



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS ANNOUNCES PROGRAM DETAILS
FOR FIFTH ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**

**The China National Beijing Opera Company and Hubei Chime Bells National
Chinese Orchestra Showcase Traditional Chinese Music**

Program Features Renowned Singers Yu Kuizhi and Li Shengsu

**Concert at Symphony Center is Part of City-wide
Chinese New Year Celebration Activities**

Sunday, February 10, 2019, at 3 p.m.

CHICAGO—Symphony Center Presents (SCP) announces program details for its fifth annual Chinese New Year Celebration concert scheduled for [Sunday, February 10, 2019, at 3 p.m.](#), at Symphony Center (220 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago). The concert features a performance by the Hubei Chime Bells National Chinese Orchestra, as well as the China National Beijing Opera Company, featuring celebrated singers Yu Kuizhi and Li Shengsu.

This year's Chinese New Year Celebration concert at Symphony Center is part of the City of Chicago's multi-week calendar of activities and programs to mark this festive season. Symphony Center Presents is pleased to once again collaborate with the Consulate of the People's Republic of China in Chicago and Choose Chicago in the planning of the 2019 Celebration, which marks the Year of the Pig.

"Choose Chicago is thrilled to again be working with our partners at Symphony Center to help present these exciting musicians and artists visiting our city to perform during our annual Chinese New Year Celebration," said Choose Chicago President and Chief Executive Officer

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

David Whitaker. "The February 10th performance at Symphony Center is an appropriate crescendo for the city's Chinese New Year Celebration and will be a wonderful way for visitors and locals alike to experience traditional Chinese culture."

"Our annual Chinese New Year Celebration concert has become a highly anticipated tradition at Symphony Center. We are pleased to have the opportunity to present some of the best artists from China in a program of traditional Chinese music," said Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association President Jeff Alexander. "The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association is proud of our ever-growing relationship with the Chinese community of Chicago, and the people of China, including the upcoming performances of the CSO in Beijing and Shanghai."

The first half of the program features the Hubei Chime Bells National Chinese Orchestra. In 1978, a set of 2,500-year-old bronze and stone chime bells were excavated from the tomb of a Chinese ruler from the Bronze Age in Hubei, China. Believed to be the earliest twelve-tone equal temperament instruments in the world, these chime bells create an authentic, melodious timbre and also are visually breathtaking due to their grand scale and elaborate cast technique. The Hubei Chime Bells National Chinese Orchestra presents a program that transports listeners to ancient China with the rich tones of the chime bells. Additionally, other traditional instruments are featured on the program including the qing, a stone or jade chime; the xun, a vessel flute; and the se, a plucked zither. The second half features Troupe One of the China National Beijing Opera Company presenting three scenes from the Peking opera repertoire that include instrumental music, vocal performance, mime, dance and acrobatics. Dressed in traditional costumes with full makeup, celebrated performers Yu Kuizhi and Li Shengsu are featured on a program that includes scenes from *Divergence* and *Palace of Eternal Life*, as well as *Uproar in Heaven*, a classic Chinese story that follows the adventures of the Monkey King.

The Hubei Chime Bells National Chinese Orchestra is a part of the Hubei Provincial Opera and Dance Drama Theatre, which is a leading performing arts organization that produces and performs traditional and folk opera, dance and music of the Hubei province. Committed to innovation in the arts, the theatre has won numerous awards including the first prize of the Excellent Performance Award of the first China Opera Festival, a Wenhua Award and Hubei Five-One Project Award. Through their international tours, the Hubei Chime Bells National Chinese Orchestra commits itself to cultural exchange and establishing connections between Chinese people and people from all over the world through visual and auditory performances.

Founded in 1955 as China's premier Peking opera organization, the China National Beijing Opera Company is one of the national ensembles of performance arts directly under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture, People's Republic of China. The company includes acclaimed performers, playwrights, directors, composers and stage designers and has presented productions ranging over the wide diversity of Peking opera performance styles. The company's Troupe One is its most esteemed, delivering the highest quality performances of traditional and contemporary repertoire. Masters of their generation, leading artist Yu Kuizhi and acclaimed director Li Shengsu have enhanced the artistic style of Troupe One, which also includes numerous performers who have won awards in national competitions.

A specially-priced ticket offer is available to encourage families to attend—four tickets for \$99. Discounted pricing for groups of 10 or more is also available; call 312-294-3040 for details.

The Chinese New Year Celebration concert at Symphony Center is generously sponsored by Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz. Additional promotional support is provided by Choose Chicago.

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.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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Symphony Center Presents
Chinese New Year Celebration

[Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 3 p.m.](#)

Hubei Chime Bells National Chinese Orchestra

A Moonlit Flowery Night on the Spring River

Ge Tian (Mystery Bird)

Eight Sounds

Jing-Chu Minor

The Silk Road

China National Beijing Opera Company

Divergence

Palace of Eternal Life

Uproar in Heaven

Tickets: \$20-\$75

Featured Artists for this Performance:

[Hubei Chime Bells National Chinese Orchestra](#)

[China National Beijing Opera Company](#)

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.