka (Cello); and actor Lily Emerson. On February 26, CSO musicians including David Taylor (Assistant Concertmaster); Sylvia Kilcullen (Assistant Principal Second Violin); Li-Kuo Chang (Acting Principal Viola); John Sharp (Principal Cello); and Daniel Armstrong (Bass) lead sectionals at the Dreyfoos School for the Arts.

In Miami, CSO musicians Stephen Williamson (Principal Clarinet); Dennis Michel (Bassoon); and Michael Mulcahy (Trombone) give masterclasses for members of the New World Symphony at New World Center on February 27.

As part of its special multi-year residency with Artis-Naples, the CSO returns this year with several educational and engagement activities. This year's multi-day residency in Naples includes a March 1 chamber music performance at Immokalee High School by CSO musicians Mihaela Ionescu (Violin); Russell Hershow (Violin); Sunghee Choi (Viola); Oto Carillo (Horn); and Michael Hovnanian (Bass). In addition, there will be masterclasses for students in the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra by CSO Principal Second Violin Baird Dodge and Principal Cello John Sharp on March 1, and Acting Principal Viola Li-Kuo Chang and Assistant Principal Clarinet John Yeh on March 2. The master classes in Naples are open to the public and more information is available through Artis—Naples.

Muti and the CSO's Florida tour follows their five-city, 11-concert Asia tour in January and February 2019 to Taipei, Shanghai, Beijing, Tokyo and Osaka. Tour highlights included the debut appearance for Muti and the CSO together at Festival Hall in Osaka, as well as a multi-day residency at Bunka Kaikan in Tokyo, which featured performances of Verdi's Requiem with the Tokyo Opera Singers chorus and soloists.

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra has been touring—domestically and internationally—since the beginning of its history. First traveling to Canada in 1892, the Orchestra has since embarked on 61 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

For a chronological listing of the CSO's 2019 Florida tour dates and programs, click [here](#).

The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

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Major leadership support of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's 2019 Florida Tour is provided by the Lauter McDougal Charitable Fund, Mr. and Mrs. Verne Istock, Robert Kohl and Clark Pellett, and the Zell Family Foundation.

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## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

### **Riccardo Muti**

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 more than forty-five 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. In 2018, he received Japan's prestigious Praemium Imperiale award, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to 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.

<http://www.riccardomutimusic.com/>

**The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org) and [www.csosoundsandstories.org](http://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](http://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](http://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.