



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

**For Immediate Release:**

September 5, 2019

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**RICCARDO MUTI OPENS 10<sup>TH</sup> SEASON AS  
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSIC DIRECTOR  
WITH SEPTEMBER SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS,  
ANNUAL SYMPHONY BALL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

**SEPTEMBER 19-28**

**Opening Subscription and Symphony Ball Programs feature Leif Ove Andsnes  
as soloist in Grieg's Piano Concerto (September 19, 20 & 21)**

**Muti and the CSO Launch Beethoven Symphony Cycle with Symphonies  
Nos. 1 & 3 as part of season-long Beethoven 250 Programming  
(September 26, 27 & 28)**

**Muti Visits Chicago West Community Music Center on September 23;  
Leads CSO Community Concert at Lane Tech College Prep on September 24**

CHICAGO—Music Director Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago in September for his first Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) residency of the 2019/20 season—the Orchestra's 129th season and Muti's 10th as its music director. The residency includes two subscription programs and the annual Symphony Ball gala benefit concert, as well as the annual CSO Community Concert and other activities in the community. Muti conducts Shostakovich's Symphony No. 6 on a subscription program that also includes works by Mendelssohn and Scriabin and Grieg's Piano Concerto featuring pianist Leif Ove Andsnes as soloist on [September 19, at 8:00 p.m.](#) and

[September 20, at 1:30 p.m.](#) Grieg's Piano Concerto is at the center of the annual Symphony Ball Gala program on [September 21, at 7:00 p.m.](#) Muti's second subscription program on [September 26, at 8:00 p.m.](#), [September 27, at 1:30 p.m.](#) and [September 28, at 8:00 p.m.](#) features Beethoven's first and third symphonies and officially launches the season-long exploration and celebration of the music of Ludwig van Beethoven in conjunction with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth in 2020. More information is available at [cso.org/beethoven250](https://www.cso.org/beethoven250)

In the first subscription program ([September 19 & 20](#)), Muti leads a varied program that includes Shostakovich's Symphony No. 6, a work that premiered in Russia 1939 under the ever-growing tension and tyranny of Joseph Stalin's Soviet regime. The program also includes Mendelssohn's *Calm Seas and Prosperous Voyage* Overture—a work to be featured in the CSO's January 2020 European Tour programs— as well as Scriabin's *Reverie* and Grieg's Piano Concerto featuring Leif Ove Andsnes as soloist. Muti and Andsnes first performed together with the CSO in critically acclaimed 2015 subscription concerts.

Andsnes also joins Muti and the Orchestra for the Symphony Ball gala concert program [September 21](#) to perform the Grieg Piano Concerto. Music inspired by significant figures in Italian history and literature complete the program and include Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, Verdi's Sinfonia from the opera *La battaglia di Legnano* and Suppé's Overture to the opera *Boccaccio*.

Pianist Leif Ove Andsnes is a celebrated interpreter whose accolades include an induction into the Gramophone Hall of Fame and receipt of Norway's Peer Gynt Prize, as well as the prestigious Commander of the Royal Norway Order of St. Olav Prize. He has performed with orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, Dresden Staatskapelle, Chicago Symphony, Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and the London Philharmonic, among others. In addition to his groundbreaking work as a solo performer, Andsnes is the founding director of the Rosenthal Chamber Music Festival and was a co-Artistic Director of the Risør Festival of Chamber Music for nearly two decades. Andsnes' career also includes his singular "Beethoven Journey," a four-year celebration of Beethoven's works that included more than 200 performances in 27 countries.

In his second subscription program ([September 26, 27 & 28](#)), Muti and the CSO launch a Beethoven symphony cycle with performances of the composer's Symphony No. 1 and Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*) on a program that also includes Beethoven's *Consecration of the House* Overture. The remaining seven Beethoven symphonies will be performed during Muti's residencies in February, April/May and June 2020, concluding with the composer's triumphant ninth symphony in the CSO's season finale program. Muti is the fourth CSO music director to curate season-long performances of all nine Beethoven symphonies. Second Music Director Frederick Stock pioneered the first cycle in 1936/37, followed by Désiré Defauw in 1944/45, and Daniel Barenboim in 1997/98. Former Principal Conductor Bernard Haitink led the Orchestra in the most recent exploration of Beethoven's symphonies, performing all nine in a span of only three weeks in June 2010.

