



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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CONDUCTOR SIMONE YOUNG MAKES CSO DEBUT IN JUNE SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

Program Includes Works by Liszt, Wagner and Brahms

June 6, 7, 8 & 11

CHICAGO—Internationally acclaimed opera conductor Simone Young makes her debut leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in subscription concerts at Symphony Center on [Thursday, June 6, at 8:00 p.m.](#), [Friday, June 7, at 1:30 p.m.](#), [Saturday, June 8, at 8:00 p.m.](#) and [Tuesday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m.](#) The program includes the Orchestra's first performances of Liszt's symphonic poem *Prometheus*, orchestral excerpts from Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* and Brahms's Piano Quartet No. 1, orchestrated by Arnold Schoenberg.

The program opens with Liszt's *Prometheus*, which takes its inspiration from the Greek myth about the Titan Prometheus. The evocative work echoes the original story's themes of imprisonment, suffering and redemption in music that includes fiery brass chorales and soaring, heroic melodies. The program continues with selections from *Götterdämmerung*, the final opera in Wagner's cycle *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, including Dawn, Siegfried's Rhine Journey, and Funeral March. The atmospheric music that opens the opera underlines the hero's impending separation from his beloved Brünnhilde, while the Funeral Music heralds Siegfried's tragic and untimely death. Composer Arnold Schoenberg's 1937 orchestration of Brahms's Piano Quartet No. 1 completes the program. Schoenberg, who admired the music of Brahms throughout his career, highlights not only the rich sonorities and lyricism of Brahms's original quartet, but also the lively character of the music in colorfully orchestrated passages, particularly in the final Presto movement marked "Rondo alla Zingarese" [in the gypsy style].

Simone Young is considered one of the most distinguished conductors of our time, and is highly regarded for her interpretations of both symphonic and operatic works. Principal Guest

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Conductor of the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra in Switzerland since the 2017/18 season, she has previously served as Principal Conductor of the Bergen Philharmonic, Artistic Director of the Australian Opera, Principal Guest Conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon, Artistic Director of the Hamburg State Opera and Chief Music Director of the Hamburg Philharmonic. During the 2018/19 season, Young appears with major U.S. Orchestras including those in Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit and San Francisco. Young is an internationally recognized Wagner and Strauss interpreter, a reputation she developed early in her career when she conducted multiple complete cycles of Wagner's "Ring" at the Vienna State Opera and the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin, as well as Wagner's *Walküre* and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. She has also worked with many of the world's leading orchestras, including the Philharmonic Orchestras of Berlin, London, Munich, New York, and Vienna. Along with her honorary doctorates from the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne, Young is also the recipient of the Brahms Prize of Schleswig-Holstein and the Goethe Medal. In addition, she is a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in France, a Member of the Order of Australia, and a Professor at the Academy of Music and Theatre in Hamburg.

The Thursday, June 6 concert is part of the CSO's Classic Encounter series and includes a lively pre-concert scene complete with food and drinks. The June 6 event features a multimedia presentation and conversation with CSO Assistant Principal Viola Li-Kuo Chang 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 June 6 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.

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

The June 7 performance is endowed by the Frank Family in loving memory of Elaine and Zollie S. Frank.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Simone Young, conductor

LISZT *Prometheus*

WAGNER Excerpts from *Götterdämmerung*

BRAHMS Piano Quartet No. 1

orch. SCHOENBERG

Tickets: \$35-\$224

Featured Artist for this Performance:

[Simone Young, conductor](#)

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.