



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

News

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Press Contacts:

[Dana Navarro](#)

312-294-3090

Photos available upon request

PR@CSO.org

[Eileen Chambers](#)

312-294-3092

**DANIEL BARENBOIM AND THE WEST-EASTERN DIVAN ORCHESTRA
LAUNCH U.S. TOUR IN CHICAGO WITH A
SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS SPECIAL CONCERT**

**Young Musicians from Israel, Palestine and Several Arab Countries
Promote Coexistence and Intercultural Exchange Through Music**

**Program Features Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 and
R. Strauss' *Don Quixote*, Featuring Iranian Cellist Kian Soltani and
Israeli Violist Miriam Manasherov as Soloists**

Monday, November 5, at 7:30 p.m.

CHICAGO—Daniel Barenboim, former music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and chief conductor of the Staatskapelle Berlin, leads the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra in a Symphony Center Presents Special Concert that launches a U.S. tour for the orchestra on [Monday, November 5, at 7:30 p.m.](#) The orchestra of young professional musicians includes players from Israel, Palestine and several Arab countries who embrace the orchestra's philosophy of equality, cooperation and justice for all. The program includes Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, as well as Richard Strauss' *Don Quixote* featuring Iranian cellist Kian Soltani and Israeli violist Miriam Manasherov as soloists.

The program opens with Richard Strauss' *Don Quixote*, a tone poem based on the novel *Don Quixote de la Mancha* by Miguel de Cervantes. The solo cello, performed by Kian Soltani, represents the character of Don Quixote, and the solo viola, performed by Miriam Manasherov, represents the character of Sancho Panza. Other characters and imagery are depicted by the orchestra throughout the dramatic theme and variations. The second half of the program features Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, which opens with a dark yet stately theme presented by

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

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President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

the clarinet. The rest of the movement's soaring lyrical themes appear amidst powerful orchestral sections. The exquisite French horn solo melody is featured in the symphony's vast and songful second movement. An elegant waltz follows this movement, and the symphony concludes with a proud and energetic final movement.

The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra has been a significant presence in the international music world for almost 20 years. In 1999, Daniel Barenboim and the late Palestinian literary scholar Edward Said created a workshop for young musicians from Israel, Palestine and several Arab countries to promote coexistence and intercultural dialogue. That workshop has evolved into this orchestra, which has appeared in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Concerts in Rabat, Doha and Abu Dhabi have been steps toward fulfilling the ensemble's aspirations to present concerts in the hometowns of its members. In 2005, the West-Eastern Divan performed in Ramallah, marking the orchestra's first event in the occupied territories. For many Palestinians in the audience, this was the first time they encountered Israelis in a non-military setting. When open war broke out again in Gaza in 2009, Barenboim began the Divan's performances by reading a shared statement of the orchestra that said: "We aspire to total freedom and equality between Israelis and Palestinians, and it is on this basis that we come together today to play music." United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon named Daniel Barenboim United Nations Messenger of Peace in September 2007 and designated the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra as a United Nations Global Advocate for Cultural Understanding in February 2016. The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra last performed at Symphony Center in 2001. Following the orchestra's upcoming Chicago performance, the orchestra will continue its 2018 U.S. tour with performances in New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and Berkeley, Calif.

Since his conducting debut in 1967 in London with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Daniel Barenboim has been in great demand with leading orchestras around the world. He was Music Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 1991 to 2006 and Principal Conductor of the Orchestre de Paris from 1975 to 1989. Since 1992, Barenboim has been general music director of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden and served as music director of the Teatro alla Scala between 2011 and 2014. In 1999, Barenboim and Palestinian literary scholar Edward Said established the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. He also initiated a project for music education in the Palestinian territories, which includes a music conservatory and kindergarten. Since 2015, talented young musicians from the Middle East study at the Barenboim-Said Academy in Berlin, another initiative founded by him. In addition to his performance with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, Barenboim leads the CSO in Smetana's *Má Vlast* on [November 1, 2 and 3, 2018](#). During his time in Chicago, he also participates in a Chicago Humanities Festival event at the Harris Theater on November 4.

Iranian cellist Kian Soltani made his international breakthrough at the age of 19 with acclaimed debuts in the Vienna Musikverein's Goldener Saal and at the Hohenems Schubertiade. In 2013 he won the International Paulo Cello Competition in Helsinki, and in 2017 he won Germany's Leonard Bernstein Award and the Credit Suisse Young Artist Award. His debut Deutsche Grammophon album, *Home*, which includes works for cello and piano by Schubert, Schumann and Reza Vali, was released in January 2018.

Israeli violist Miriam Manasherov served in the Israel Defense Forces, where she was a member of the Rosso Quartet. She has performed with several orchestras including the West-Eastern Divan, Konzerthaus Berlin, Gürzenich Orchester Köln, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln. Manasherov is the winner of the chamber music competition at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and also received scholarships from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and the DAAD in Germany.

This performance is generously sponsored by Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz and the Jentes Family Foundation.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Special 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.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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**Symphony Center Presents
Special Concert**

[Monday, November 5, 7:30 p.m.](#)
West-Eastern Divan Orchestra
Daniel Barenboim, conductor
Miriam Manasherov, viola
Kian Soltani, cello

R. STRAUSS *Don Quixote*, Op. 35
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, Op. 64

Tickets: \$40-\$130

Featured Artist for this Performance:

[West-Eastern Divan Orchestra](#)
[Daniel Barenboim, conductor](#)
[Miriam Manasherov, viola](#)
[Kian Soltani, cello](#)

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 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. 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.