The complete Beethoven symphony cycle is the cornerstone of a season-long exploration of the genius of this musical explorer and innovator. [Beethoven 250](#) programming during the 2019/20 season also includes performances of the complete piano sonatas on the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series and important works including the Violin Concerto, Piano Concertos Nos. 1 & 4, as well as chamber music including violin sonatas and piano trios.

During the September residency, Muti also leads the CSO in its annual, free Community Concert on [September 24, at 7:00 p.m.](#) at Lane Tech College Prep High School (2501 W. Addison, Chicago). Muti and the Orchestra return to Lane Tech for the first time since a 2017 Community Concert appearance. This year's all-Prokofiev program features a Suite from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* and Symphony No. 3. Additionally, Muti joins the young musicians of the Chicago West Community Music Center for a rehearsal and conversation about music at the Columbus Park Refectory on September 23, an event facilitated by the African American Network (AAN) of the CSO. Before his concert activities begin, Muti has also been invited to return to the Friendly Confines to throw a ceremonial first pitch at the September 17 Chicago Cubs-Cincinnati Reds game at Wrigley Field. Muti previously joined the Cubs for a first pitch appearance in 2012.

Following his residency at the conclusion of the CSO's 2018/19 season in June, Muti traveled to Athens, Greece to lead the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra and Greek musicians in a July 9 performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, as part of the annual Roads of Friendship concerts, presented by the Ravenna Festival. The concert was also performed on July 11 in Ravenna at the Palazzo Mauro de André. Muti remained in Ravenna in July to lead his annual Italian Opera Academy, this year with sessions for young conductors and répétiteurs planned around Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. CSO Acting Principal Viola Li-Kuo Chang joined the Orchestra at the Academy for their special culminating performances including a concert at the newly reopened Teatro Galli in Rimini, a program that was attended by Italian President Sergio Mattarella. Muti, who has maintained a close relationship with the Salzburg Festival and its great orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, for more than 45 years, returned to the Festival in August 2019 for performances of Verdi's Requiem with the Vienna Philharmonic, the Vienna State Opera Chorus and soloists Krassimira Stoyanova (soprano), Anita Rachvelishvili (mezzo-soprano), Francesco Meli (tenor) and Ildar Abdrazakov (bass). On August 24, he was awarded the distinguished "Special Viareggio 90 Award" by the Viareggio-Repaci for his contributions to arts and culture.

Tickets for all CSOA-presented 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.



**Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Community Concert**

Lane Tech College Prep.  
2501 W. Addison  
Chicago, IL

[Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 7:00 p.m.](#)

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Riccardo Muti, conductor**

PROKOFIEV Suite from *Romeo and Juliet*  
PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 44

Free and open to the public; tickets are required.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

[Thursday, September 26, 2019, 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Friday, September 27, 2019, 1:30 p.m.](#)

[Saturday, September 28, 2019, 8:00 p.m.](#)

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Riccardo Muti, conductor**

BEETHOVEN *Consecration of the House Overture*, Op. 124  
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21  
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 55  
(*Eroica*)

Tickets: \$38-\$254

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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 for the arts, Sweden's prestigious Birgit Nilsson Prize, Spain's Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts, and the gold medal from Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his promotion of Italian culture abroad. In March 2017, the Italian government recognized Muti with its prestigious Presidente della Repubblica award, presented to Muti for his exceptional contribution to Italian culture in the field of music. He has received more than twenty 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, including Chinese.

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](http://riccardomutimusic.com)

**Other Featured Artists for this Performance:**

[Leif Ove Andsnes, piano](#)

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](http://cso.org) and [csosoundsandstories.org](http://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](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 [cso.org/resound](http://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.