THE COMPLETE
BEETHOVEN SYMPHONIES
MASCAGNI CAVALLERIA
RUSTICANA
HOLST THE PLANETS
VIVALDI
THE FOUR SEASONS
GERSHWIN
Rhapsody in Blue
RAVEL BOLÉRO
CARMINA BURANA
MOZART
JUPITER SYMPHONY
BERLIOZ SYMPHONIE
FANTASTIQUE
MAHLER 6 BRAHMS
VIOLIN CONCERTO
HANDEL WATER MUSIC

FREE EXCHANGES
the best policy
in Chicago!

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
RICCARDO MUTI ZELL MUSIC DIRECTOR

2019/20
In a season that also marks his tenth as music director, Riccardo Muti conducts all nine Beethoven symphonies, as part of a season-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of the great composer’s birth. Join us for an unparalleled journey from the sparkling early symphonies to the staggering Fifth and dynamic Seventh, culminating in a performance of “the symphony to end all symphonies” (The Guardian), the euphoric Ninth.

Also featured on the extraordinary 2019/20 season, Muti leads a concert performance of Mascagni’s impassioned opera Cavalleria rusticana. Celebrated guest conductors and artists head to Orchestra Hall to lead the world-renowned CSO in the electrifying Carmina burana, Holst’s thundering The Planets, Gershwin’s beloved Rhapsody in Blue, Ravel’s seductive Boléro and much more!

Tickets are in high demand for this incredible season. The only way to guarantee your seats and enjoy the best prices of the season is to subscribe.
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*Number includes any combination of packages and concerts adding up to 10 or more. Must be purchased by renewal deadline of April 5, 2019, to count toward total.

**New to classical music or subscribing?**

**Try one of our curated subscription series!**

Our **Thursday H** series (page 8) features Vivaldi’s captivating *The Four Seasons*, a night of Strauss waltzes and polkas led by Austrian conductor Manfred Honeck, Mozart’s joyous *Jupiter Symphony* and Riccardo Muti leading Beethoven’s staggering Fifth Symphony.

Subscribe to our **Tuesday B** series (page 29) and hear Riccardo Muti conduct Beethoven’s dazzling Violin Concerto with the renowned Leonidas Kavakos, Berlioz’s impassioned *Symphonie fantastique* and Tchaikovsky’s triumphant Fourth Symphony on a program that also features the remarkable violinist Ray Chen.

For a weekend option, try the **Saturday C** series (page 24) with Muti conducting Beethoven’s *Pastoral Symphony* and a concert presentation of Mascagni’s exquisite opera *Cavalleria rusticana*, plus performances of Holst’s powerful *The Planets* and Shostakovich’s blistering *Leningrad* Symphony.

We invite you to call us at 312-294-3000 or chat with us at cso.org for personalized service. Our Patron Services representatives are standing by to help you find the series that matches your musical tastes.

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Browse the following pages to explore the season and select the perfect subscription series for you.
MUTI CONDUCTS Mascagni

Cavalleria rusticana

Beloved by opera audiences around the world, Mascagni’s Cavalleria rusticana is an impassioned story of tormented love wrapped in music of fervent vibrancy. Riccardo Muti, whose command of 19th-century Italian opera is “virtually without peer” (Bachtrack), leads concert performances of the complete one-act opera with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and an international cast.

NOTES ON THIS SERIES

Sept 26
The season-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth opens with a program dedicated entirely to his music. Riccardo Muti, who conducts all nine Beethoven symphonies this season, begins with the ebullient, classically scaled First. Unprecedented in proportion and epic in scope, the groundbreaking Eroica Symphony demonstrates how powerfully Beethoven redefined the musical language of his time, launching classical music into the romantic era.

Feb 27

From its expansive opening to its transcendent climax, Sibelius’ Fifth Symphony is one of the most vivid orchestral works of the 20th century. Finnish conductor Hannu Lintu, in his CSO debut, pairs this with the composer’s best-known work, Finlandia. Pekka Kuusisto performs Nielsen’s spirited Violin Concerto. “Nielsen was a folk fiddler and Kuusisto made it show in the gorgeous looseness of his rhythms and stripped-back grit of his sound” (The Guardian).

