RICCARDO MUTI AND CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO EMBARK ON EIGHTH EUROPEAN TOUR TOGETHER DURING HIS 10TH SEASON AS MUSIC DIRECTOR

Performance at Vienna’s Musikverein with Muti and the CSO is Part of the Landmark Music Venue’s 150th Anniversary Celebration and Features Verdi’s Requiem with Distinguished Soloists and Wiener Singverein

Muti and CSO Mark First Appearance together at Cologne’s Philharmonie and Make Anticipated Return Appearances in Paris, Luxembourg, Naples and Milan

Tour Also Includes First CSO Appearance in Florence since 1974 and a Debut in Lugano, Switzerland

JANUARY 9-23, 2020

CHICAGO—Music Director Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) embark on their eighth European tour together in January 2020, marking the Orchestra’s 34th tour to Europe and the 62nd international tour in its distinguished history. The tour takes place during the CSO’s 129th season and Muti’s 10th season as music director (2019/20) and includes 10 concerts from January 9-23, 2020, during eight tour stops in Cologne, Vienna, Luxembourg, Paris and three Italian cities—Naples, Florence and Milan—as well as Lugano, Switzerland.

Tour highlights include the first appearance for Muti and the Orchestra together at Cologne’s Philharmonie and the Orchestra’s first performance in the city since 2000 as well as a three-concert residency at Vienna’s Musikverein, which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2020. The historic venue’s special anniversary programming launches in January 2020, and the CSO’s January 13 program featuring Verdi’s Requiem represents the only appearance by an American orchestra on the Musikverein’s Jubilee series. During the tour, Muti and the Orchestra also...
make return appearances in Luxembourg, Paris, Naples and Milan; and make their first appearance together in Florence where the Orchestra has not performed since 1974. The concert in Florence takes place at the Opera di Firenze, which opened in 2014 and is the new home of Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, where Muti served as music director from 1968 to 1980. The tour concludes with a debut appearance for Muti and the Orchestra in Lugano, Switzerland in LAC’s Sala Teatro, the center for contemporary art and culture that opened in 2015.

Musicians of the CSO will also participate in educational activities planned by the Orchestra’s Negaunee Music Institute, including a chamber ensemble performance and coaching for students at the Musikgymnasium Wien in Vienna, master classes at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, and a visit to Nisida Prison in Naples. In addition, post-concert CD signings with Riccardo Muti are planned for tour stops in Cologne, Vienna, Luxembourg, Florence and Milan and will feature a selection of CSO Resound recordings including the newest release, Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 13 (*Babi Yar*), which will become available worldwide on January 17, 2020.

The diverse repertoire featured during the Orchestra’s 2020 European tour highlights works performed by Muti and the Orchestra to critical acclaim during his tenure as music director. Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 3—a work that was included in Muti’s first podium appearances with the CSO in 32 years as part of a 2007 European tour—and Prokofiev’s Suite from *Romeo and Juliet*, a work featured on a 2014 CSO Resound recording are part of several tour programs. The *Washington Post* praised the performance of the two works in November 2019 at Carnegie Hall as “a memorable one-two punch of Prokofiev from the gleaming Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Riccardo Muti.” Dvorák’s Symphony No. 9 (*From the New World*) was performed by Muti and the CSO most recently in 2017 with the Chicago Sun-Times remarking that “Muti brought obvious zeal to this work, shaping an agile, exhilarating performance that made this ultra-familiar music sound fresh, evocative and alive.” Hindemith’s *Mathis der Maler* Symphony is one of an important group of 20th century masterworks that Muti has reintroduced to Chicago audiences in recent seasons. Of the 2018 performances, The *Chicago Tribune* said “Muti brought out tender poetry in some sections, dramatic rhetoric in others.” Muti and the CSO’s November 2019 performances of Wagner’s *Overture to The Flying Dutchman* prompted the Chicago Sun-Times to note that this was a “forceful, full-bodied take on the Overture…an ideal showcase for the Chicago Symphony’s brass, which sounded in excellent form.”

