FROM THE CSO’S ARCHIVES: THE FIRST 130 YEARS —
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
TUESDAY EVENING RADIO PROGRAMS ON WFMT
EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 2021

CHICAGO – March 25, 2021 – The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) and WFMT (Chicago’s Classical Music Station) announce the extension of Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Tuesday evening radio broadcasts From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years through June 2021. Prepared with support from the Rosenthal Archives of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, the broadcast series is part of the Orchestra’s 130th season and focuses on its extensive discography, featuring Grammy Award-winning releases, as well as recordings highlighting virtually every era in CSO history. Programs in the series are broadcast weekly on Tuesday evenings from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Central Time) and will be available to listeners on WFMT (98.7 FM) and streaming on wfmt.com and the WFMT app (wfmt.com/app). More information about CSOradio broadcasts, including the nationally syndicated series that airs weekly on Sundays on WFMT, is also available at cso.org/radio.

Program highlights for the first six broadcasts in April and May 2021 are below. Details for the remainder of the broadcasts in this series will be posted on cso.org/radio.

April 6, 2021: Benny Goodman in Nielsen and Weber

In the 1960s, legendary clarinetist Benny Goodman performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and recorded concertos by Nielsen and Weber. This program also includes overtures by Weber and Nielsen’s Second Symphony, and a jazzy encore from Goodman, known as the “King of Swing,” performing Fred Fisher’s, “Chicago (That Toddlin’ Town).”

April 13, 2021: Celebrating Victor Aitay

A member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 50 seasons, Victor Aitay (1921-2012) attended the Franz Liszt Royal Academy in his native Hungary, where Béla Bartók, Zoltán Kodály and Leo Weiner were on faculty. This program features several of the first-char violin solos Aitay recorded during his tenure as the Orchestra’s concertmaster, including Rimsky-Korsakov’s Sheherazade, as well as the Benedictus from Beethoven’s Missa solemnis. Kodály’s Hary Janos Suite and a colorful variety of works by Liszt, Bartók and Weiner complete the program.
April 20, 2021: Legends at the Piano

This program highlights performances from four iconic piano soloists and opens with a 1960 recording of Van Cliburn in MacDowell’s Second Piano Concerto. Other featured performances include Ivo Pogorelich in Chopin’s second piano concerto, Peter Serkin in Bartók’s first concerto and Cecile Licad in Rachmaninov’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.

April 27, 2021: A Choral Celebration

In this program, the Chicago Symphony Chorus is showcased in an eclectic selection of works including Barber’s *Prayers of Kierkegaard*, Poulenc’s *Gloria*, Bruckner’s *Heiligland*, and—with the Lyric Opera of Chicago Chorus—20th-century composer Henryk Górecki’s a cappella *Euntes ibant et flebant*. The broadcast concludes with the Chorus’ first release, Prokofiev’s *Alexander Nevsky*, recorded in March 1959 under the baton of the CSO’s sixth music director Fritz Reiner.

May 4, 2021: World’s Columbian Exposition in 1893

On May 2, 1893, Theodore Thomas—the Orchestra’s founder and first music director—led the Exposition Orchestra (the Chicago Orchestra, expanded to 114 players) in the World’s Columbian Exposition’s inaugural concert, which included Schubert’s *Unfinished Symphony*. The next day, Thomas led a second concert that opened with Beethoven’s Third Symphony (*Eroica*), followed by Schumann’s Piano Concerto with pianist Ignace Paderewski as soloist. This program serves as a tribute to these historic concerts and features recordings of all three works, including a 1967 performance of Schumann’s Piano Concerto with Artur Rubinstein as soloist and the CSO’s former principal guest conductor Carlo Maria Giulini on the podium.

May 11, 2021: Solti Conducts Bach’s Mass in B Minor

Although never performed in his lifetime, Johann Sebastian Bach’s B minor mass was the “summation of his life’s work,” according to Phillip Huscher, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s scholar-in-residence and program annotator. This program features the 1990 performance of Bach’s choral masterwork by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, led by Sir Georg Solti, for which founder and longtime chorus director Margaret Hillis and her ensemble received their eighth Grammy Award for Best Performance of a Choral Work.

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

The Tuesday evening broadcasts of From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years take place weekly from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. (Central Time) through June 29, 2021. WFMT’s Kerry Frumkin hosts the special CSO radio broadcasts, adding commentary for featured selections each week.

The nationally syndicated CSOradio broadcast series continues to air weekly on Sunday evenings at 8:00 p.m. (Central Time) in Chicago on WFMT (98.7 FM), and via streaming on wfmt.com and the WFMT app (wfmt.com/app). Series highlights through June 20, 2021, include several programs led by Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti, including an April 11 broadcast featuring Chabrier’s *España*, Ravel’s *Boléro* and Ginastera’s Harp Concerto, with Xavier de Maistre as soloist, a June 6 broadcast featuring The B-Sides, Five Pieces for Orchestra and Electronica by former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates and Schumann’s Cello
Concerto with Yo-Yo Ma as soloist, as well as a June 20 broadcast featuring Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 3 (*Polish*) and Stravinsky’s Suite from *The Firebird*. The series also includes broadcasts featuring CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen as soloist in concertos by Mozart and Ligeti, an all-Beethoven program led by former principal conductor Bernard Haitink and Mahler’s third, fifth and seventh symphonies led by conductors Andres Orozco-Estrada, Manfred Honeck and Pierre Boulez.

**CSORadio** is the source for complete program listing information. Listen to free, on-demand radio broadcasts of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at [cso.org/radio](http://cso.org/radio).

Programs for **From the CSO’s Archives: The First 130 Years** are prepared with special support from Frank Villella, director of the Rosenthal Archives of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** [cso.org](http://cso.org) and [experience.cso.org](http://experience.cso.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](http://cso.org/radio). Recordings by the CSO have earned 63 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 (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 WFMT 98.7FM, online at [wfmt.com/listen](http://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, Twitter, and YouTube.

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