Apr 2
Jakub Hrůša leads the CSO in an eclectic program ranging from orchestral dances from Thomas Adès’ breakthrough opera, Powder Her Face, to Brahms’ transcendent final symphony, Martin Helmchen, whose interpretations are “beautifully realized, revealing a kaleidoscopic array of shapes and colors” (Chicago Tribune), performs Dvořák’s dramatic and vividly melodic Piano Concerto.

Apr 16
Emmanuel Krivine conducts Berlioz’s Symphonie fantastique, which portrays an artist’s obsessive, self-destructive passion for his beloved. Two colorful works by Richard Strauss include the mischievous Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks and the delightful, rarely heard Burlesque, featuring rising German sensation Joseph Moog.

May 14
Hear sparkling selections from The Nutcracker and the dazzling Violin Concerto, performed by CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen, in an all-Tchaikovsky program that exemplifies the Russian master’s multi-faceted music, from the warm and colorful Capriccio italien, inspired by a trip to Rome, to the characteristically Russian Marche slave.

26 SEPT

A / F

MUTI Conducts Beethoven 1 & 3

BEETHOVEN Consecration of the House Overture
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 1 BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3 (Eroica)
Riccardo Muti conductor

10 OCT

A / G

Mendelssohn & Lutoslawski

PROKOFIEV Overture on Hebrew Themes
MENDELSSOHN Piano Concerto No. 1
MENDELSSOHN Capriccio brillant
LUTOSLAWSKI Concerto for Orchestra
Kirill Karabits conductor Sunwook Kim piano

19 DEC

A / F

Stravinsky & Dvořák 8

JOHN ADAMS The Chairman Dances STRAVINSKY Violin Concerto
DVOŘÁK Carnival Overture DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 8
Edo de Waart conductor Leila Josefowicz violin

6 FEB

A / F

Muti Conducts Cavalleria rusticana

MASCAGNI Cavalleria rusticana
Riccardo Muti conductor
Anita Rachvelishvili mezzo-soprano SANTUZZA
Piero Pretti tenor TURIDDU Luca Salsi baritone ALFIO
Chicago Symphony Chorus Duain Wolfe chorus director

27 FEB

A / G

Sibelius & Nielsen: A Nordic Celebration

SIBELIUS Finlandia NIELSEN Violin Concerto
NIELSEN Helios Overture SIBELIUS Symphony No. 5
Hannu Lintu conductor Pekka Kuusisto violin

2 APR

A / G

Brahms 4

ADÈS Dances from Powder Her Face
DVOŘÁK Piano Concerto BRAHMS Symphony No. 4
Jakub Hrůša conductor Martin Helmchen piano

16 APR

A / F

Symphonie fantastique

R. STRAUSS Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks
R. STRAUSS Burlesque BERLIOZ Symphonie fantastique
Emmanuel Krivine conductor Joseph Moog piano

30 APR

A / G

Muti Conducts Beethoven 4 & 7

MAZZOLI Orpheus Undone WORLD PREMIERE, CSO COMMISSION
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 4 BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 7
Riccardo Muti conductor

14 MAY

A / F

All-Tchaikovsky

TCHAIKOVSKY Capriccio italien TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto
TCHAIKOVSKY Marche slave
TCHAIKOVSKY Selections from The Nutcracker
Jonathan Stockhammer conductor Robert Chen violin

4 JUN

A / G

Ein Heldenleben

MENDELSSOHN The Hebrides Overture
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 17 R. STRAUSS Ein Heldenleben
Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider conductor Piotr Anderszewski piano

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
**SERIES HIGHLIGHT: FEBRUARY 20**

**MUTI Conducts Beethoven 2 & 5**

Opening with the most famous four notes in all of classical music, Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony is a staggering masterwork that became a symphonic blueprint for all subsequent composers. Riccardo Muti leads a program that also features the composer’s buoyant, humorous Second Symphony and a world premiere concerto performed by CSO Bass Clarinet J. Lawrie Bloom.

**NOTES ON THIS SERIES**

**Nov 21**

Juanjo Mena conducts the CSO in a program featuring Holst’s powerful and haunting *The Planets*. Sally Matthews, a soprano of “incandescent verve” (*The Times*, London), performs two scenes from Barber’s 1966 opera that opened the Metropolitan Opera’s new house at Lincoln Center. Detroit-based composer James Lee III’s celebratory *Sukkot Through Orion’s Nebula* illustrates an ancient Hebrew harvest festival refracted through the lens of the Book of Revelation.

