FROM THE CSO’S ARCHIVES: MAESTRO’S CHOICE—
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
RADIO BROADCAST SERIES ON WFMT—
EXTENDED THROUGH SUMMER 2020

Eleven New Programs—Selected by Riccardo Muti—including Live Performances from his Tenure as Music Director and Historic Performances from the Rosenthal Archives of the CSOA

CHICAGO – June 30, 2020 – The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) and WFMT (Chicago’s Classical Music Station) announce the extension of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) radio broadcast series From the CSO’s Archives: Maestro’s Choice—For All Music Lovers in These Difficult Times. Created in response to the COVID-19 crisis by the CSOA and WFMT in a special cultural and community partnership, the weekly Tuesday evening broadcast series launched in April 2020 and has continued to offer a meaningful connection to the music of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra while live performances have been interrupted during the pandemic. Airing weekly on Tuesday evenings from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (CDT), a new set of 11 programs begins July 7 and continues through September 15. The programs are available to listeners on WFMT (98.7 FM), and streaming on wfmt.com and the WFMT app (wfmt.com/app). More information about CSO radio broadcasts, is also available cso.org/radio.

Riccardo Muti, music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 2010, curated the new programs in the series with focus on highlighting many musical eras of the Orchestra, and special program themes such as distinguished guest artists, classical-era choral works featuring the Chicago Symphony Chorus and repertoire long associated with the Orchestra by composers including Bruckner, Mahler and Strauss.

Selections include CSO concert programs from Muti’s tenure as music director, including works featured on his CSO Resound recordings with the Orchestra such as the Grammy Award–winning performance of Verdi’s Messa da Requiem, Bruckner’s Ninth Symphony and Berlioz’s Lelio featuring Gérard Depardieu as the narrator. Additionally, there are three programs with former Principal Conductor Bernard Haitink leading works by Shostakovich, Mahler and Strauss; a program featuring former Helen Regenstein Conductor Emeritus Pierre Boulez conducting his own Messagesquises for seven cellos and Janáček’s Glagolitic Mass with the Chicago Symphony Chorus; as well as a program highlighting performances with multiple CSO music directors that includes a 1941 recording of second music director Frederick Stock leading the
Orchestra in Brahms’s *Tragic Overture*. Other highlights include a 2007 performance of Mongolian composer Byambasuren Sharav’s *Legend of Herlen*, featuring the Silk Road Ensemble and Yo-Yo Ma, who commissioned the work, and a 1977 performance of Daniel Barenboim as soloist in Brahms’s Second Piano Concerto led by former Principal Guest Conductor Carlo Maria Giulini.

New programs in the *From the CSO’s Archives: Maestro’s Choice* series for July 7 through September 15 include:

**July 7: Bernard Haitink conducts Shostakovich’s Fourth**

Former Principal Conductor Bernard Haitink leads the Orchestra and Chorus in Poulenc’s radiant *Gloria*, followed by the Grammy Award–winning 2008 CSO Resound release of Shostakovich’s Fourth Symphony. Longtime Principal Trombone Jay Friedman opens the program, conducting the CSO Brass in an arrangement of Walton’s march, *Crown Imperial*.

**July 14: Great Guest Soloists with the Orchestra**

Italian violinist Zino Francescatti solos in Ravel’s *Tzigane* in a 1966 performance with Jean Martinon on the podium, followed by a 1963 performance featuring Andrés Segovia in Castelnuovo-Tedesco’s First Guitar Concerto led by Walter Hendl, the Ravinia Festival’s first artistic director. Canadian contralto Maureen Forrester joins Martinon and the CSO for a 1968 performance of Chausson’s *Poem of Love and the Sea*, and this composite program concludes with a 1977 performance featuring future CSO music director Daniel Barenboim as soloist in Brahms’s Second Piano Concerto led by Principal Guest Conductor Carlo Maria Giulini.

**July 21: Riccardo Muti conducts Verdi’s Requiem**

Tenth music director Riccardo Muti opens this program leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Verdi’s Overture to *I vespri siciliani*. Muti completes the program with the multiple Grammy Award–winning CSO Resound recording of Verdi’s Requiem, featuring the Chicago Symphony Chorus and a roster of internationally acclaimed soloists including soprano Barbara Frittoli, mezzo-soprano Olga Borodina, tenor Mario Zeffiri and bass Ildar Abdrazakov.