In addition, Muti leads the Orchestra in two performances of Verdi’s *Requiem* in Vienna’s Musikverein with soprano Krassimira Stoyanova, mezzo-soprano Daniela Barcellona, tenor Francesco Meli and bass Riccardo Zanellato as soloists and the Wiener Singverein, the choir of Vienna’s Musikverein. Verdi’s *Requiem*, a signature work for Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, has been performed to critical acclaim several times during Muti’s tenure including January 2009, as music director designate and in October 2013 in Orchestra Hall for a special live-streamed performance presented in conjunction with the 200th anniversary of Verdi’s birth. In addition, the CSO Resound recording of Verdi’s *Requiem* received two Grammy awards for Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance. The most recent performances in November 2018 drew attention from the *Chicago Tribune*, which noted that “a vast range of
human emotion radiated from the CSO music director’s reading.” Muti and the CSO have previously taken the work on international tours performing it with the Wiener Singverein at the Musikverein in November 2014 as part of a European tour and with the Tokyo Opera Singers in January 2019 in Tokyo’s Bunka Kaikan as part of the 2019 Asia tour.

A complete listing of the 2020 European tour schedule and programs is available [here](#).

Riccardo Muti’s first European tour with the CSO took place in 2007. Muti, who had not made an appearance in Chicago for 32 years, returned in 2007 for a month-long residency that included subscription concerts at Orchestra Hall in Chicago, followed by a tour to Europe, with stops in England, France, Germany, and finally to Italy, where the orchestra had not performed in more than 25 years.

Since becoming music director in 2010, Muti has embraced the Orchestra’s rich legacy of international touring, having led European tours in 2011, in 2012—also including performances in Russia—and twice in 2014, first in January for performances that included the CSO’s debut in Spain’s Canary Islands followed by a November tour that included debuts in Geneva, Switzerland and Warsaw, Poland, as well as a week of sold-out concerts at Vienna’s Musikverein. Muti and the CSO’s most recent tour to Europe in January 2017 included stops in seven cities and their first performances together at Milan’s Teatro alla Scala, the Philharmonie de Paris and Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie as part of the venue’s Grand Opening programs and in a performance that marked the first appearance by a foreign orchestra.

Muti and the CSO have also completed two tours of Asia together with the first taking place in January 2016 for a three-week tour that included sold-out concerts in Taiwan, Japan, China, and South Korea. Their second Asia tour in January 2019 included their first appearances together in Taipei, Taiwan; return appearances in Shanghai and Beijing, China; and a debut appearance for Muti and the CSO together in Osaka, Japan, marking the Orchestra’s first performance at the venue since 2003, as well as a week-long residency at Tokyo’s Bunka Kaikan with two sold-out performances of Verdi’s Requiem.

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra has been touring—domestically, and internationally—since the beginning of its history. First traveling to Canada in 1892, the Orchestra has since embarked on 61 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

The CSO’s music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

Bank of America is the International Tour Sponsor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for the 2019/20 season.
United Airlines is the official airline of the CSO.

The Naples, Italy performance on January 19 is generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

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Riccardo Muti

Riccardo Muti, born in Naples, Italy, is one of the preeminent conductors of our day. In 2010, when he became the tenth music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), he already had more than forty years of experience at the helm of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Philharmonia Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Teatro alla Scala. He is a guest conductor for orchestras and opera houses all over the world: the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna State Opera, the Royal Opera House, the Metropolitan Opera, and many others.

Muti studied piano under Vincenzo Vitale at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella in his hometown of Naples, graduating with distinction. He subsequently received a diploma in composition and conducting from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan, also graduating with distinction. His principal teachers were Bruno Bettinelli and Antonino Votto, principal assistant to Arturo Toscanini at La Scala. After he won the Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition—by unanimous vote of the jury—in Milan in 1967, Muti’s career developed quickly. In 1968, he became principal conductor of Florence's Maggio Musicale, a position that he held until 1980. In 2017, Muti led the Orchestra of the Maggio Musicale in performances that were part of the historic G-7 Culture Summit which explored the use of culture as an instrument of dialogue among different peoples and nations.