**Dec 12**

Austrian conductor Manfred Honeck leads a program of richly melodic dance music by the Strauss family and Mozart’s virtuosic Piano Concerto No. 21 featuring Jan Lisiecki, whose “pristine, lyrical and intelligent playing shows uncommon maturity” (*The New York Times*). Former Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates calls his new work *Ophelia’s Tears* a theatrical and fast-paced conjuring of the classic Resurrection narrative.

**Mar 5**

After leading a 2019 CSO performance of Beethoven’s Eroica Symphony full of “tenfold strength and spirited dynamism” (*Chicago Classical Review*), distinguished conductor Herbert Blomstedt returns to conduct Brahms’ soaring Second Symphony. “Scintillating and incisive” (*The Straits Times*) French pianist Bertrand Chamayou makes his CSO debut with Mozart’s delightful Piano Concerto No. 23.

**May 7**

Opening with one of the most recognizable choruses in classical music, Carl Orff’s visceral oratorio *Carmina burana* is an exhilarating setting of medieval poems. Beginning a program of spirited storytelling is Saint-Saëns’ *Danse macabre*, a chilling dance with Death on All Hallow’s Eve, followed by the sumptuous Second Suite from Roussel’s ballet about the legendary abduction and enchantment of Ariadne.

**May 21**

A masterwork of unrestrained joy, Mozart’s last symphony is one of the greatest in the repertoire. Bernard Labadie conducts the Jupiter Symphony along with a dramatic overture by Haydn and two early keyboard concertos by Bach featuring rising star pianist Beatrice Rana in her CSO debut.

