



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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## **KEN-DAVID MASUR NAMED PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF CHICAGO**

### **Masur to Lead the Civic Orchestra in Six Concerts During 2019/20 Season**

### **Masur Concerts to Include the Rescheduled Civic Centennial Celebration Benefit Concert Featuring Cellist Yo-Yo Ma as Soloist on March 1, 2020**

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association announces the appointment of Ken-David Masur as Principal Conductor of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Masur, who earlier this season was named Music Director of the Milwaukee Symphony, assumes his role as Principal Conductor of the Civic Orchestra at the beginning of the Civic's 2019/20 season.

Masur will have three weeklong residencies in Chicago during the 2019/20 season and also lead the rescheduled Civic Centennial Celebration Benefit Concert featuring Yo-Yo Ma as soloist in Dvořák's Cello Concerto on Sunday, March 1, 2020, at 7 p.m. He will conduct four concerts in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center, as well as a concert at the South Shore Cultural Center and a Chicago Public School.

In addition to conducting select Civic Orchestra concerts, Masur will guide artistic planning, work collaboratively with Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians who serve as coaches to Civic Orchestra members, and lead special projects that engage diverse communities at Symphony Center and throughout the city.

"It is a great joy and privilege for me to begin serving as Principal Conductor of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, an orchestra that is nurtured by a collaboration among the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, its Negaunee Music Institute and the many guest conductors and artists who care for the program each year," said Masur. "I look forward to working with the talented,

**RICCARDO MUTI**  
Zell Music Director

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Chair, Board of Trustees

**JEFF ALEXANDER**  
President

**YO-YO MA**  
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young musicians who make up this storied ensemble as the program enters its second century of great music making in service to its community.”

“Since his podium debut in 2016/17 Maestro Masur has made an overwhelmingly positive impression on the entire Civic Orchestra family. His outstanding musicianship, generous spirit and effectiveness as an educator and mentor have enriched the training of Civic Orchestra members and the music they make for audiences across Chicago,” said Jonathan McCormick, Director of Education and The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO. “We are thrilled to have this opportunity to work with him more deeply.”

Masur has led the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in concerts annually for the past three seasons. Now at the end of his Associate Conductorship with the Boston Symphony, he recently stepped into two programs earlier this spring to replace Gustavo Dudamel on a day’s notice to lead the BSO, in addition to his own Boston Symphony subscription week last fall. Last summer he made his Chicago Symphony Orchestra debut at Ravinia, and this summer Masur will lead several events at Tanglewood, including a new work by Augusta Read Thomas as part of the highly anticipated opening of the Tanglewood Learning Institute. He previously has led the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Munich Symphony, l’Orchestre National de France in Paris and National Philharmonic of Russia, among many others. Masur and his wife, pianist Melinda Lee Masur, are founders and artistic directors of the Chelsea Music Festival, an annual summer festival of music, art and cuisine, which earlier this month presented its 10th season in New York celebrating the 200th birthday of Clara Schumann. Masur received a Grammy nomination from the Latin Recording Academy in the category Best Classical Album of the Year for his work as a producer of the album “Salon Buenos Aires.” Additionally, he recently made recordings with the English Chamber Orchestra and violinist Fanny Clamagirand, as well as with the Stavanger Symphony. Beginning with the 2019/20 season, Masur assumes his role as Music Director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

Founded in the 1919/20 season by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s second music director, Frederick Stock, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago is a signature program of the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO. This prestigious training ensemble for emerging professional musicians celebrated its 100th season in 2018/19 and is the only one of its kind affiliated with a major American orchestra.

Additional details about the Civic Orchestra of Chicago’s Centennial Celebration Benefit Concert and the Civic’s 2019/20 season will be announced in late August. Tickets issued for the original date of the Centennial Celebration Benefit Concert will be honored for the new date, March 1, 2020. Additional general public, free ticket reservations are currently unavailable for the March 1, 2020, performance. More tickets may become available at a later time.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago’s Centennial Celebration Concert is generously sponsored by The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.

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### **Civic Orchestra of Chicago ([cso.org/civic](http://cso.org/civic))**

Since 1919, young artists have sought membership in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago to develop their talents and to further prepare for careers as professional musicians. Founded by Frederick Stock, second music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra is the only training orchestra of its kind affiliated with a major American orchestra.

The Civic Orchestra offers emerging professional musicians unique access to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) through immersive training with the musicians of the CSO and some of today's most sought-after conductors, including world-renowned CSO Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti. With additional guidance from CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, Civic Orchestra musicians develop as exceptional orchestral players and engaged artists, cultivating their ability to succeed in the rapidly evolving world of music in the twenty-first century.

The importance of the Civic Orchestra's role in Greater Chicago is underscored by its commitment to present concerts of the highest quality free to the public. In addition to the critically acclaimed live concerts at Symphony Center, excerpts from Civic Orchestra performances at Symphony Center can be heard locally on WFMT's (98.7 FM) "Music in Chicago."

Civic musicians also expand their creative, professional, and artistic skill and reach diverse audiences through performances at Chicago Public Schools, "artistic challenges" led by Yo-Yo Ma, and a series of chamber concerts at various locations throughout the city including Chicago Park District field houses, the National Museum of Mexican Art, and Zhou B Art Center.

To further expand its musician training, the Civic Orchestra launched the Civic Fellowship program in the 2013/14 season. Now engaging fifteen members of the Civic Orchestra, Fellows participate in a rigorous curriculum above and beyond their orchestral activities that is designed to build and to diversify their creative and professional skills.

The Civic Orchestra's long history of presenting full orchestra performances free to the public includes concerts at the South Shore Cultural Center (in partnership with the South Shore Advisory Council), the Apostolic Church of God, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, the New Regal Theater, Benito Juarez Community Academy, Senn High School, Schurz High School, Northside College Preparatory High School and Kenwood Academy.

The Civic Orchestra is a signature program of the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The Institute offers a wide range of education and community programs that engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages, incomes, and backgrounds each year, in Chicago and around the world. For more information on the Institute and its programs, please visit [cso.org/institute](http://cso.org/institute).

### **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 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](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.