



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS SPECIAL CONCERT
FEATURES BÉLA FLECK, ZAKIR HUSSAIN & EDGAR MEYER
WITH RAKESH CHAURASIA**

**Program Combines Bluegrass, Jazz, World and Classical Influences
in Original Works**

Sunday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m.

CHICAGO—Banjo player Béla Fleck, tabla player Zakir Hussain and bassist Edgar Meyer reunite—this time with bansuri (bamboo flute) player Rakesh Chaurasia, in his Symphony Center debut—for a Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Special Concert on [Sunday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m.](#) The program features original compositions that weave the individual performers' commands of jazz, bluegrass, world and classical music.

Nearly a decade ago, Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain and Edgar Meyer collaborated on the composition of a triple concerto featuring their respective instruments. That initial collaboration led to more compositions, an album release and a tour, during which the three musicians discovered a natural musical rapport. These three virtuosi invited premier bansuri player Rakesh Chaurasia to join them for their current project, which incorporates elements of bluegrass, jazz, Western classical music and Indian classical music into original compositions that effortlessly flow and display each performer's mastery of his instrument.

Banjo player Béla Fleck is the recipient of 15 Grammy Awards across nine different categories. His career, including his continued role in *Béla Fleck and the Flecktones* more than 30 years after the group's inception, perpetually expands the roles and capabilities of banjo music. His solo projects and collaborations extend across genres including country, jazz, classical, pop,

bluegrass, folk and world music. Since debuting his first standalone banjo concerto, *The Impostor*, in 2011 with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Fleck has gone on to premiere two more original banjo concertos. In addition to his performances and recordings, Fleck also produced the award-winning documentary *Throw Down Your Heart*, which followed Fleck's journey across Africa to research the origins of the banjo.

World-renowned tabla player Zakir Hussain is one of the most influential world musicians and percussionists of his time. Since his U.S. debut in 1970, Hussain has gone on to co-compose the music for the 1996 Summer Olympics Opening Ceremony, premiere critically-acclaimed works, and receive numerous honors and awards. In addition to his 2009 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary World Music Album, Hussain has received accolades like the 2007 Best World Music Award from *Modern Drummer*, 2007 Best Worldbeat Drummer from *Drum!*, 2012 Best Percussionist Award from *Downbeat's* Critics Poll, two Isadora Duncan Awards and a 1999 National Heritage Fellowship. In 2005, Hussain was named an Old Dominion Fellow at Princeton University. He was given SFJAZZ's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017 for his contributions to world music.

Five-time Grammy Award-winning bassist and composer Edgar Meyer regularly collaborates with some of the most esteemed performers in the world including Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Chris Thile and Hilary Hahn. Meyer's honors include a 2002 MacArthur Award, the 1994 Avery Fisher Career Grant and the 2000 Avery Fisher Prize. As a composer, Meyer has written for a variety of small ensembles and composed three concertos for double bass and orchestra. He is currently on the faculty at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Rakesh Chaurasia is a bansuri (bamboo flute) player celebrated for his ability to balance traditional and contemporary styles without sacrificing virtuosity. The nephew of legendary flute player Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, he has collaborated with internationally acclaimed performers in concert and in the studio, including many of the leading artists in the Indian film industry. Chaurasia has earned numerous awards including the 2007 Indian Music Academy Award, 2008 Aditya Birla Kalakiran Puraskar, 2011 Guru Shishya Award, 2013 IWAP-Pandit Jasraj Sangeet Ratna Award and the 2013 Pannalal Ghosh Puraskar. Chaurasia has been invited to perform at festivals across the world, including the Leicester International Music Festival, Festival of Saint-Denis, WOMAD Festival in Athens and the "Festivals of India" in Russia, Japan and the United States. He also was invited to conclude the 24-hour live BBC Radio broadcast celebrating Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee.

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**

[Sunday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain and Edgar Meyer with Rakesh Chaurasia

Béla Fleck, banjo

Zakir Hussain, tabla

Edgar Meyer, bass

Rakesh Chaurasia, bansuri (bamboo flute)

Tickets: \$30-95

Featured Artists for this Performance:

[Béla Fleck, banjo](#)

[Zakir Hussain, tabla](#)

[Edgar Meyer, bass](#)

[Rakesh Chaurasia, bansuri](#)

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra

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 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.