**17 OCT**

**Vivaldi The Four Seasons**

**MOZART** Divertimento in D Major, K. 136

**PIAZZOLLA, ARR. DESYATNIKOV** The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

Julian Rachlin **CONDUCTOR AND VIOLIN**

**7 NOV**

**Muti Conducts Brahms Double Concerto**

**WAGNER** Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*

**BRAHMS** Double Concerto

**SCHUMANN** Symphony No. 3 (Rhenish)

Riccardo Muti **CONDUCTOR**

Stephanie Jeong **VIOLIN**

Kenneth Olsen **CELLO**

**21 NOV**

**Holst The Planets**

**LEE III** Sukkot Through Orion’s Nebula

**BARBER** Two Scenes from Antony and Cleopatra

**HOLST** The Planets

Juanjo Mena **CONDUCTOR**

Sally Matthews **SOPRANO**

Women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus

Duain Wolfe **CHORUS DIRECTOR**

**12 DEC**

**A Night in Vienna: Honeck Conducts Mozart & Strauss**

**BATES** Resurrexit

**MOZART** Piano Concerto No. 21

Works by **JOHANN STRAUSS, JR.** and **JOSEF STRAUSS**

Manfred Honeck **CONDUCTOR**

Jan Lisiecki **PIANO**

**20 FEB**

**Muti Conducts Beethoven 2 & 5**

**BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 2

**BACRI** *Ophelia’s Tears* (WORLD PREMIERE, CSO COMMISSION)

**BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 5

Riccardo Muti **CONDUCTOR**

J. Lawrie Bloom **BASS CLARINET**

**5 MAR**

**Blomstedt Conducts Brahms 2**

**MOZART** Piano Concerto No. 23

**BRAHMS** Symphony No. 2

Herbert Blomstedt **CONDUCTOR**

Bertrand Chamayou **PIANO**

**9 APR**

**van Zweden Conducts Mahler 6**

**MAHLER** Symphony No. 6

Jaap van Zweden **CONDUCTOR**

**7 MAY**

**Carmina burana**

**SAINT-SAËNS** Danse macabre

**ROUSSEL** Suite No. 2 from *Bacchus et Ariane*

**ORFF** Carmina burana

Alain Altinoglu **CONDUCTOR**

Elena Sancho-Peregr *SOPRANO*

Benjamin Bliss **TENOR**

Elliott Madore **BARITONE**

Chicago Symphony Chorus

Duain Wolfe **CHORUS DIRECTOR**

Josephine Lee **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

**21 MAY**

**Mozart Jupiter Symphony**

**HAYDN** Overture to *L’isola disabitata*

**BACH** Keyboard Concerto No. 1 in D Minor, BWV 1052

**BACH** Keyboard Concerto No. 5 in F Minor, BWV 1056

**MOZART** Symphony No. 41 (Jupiter)

Bernard Labadie **CONDUCTOR**

Beatrice Rana **PIANO**

**11 JUN**

**Muti Conducts Beethoven 6 & 8**

**BEETHOVEN** Overture to *The Ruins of Athens*

**BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 8

**BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral)

Riccardo Muti **CONDUCTOR**
**THURSDAY C** 10 concerts at 8:00 / 5-concert series  **THU D or E**

**SERIES HIGHLIGHT: MARCH 12**

**RHAPSODY IN BLUE & Boléro**

In a vibrant program of classical music inspired by the jazz revolution of the 20th century, two of George Gershwin’s iconic works are paired with one he undoubtedly influenced, Ravel’s jazzy Piano Concerto in G Major. Ravel’s mesmerizing Boléro brings the program to a rousing close.

**NOTES ON THIS SERIES**

**Sept 19**
Riccardo Muti opens his 10th season as music director with two dramatic Russian works—Alexander Scriabin’s haunting first orchestral composition and Shostakovich’s pensive Sixth Symphony, written during a time of prewar tension. Hailed by the Wall Street Journal as “one of the most gifted musicians of his generation,” the brilliant Leif Ove Andsnes performs Edvard Grieg’s treasured Piano Concerto.

**Oct 3**
James Gaffigan, praised for his “exemplary, full-blooded conducting” (Chicago Classical Review), leads the CSO in Shostakovich’s rarely heard Eighth Symphony, a profound work that represents the composer’s yearning for peace. The CSO’s own Cynthia Yeh gives the U.S. premiere of Israeli-born composer Avner Dorman’s percussion concerto, which he calls “a celebration of life, energy and an ever-present and eternal rhythm.”

**Oct 24**
Following a “blistering” (Chicago Tribune) CSO podium debut, David Afkham returns to lead a diverse program featuring Haydn’s emotionally charged Mourning Symphony, Strauss’ tone poem portraying a man’s journey through death and Brahms’ radiant Third Symphony, which Clara Schumann described as “one beat of the heart, every movement a jewel.”

**Dec 5**
Taking inspiration from Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony, Tchaikovsky’s Fourth explores fate, progressing from dark despair to defiant triumph. John Storgårds leads this powerfully expressive work, along with the first CSO performance of the deeply moving blue cathedral by Jennifer Higdon, winner of the 2018 Nemmers Prize in Music Composition. The dazzling Ray Chen, making his CSO subscription series debut, brings his “liquid tone that carries with it emotional depth of great intimacy” (The Huffington Post) to the youthful bravura of Wieniawski’s First Violin Concerto.

**March 26**
An evening of baroque masterpieces, led by conductor Nicholas Kraemer from the harpsichord, features excerpts from operas and oratorios by Handel and Purcell, including the ever-popular Water Music. Opening the program is Bach’s best-known orchestral suite, which includes the much-loved “Air on the G String.”

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**CSO.ORG 312-294-3000**
Wieniawski’s First Violin Concerto.

Ray Chen, making his CSO subscription series debut, brings his “liquid tone that carries by Jennifer Higdon, winner of the 2018 Nemmers Prize in Music Composition. The dazzling blue cathedral expressive work, along with the first CSO performance of the deeply moving progressing from dark despair to defiant triumph. John Storgårds leads this powerfully leads Lutosławski’s melodic, folklore-inspired Concerto for Orchestra.

Paired with it emotional depth of great intimacy” (The Huffington Post)

The sensational young Korean pianist Sunwook Kim, acclaimed for his “ability to shift from fantasy to fireworks and back in a gasp” (The News, Portsmouth), makes his CSO debut with two vivacious works by Mendelssohn—the glittering Piano Concerto No. 1 and virtuosic Capriccio brillant. Ukrainian conductor Kirill Karabits, in his CSO subscription series debut, leads Lutosławski’s melodic, folklore-inspired Concerto for Orchestra.

“...as his blazing Fifth Symphony, the bucolic Pastoral Symphony shows another side of Beethoven, replete with sounds of the countryside and a passing storm.