Herbert von Karajan invited him to conduct at the Salzburg Festival in Austria in 1971, and Muti has maintained a close relationship with the summer festival and with its great orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, for more than forty-five years. When he conducted the philharmonic’s 150th anniversary concert in 1992, he was presented with the Golden Ring, a special sign of esteem and affection, and in 2001, his outstanding artistic contributions to the orchestra were further recognized with the Otto Nicolai Gold Medal. He is also a recipient of a silver medal from the Salzburg Mozarteum for his contribution to the music of W.A. Mozart. He is an honorary member of Vienna’s Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde (Society of the Friends of Music), the Vienna Hofmusikkapelle, the Vienna Philharmonic, and the Vienna State Opera. In 2015, he founded the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in Ravenna, Italy, to train young conductors, répétiteurs, and singers in the Italian opera repertoire.

Muti succeeded Otto Klemperer as chief conductor and music director of London’s Philharmonia Orchestra in 1973, holding that position until 1982. From 1980 to 1992, he was music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and in 1986, he became music director of Milan’s Teatro alla Scala. During his nineteen-year tenure, in addition to directing major projects such as the Mozart–Da Ponte trilogy and Wagner Ring cycle, Muti conducted operatic and symphonic repertoire ranging from the baroque to the contemporary, also leading hundreds of concerts with the Filarmonica della Scala and touring the world with both the opera company and the orchestra. His tenure as music director, the longest of any in La Scala’s history, culminated in the triumphant reopening of the restored opera house with Antonio Salieri’s Europa riconosciuta, originally commissioned for La Scala’s inaugural performance in 1778.

Throughout his career, Muti has dedicated much time and effort to training young musicians. In 2004, he founded the Orchestra Giovanile Luigi Cherubini (Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra), based in his native Italy. He regularly tours with the ensemble to prestigious concert halls and opera houses all over the world.

Since 1997, as part of Le vie dell’Amicizia (The paths of friendship), a project of the Ravenna Festival in Italy, Muti has annually conducted large-scale concerts in war-torn and poverty-stricken areas around the
world, using music to bring hope, unity, and attention to present day social, cultural, and humanitarian issues.

Muti has received innumerable international honors. He is a Cavaliere di Gran Croce of the Italian Republic, Officer of the French Legion of Honor, and a recipient of the German Verdienstkreuz. Queen Elizabeth II bestowed on him the title of honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire, Russian President Vladimir Putin awarded him the Order of Friendship, and Pope Benedict XVI made him a Knight of the Grand Cross First Class of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great—the highest papal honor. Muti also has received Israel’s Wolf Prize in Music, Sweden’s prestigious Birgit Nilsson Prize, Spain’s Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts, from Japan the Order of the Rising Sun Gold and Silver Star, and most recently the Praemium Imperiale, and the gold medal from Italy’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his promotion of Italian culture abroad as well as the prestigious “Presidente della Repubblica” award from the Italian government and the Viareggio Repaci Special Prize. Muti has received more than 20 honorary degrees from universities around the world.

Considered one of the greatest interpreters of Verdi in our time, Muti wrote a book on the composer, Verdi, l’italiano, published in Italian, German, and Japanese. His first book, Riccardo Muti: An Autobiography: First the Music, Then the Words, also has been published in several languages, as well as Infinity Between the Notes: My Journey Into Music, published May 2019 and available in Italian.

Riccardo Muti’s vast catalog of recordings, numbering in the hundreds, ranges from the traditional symphonic and operatic repertoires to contemporary works. His debut recording with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of Verdi’s Messa da Requiem, released in 2010 by CSO Resound, won two Grammy awards. His second recording with the CSO and Chorus, Verdi’s Otello, released in 2013 by CSO Resound, won the 2014 International Opera Award for the Best Complete Opera.

During his time with the CSO, Muti has won over audiences in greater Chicago and across the globe through his music making as well as his demonstrated commitment to sharing classical music. His annual free concerts for the city of Chicago attract tens of thousands of people. He regularly invites subscribers, students, seniors, and people of low incomes to attend, at no charge, his CSO rehearsals. Muti’s commitment to artistic excellence and to creating a strong bond between an orchestra and its communities continues to bring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to ever higher levels of achievement and renown.

riccardomutimusic.com

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org and 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. Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-in-Residence.

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.