



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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## LEGENDARY PIANIST AHMAD JAMAL TO OPEN 25<sup>th</sup> SEASON OF SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS JAZZ SERIES

**88-Year-Old Ahmad Jamal returns to Symphony Center  
with His Latest Project, *Marseille***

**Friday, October 12, at 8 p.m.**

CHICAGO—Pianist, composer and NEA jazz master Ahmad Jamal opens the 25th season of the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz series on [Friday, October 12, at 8 p.m.](#) Once again in the same city, and 60 years after he recorded *At the Pershing: But Not for Me*, 88-year-old Jamal continues to share his unique sound with Chicago audiences. The Chicago Tribune hailed Jamal's 2014 performance on the SCP Jazz series as "sensuously attractive," "tonally glowing" and "inherently radical."

For this performance, Jamal brings his nuanced and globally influenced sound to the music of his latest project, *Marseille*, which *The Guardian* hailed as "frisky, funny and funky." *Marseille* features eclectic audio trinkets and spoken word among Jamal's colorful tone and controlled phrasing on the piano. Jamal is joined by a rhythm section of bass, drums and percussion.

An award-winning pianist, composer and bandleader, Jamal continues to thrill audiences with his creative energy just as much as he did when his classics *Poinciana* and *But Not For Me* became runaway hits in the 1950s. After touring with the George Hudson Orchestra during his teenage years, he formed his own group in 1951 and started recording with Okeh Records. He is one of the most sampled composers and recording artists in the world, and his music has been prominently featured in films including Clint Eastwood's "The Bridges of Madison County" and "The Wolf of Wall Street." His accolades include a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, the NEA Jazz Masters Award and France's *Officier de l'Order des Arts et des Lettres*, among others. Jamal has been a Steinway Artist for more than 50 years.

RICCARDO MUTI  
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL  
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER  
President

YO-YO MA  
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

Established in 1994, the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series enters its 25th season with a continued commitment to presenting some of today's most acclaimed and innovative jazz artists. Since its inception, the series has been carefully curated to celebrate the rich legacy and breadth of jazz through performances by international legends and local talent, partnerships with jazz institutions and talented artists, presentations of new projects through commissions and unique programs created specifically for the series, and by introducing Chicago to rising stars. In addition to performances, the series annually includes educational opportunities for Chicago-area students to both attend performances and learn directly from jazz legends and innovators.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Jazz series concerts can be purchased by phone at **800-223-7114** or **312-294-3000**, online at [cso.org](http://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.

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**Symphony Center Presents  
Jazz**

[Friday, October 12, 2018, at 8:00 p.m.](#)  
**Ahmad Jamal**, piano

*Program to be announced from the stage.*

Tickets:           \$38-\$135

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**Featured Artists for this Performance:**

[Ahmad Jamal, piano](#)

**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.