Riccardo Muti’s complete Beethoven symphonic cycle continues with the charming Sixth and light-hearted Eighth. The Eighth, which Beethoven called his “little” symphony, is also one of his most inventive and enigmatic. Composed at the same time as his blazing Fifth Symphony, the bucolic Pastoral Symphony shows another side of Beethoven, replete with sounds of the countryside and a passing storm.
FRIDAY B  8 concerts at 1:30

SERIES HIGHLIGHT: SEPTEMBER 27

Muti Conducts BEETHOVEN 1 & 3

The season-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth opens with a program dedicated entirely to his music. Riccardo Muti, who conducts all nine Beethoven symphonies this season, begins with the ebullient, classically scaled First. Unprecedented in proportion and epic in scope, the groundbreaking *Eroica* Symphony demonstrates how powerfully Beethoven redefined the musical language of his time, launching classical music into the romantic era.

NOTES ON THIS SERIES

**Oct 18**
A captivating program of music by Vivaldi, Mozart and Piazzolla features the CSO debut of Julian Rachlin, a violinist of “brilliant high-octane technique” (*The New York Times*). Rachlin conducts and performs on two vastly different incarnations of The Four Seasons—Vivaldi’s pictorial baroque masterpiece and Piazzolla’s tango-inspired take.

**Nov 1**
The celebration continues with Beethoven’s dazzling Violin Concerto performed by the renowned Leonidas Kavakos, “the most deeply satisfying violinist performing today” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*). Riccardo Muti conducts this towering work alongside Stravinsky’s imaginative homage to Tchaikovsky and the world premiere of a work by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Bernard Rands.

**Dec 13**
Austrian conductor Manfred Honeck leads a program of richly melodic dance music by the Strauss family and Mozart’s virtuosic Piano Concerto No. 21 featuring Jan Lisiecki, whose “pristine, lyrical and intelligent playing shows uncommon maturity” (*The New York Times*). Former Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates calls his new work *Resurrexit*, written in honor of Manfred Honeck’s 60th birthday, “a theatrical and fast-paced conjuring of the classic Resurrection narrative.”

**Mar 6**
After leading a 2018 CSO performance of Beethoven’s *Eroica* Symphony full of “tensile strength and spirited dynamism” (*Chicago Classical Review*), distinguished conductor Herbert Blomstedt returns to conduct Brahms’ soaring Second Symphony. “Scintillating and incisive” (*The Straits Times*) French pianist Bertrand Chamayou makes his CSO debut with Mozart’s delightful Piano Concerto No. 23.

**Jun 5**
Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider makes a welcome return to lead the CSO in one of its signature pieces, the exuberant *Ein Heldenleben*, which tells the heroic story of a man grappling with fate through music of sumptuous beauty and warmth. Piotr Anderszewski brings his “articulate, bold and beautiful” (*Gramophone*) rendition of Mozart’s spirited Piano Concerto No. 17.

27 SEPT  Muti Conducts Beethoven 1 & 3
BEETHOVEN *Consecration of the House* Overture  
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 1  
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*)
Riccardo Muti conductor

18 OCT  Vivaldi *The Four Seasons*
MOZART Divertimento in D Major, K. 136  
PIAZZOLLA, ARR. DESYATNIKOV *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*
Julian Rachlin conductor and violin

1 NOV  Muti, Kavakos & Beethoven Violin Concerto
BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto  
RANDS *DREAM* for Orchestra, world premiere, CSO commission  
STRAVINSKY Divertimento from *The Fairy’s Kiss*
Riccardo Muti conductor  
Leonidas Kavakos violin

13 DEC  A Night in Vienna: Honeck Conducts Mozart & Strauss
BATES *Resurrexit*  
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 21  
JOHANN STRAUSS, JR. and JOSEF STRAUSS Works  
Manfred Honeck conductor  
Jan Lisiecki piano

5 JUN  Ein Heldenleben
MENDELSSOHN The Hebrides Overture  
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 17  
R. STRAUSS *Ein Heldenleben*
Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider conductor  
Piotr Anderszewski piano
MÄLKKI CONDUCTS
Beethoven & Mahler 4

Susanna Mälkki returns to the Orchestra Hall podium for Mahler’s magnificent Fourth Symphony, which portrays a journey toward innocence concluding with “The Heavenly Life” sung by “luminous soprano” (The New York Times) Camilla Tilling. Two rarely heard Beethoven works—the dramatic concert aria Ah! perfido and the grand Namensfeier Overture—complete the program.