**July 28: Pierre Boulez conducts Messiaen and Janáček**

This colorful program features multiple performances led by legendary conductor Pierre Boulez, whose celebrated artistic collaboration with the CSO lasted for more than 40 years. Featured soloists include Larry Combs, longtime CSO principal clarinet, in Debussy’s First Rhapsody and Belgian bass-baritone José van Dam in one of Mahler’s most evocative songs from the *Rückert Lieder*. The Orchestra’s cello section is featured in Boulez’s own *Messagesquisses*, and the program concludes with Janáček’s *Glagolitic* Mass, with organist David Schrader and the Chicago Symphony Chorus.
August 4: Fritz Reiner conducts Wagner, Bartók, and Tchaikovsky

Sixth music director Fritz Reiner is featured in this program that includes archival performances from the 1950s. It opens with two works by Wagner: the Prelude to *Lohengrin* and the Good Friday Spell from *Parsifal* and continues with American violinist Yehudi Menuhin—a frequent soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for nearly 40 years—as soloist in Bartók’s Second Violin Concerto, concluding with Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony.

August 11: Chicago Symphony Chorus: Mozart, Schubert, and Beethoven

The Chicago Symphony Chorus—under the direction of Margaret Hillis and Duain Wolfe—is the focus in a program that includes multiple works from the classical era. The program opens with former music director Rafael Kubelík leading Mozart’s festive *Coronation* Mass and is followed by performances led by ninth music director Daniel Barenboim including two works by Schubert, Wolf’s choral arrangement of his dramatic song *Der Feuerreiter*, and Beethoven’s oratorio *Christ on the Mount of Olives*.

August 18: Bernard Haitink conducts Mahler’s Sixth

Bernard Haitink—the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s principal conductor from 2006 until 2010—leads a performance of Mahler’s Sixth Symphony, recorded in October 2007 for CSO Resound. The program opens with Sharav’s *Legend of Herlen*, featuring the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma, from the Grammy Award–winning recording *Traditions and Transformations*, also released on CSO Resound.

August 25: Riccardo Muti conducts Bruckner’s Ninth

Theodore Thomas, the Orchestra’s founder and first music director, led the ensemble in the U.S. premiere of Bruckner’s Ninth Symphony in February 1904. In June 2016, tenth music director Riccardo Muti continued that tradition, leading the Orchestra in the composer’s unfinished work, later released on CSO Resound. This program also includes the intermezzo from Puccini’s *Manon Lescaut*, along with other works to be announced.

September 1: The CSO in Strauss, Schumann, and Beethoven

Three CSO music directors—Frederick Stock, Fritz Reiner, and Jean Martinon—along with Principal Guest Conductor Pierre Boulez are featured on this program leading works by Strauss, Schumann, and Brahms. A 1966 performance of Beethoven’s *Emperor* Concerto concludes the program with Russian pianist Emil Gilels as soloist and Martinon on the podium.
September 8: Riccardo Muti conducts Berlioz’s Lélio

CSO Resound recordings featuring the Chicago Symphony Chorus are highlighted on this program, opening with Lélio, Berlioz’s sequel to his Symphonie fantastique with award-winning actor Gérard Depardieu as the narrator. Selections from Verdi’s Nabucco and Boito’s Mefistofele, under Riccardo Muti’s baton, complete the program.

September 15: Pierre Boulez and Bernard Haitink

CSO Resound recordings are featured in this program that opens with Assistant Principal Trumpet Mark Ridenour conducting the CSO Brass in an arrangement of Bach’s Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor. Pierre Boulez, who served as the Helen Regenstein Conductor Emeritus from 2006 to 2016, takes the podium in a 2009 performance of Stravinsky’s one-act neoclassical ballet Pulcinella—with vocal soloists Roxana Constantinescu, Nicholas Phan, and Kyle Ketelsen—and Principal Conductor Bernard Haitink leads Strauss’s Ein Heldenleben to conclude the program.

A link to full program information for this set of seven programs is available here.

The Tuesday evening broadcasts of From the CSO’s Archives: Maestro’s Choice—For All Music Lovers in These Difficult Times take place weekly from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. (CDF) through September 15, 2020. WFMT’s Kerry Frumkin hosts the special CSO radio broadcasts, adding commentary for featured selections each week. The nationally syndicated CSO Radio Broadcast Series continues to air weekly on Sunday evenings at 8:00 p.m. (CDT) in Chicago on WFMT (98.7 FM), and via streaming on wfmt.com and the WFMT app (wfmt.com/app).

Programs for From the CSO’s Archives: Maestro’s Choice are prepared with special support from Frank Villella, Director of the Rosenthal Archives of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.

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

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 62 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 (Ken-David Masur, Principal Conductor), 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.

WFMT is one of the world’s most respected classical music radio stations, available on-air at 98.7WFMT, online at wfmt.com/listen, and on the WFMT app. WFMT showcases superlative programs, concerts, and live events – from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Music Festival, the Metropolitan Opera, Ravinia Festival, and many more. WFMT is also a leading producer and syndicator of a diverse selection of outstanding musical series, including Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin, the Beethoven Network, and the Jazz Network. Connect with WFMT on Facebook and Twitter.

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