Russian conductor Valery Gergiev returns to the CSO in one of Shostakovich’s most celebrated symphonies. Completed in 1941, while Leningrad was under siege by the German army, it is a monumental work of shattering power and unwavering resistance. “Gergiev’s approach to Shostakovich’s symphony proved gripping, driving the big moments home thrillingly” (The New York Times).

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<td><strong>OCT 4</strong></td>
<td>Shostakovich 8&lt;br&gt;DORMAN Eternal Rhythm&lt;br&gt;UNITED STATES PREMIERE&lt;br&gt;SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 8&lt;br&gt;James Gaffigan conductor&lt;br&gt;Cynthia Yeh percussion</td>
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<td><strong>FEB 7</strong></td>
<td>Muti Conducts Cavalleria rusticana&lt;br&gt;MASCAGNI Cavalleria rusticana&lt;br&gt;Riccardo Muti conductor&lt;br&gt;Anita Rachvelishvili mezzo-soprano&lt;br&gt;SANTUZZA&lt;br&gt;Piero Pretti tenor&lt;br&gt;Luca Salsi baritone&lt;br&gt;ALFIO&lt;br&gt;Chicago Symphony Chorus&lt;br&gt;Duain Wolfe chorus director</td>
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<td><strong>MAR 27</strong></td>
<td>Bach &amp; Handel&lt;br&gt;BACH Orchestral Suite No. 3&lt;br&gt;HANDEL Selected Arias&lt;br&gt;PURCELL Chacony in G Minor&lt;br&gt;PURCELL Dido’s Lament from Dido and Aeneas&lt;br&gt;HANDEL Suite No. 2 from Water Music&lt;br&gt;Nicholas Kraemer conductor and harpsichord&lt;br&gt;Amanda Forsythe soprano&lt;br&gt;Iestyn Davies countertenor</td>
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<td><strong>MAY 29</strong></td>
<td>Mälkki Conducts Beethoven &amp; Mahler 4&lt;br&gt;BEETHOVEN Namensfeier Overture&lt;br&gt;BEETHOVEN Ah! perfido&lt;br&gt;MAHLER Symphony No. 4&lt;br&gt;Susanna Mälkki conductor&lt;br&gt;Camilla Tilling soprano</td>
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<td><strong>JUN 19</strong></td>
<td>Muti Conducts Beethoven 9&lt;br&gt;BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9&lt;br&gt;Riccardo Muti conductor&lt;br&gt;Elena Stikhina soprano&lt;br&gt;Jennifer Johnson Cano mezzo-soprano&lt;br&gt;Daniel Johannsson tenor&lt;br&gt;Franz-Josef Selig bass&lt;br&gt;Chicago Symphony Chorus&lt;br&gt;Duain Wolfe chorus director</td>
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<td><strong>OCT 25</strong></td>
<td>Brahms 3&lt;br&gt;HAYDN Symphony No. 44 (Mourning)&lt;br&gt;R. STRAUSS Death and Transfiguration&lt;br&gt;BRAHMS Symphony No. 3&lt;br&gt;David Afkham conductor</td>
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<td><strong>FEB 21</strong></td>
<td>Muti Conducts Beethoven 2 &amp; 5&lt;br&gt;BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 2&lt;br&gt;BACRI Ophelia’s Tears&lt;br&gt;WORLD PREMIERE, CSO COMMISSION&lt;br&gt;BEECHAM Symphony No. 5&lt;br&gt;Riccardo Muti conductor&lt;br&gt;J. Lawrie Bloom bass clarinet</td>
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<td><strong>MAR 20</strong></td>
<td>Gergiev Conducts Shostakovich Leningrad&lt;br&gt;SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 7 (Leningrad)&lt;br&gt;Valery Gergiev conductor</td>
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<td><strong>APR 24</strong></td>
<td>Muti, Fischer &amp; Brahms Violin Concerto&lt;br&gt;BRAHMS Violin Concerto&lt;br&gt;STILL Mother and Child&lt;br&gt;PRICE Symphony No. 3&lt;br&gt;Riccardo Muti conductor&lt;br&gt;Julia Fischer violin</td>
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<td><strong>MAY 8</strong></td>
<td>Carmina burana&lt;br&gt;SAINT-SAËNS Danse macabre&lt;br&gt;ROUSSEL Suite No. 2 from Bacchus et Ariane&lt;br&gt;ORFF Carmina burana&lt;br&gt;Alain Altinoglu conductor&lt;br&gt;Elena Sancho-Perey soprano&lt;br&gt;Benjamin Bliss tenor&lt;br&gt;Elliot Madore baritone&lt;br&gt;Chicago Symphony Chorus&lt;br&gt;Duain Wolfe chorus director&lt;br&gt;Chicago Children’s Choir&lt;br&gt;Josephine Lee artistic director</td>
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Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra perform signature works by Ludwig van Beethoven in honor of the approaching 250th anniversary of his birth.

At the center of the celebration is Riccardo Muti conducting the nine iconic symphonies of Beethoven throughout the 2019/20 season. Each symphony stands as a pillar of the repertoire; collectively they represent the apex of artistic achievement, synthesizing all musical development that preceded them and creating a wake that would influence all music to follow.

This season, immerse yourself in some of the most stirring, dazzling and revolutionary music of all time.

Learn more and view all of the Symphony Center Beethoven celebration programming at cso.org/Beethoven250.

“Music should strike fire from the heart of man.”
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

DONALD J. GROUT, HISTORY OF WESTERN MUSIC

LANDSCAPE PAINTING: VIEW OF VIENNA FROM THE BELVEDERE (DETAIL) (1759–60) BY BERNARDO BELLOTO

KUNSTHISTORISCHES MUSEUM, VIENNA/©MONDADORI-ELECTA/BRIDGEMAN IMAGES
CARMINA BURANA

Opening with one of the most recognizable choruses in classical music, Carl Orff’s visceral oratorio Carmina burana is an exhilarating setting of medieval poems. Beginning a program of spirited storytelling is Saint-Saëns’ Danse macabre, a chilling dance with Death on All Hallow’s Eve, followed by the sumptuous Second Suite from Roussel’s ballet about the legendary abduction and enchantment of Ariadne.

NOTES ON THIS SERIES

Oct 12
The sensational young Korean pianist Sunwook Kim, acclaimed for his “ability to shift from fantasy to fireworks and back in a gasp” (The News, Portsmouth), makes his CSO debut with two vivacious works by Mendelssohn—the glittering Piano Concerto No. 1 and virtuosic Capriccio brillant. Ukrainian conductor Kirill Karabits, in his CSO subscription series debut, leads Lutosławski’s melodic, folklore-inspired Concerto for Orchestra.

Nov 2
The 250th birthday celebration continues with Beethoven’s dazzling Violin Concerto performed by the renowned Leonidas Kavakos, “the most deeply satisfying violinist performing today” (Philadelphia Inquirer). Riccardo Muti conducts this towering work for the Chicago Children’s Choir and Sunwook Kim, and the renowned English pianist, leading two fascinating works by the 20th-century English composer.

Feb 1
Renowned English pianist Paul Lewis returns to perform two of Beethoven’s extraordinary piano concertos—the good-humored First and the intricate Fourth. Sir Andrew Davis, music director of Lyric Opera of Chicago and “a Tippett conductor of proven pedigree and insight” (Gramophone), leads two fascinating works by the 20th-century English composer.

Apr 25
Riccardo Muti presents two groundbreaking pieces by the first African Americans to have symphonic works performed by major orchestras. William Grant Still’s Mother and Child is a touching work based on a painting by Sargent Johnson. Florence Price’s expressive Third Symphony gives a powerful voice to the African American experience. Julia Fischer brings her “burnished and splendid tone” (The Daily Telegraph) to Brahms’ lyrical Violin Concerto.

Jun 6
Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider makes a welcome return to lead the CSO in one of its signature pieces, the exuberant Ein Heldenleben, which tells the heroic story of a man grappling with fate through music of sumptuous beauty and warmth. Piotr Anderszewski brings his “articulate, bold and beautiful” (Gramophone) rendition of Mozart’s spirited Piano Concerto No. 17.

12 OCT
Mendelssohn & Lutosławski
PROKOFIEV Overture on Hebrew Themes
MENDELSSOHN Piano Concerto No. 1
MENDELSSOHN Capriccio brillant
LUTOSLAWSKI Concerto for Orchestra
Kirill Karabits conductor Sunwook Kim piano

2 NOV
Muti, Kavakos & Beethoven Violin Concerto
BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto
RANDS DREAM for Orchestra WORLD PREMIERE, CSO COMMISSION
STRAVINSKY Divertimento from The Fairy’s Kiss
Riccardo Muti conductor Leonidas Kavakos violin

7 DEC
Higdon & Tchaikovsky 4
HIGDON blue cathedral
WIENIAWSKI Violin Concerto No. 1
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4
John Storgårds conductor Ray Chen violin

1 FEB
Lewis Plays Beethoven
TIPPETT Little Music for String Orchestra
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1
TIPPETT Praeludium for Brass, Bells and Percussion
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4
Sir Andrew Davis conductor Paul Lewis piano

22 FEB
Muti Conducts Beethoven 2 & 5
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 2
BACRI Ophelia’s Tears WORLD PREMIERE, CSO COMMISSION
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 5
Riccardo Muti conductor J. Lawrie Bloom bass clarinet

7 MAR
Blomstedt Conducts Brahms 2
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 23
BRAHMS Symphony No. 2
Herbert Blomstedt conductor Bertrand Chamayou piano

4 APR
Brahms 4
ADÉS Dances from Powder Her Face
DVOŘÁK Piano Concerto
BRAHMS Symphony No. 4
Jakub Hrůša conductor Martin Helmchen piano

25 APR
Muti, Fischer & Brahms Violin Concerto
BRAHMS Violin Concerto
STILL Mother and Child
PRICE Symphony No. 3
Riccardo Muti conductor Julia Fischer violin

9 MAY
Carmina burana
SAINT-SAËNS Danse macabre
ROUSSEL Suite No. 2 from Bacchus et Ariane ORFF Carmina burana
Alain Altinoglu conductor Elena Sancho-Peregrino soprano
Benjamin Bliss tenor Elliot Madore baritone
Chicago Symphony Chorus Duain Wolfe chorus director
Chicago Children’s Choir Josephine Lee artistic director

6 JUN
Ein Heldenleben
MENDELSSOHN The Hebrides Overture
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 17 R. STRAUSS Ein Heldenleben
Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider conductor Piotr Anderszewski piano
Muti CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN 4 & 7

Continuing the celebration this season, Riccardo Muti conducts two more of Beethoven’s immortal symphonies—the graceful Fourth, described as “a slender Greek maiden between two Norse giants” by composer Robert Schumann, and the mighty, driving Seventh, which many, including Beethoven himself, considered one of his greatest works. A world premiere by Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli, “Brooklyn’s post-millennial Mozart” (Time Out New York), opens the program.

NOTES ON THIS SERIES

Oct 5
James Gaffigan, praised for his “exemplary, full-blooded conducting” (Chicago Classical Review), leads the CSO in Shostakovich’s rarely heard Eighth Symphony, a profound work that represents the composer’s yearning for peace. The CSO’s own Cynthia Yeh gives the U.S. premiere of Israeli-born composer Avner Dorman’s percussion concerto, which he calls “a celebration of life, energy and an ever-present and eternal rhythm.”

Nov 9
Brahms’ final orchestral composition calls for deep lyricism and virtuosic technique from its soloists to create the illusion of a single instrument. CSO Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong and Assistant Principal Cello Kenneth Olsen take center stage for this exhilarating work. Riccardo Muti concludes the program with Schumann’s Third Symphony, inspired by the composer’s journey to the Rhineland.

Mar 14
In a vibrant program of classical music inspired by the jazz revolution of the 20th century, two of George Gershwin’s iconic works are paired with one he undoubtedly influenced, Ravel’s jazzy Piano Concerto in G Major. Ravel’s mesmerizing Boléro, brings the program to a rousing close.

May 16
Hear sparkling selections from The Nutcracker and the dazzling Violin Concerto, performed by CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen, in an all-Tchaikovsky program that exemplifies the Russian master’s multi-faceted music, from the warm and colorful Capriccio italien, inspired by a trip to Rome, to the characteristically Russian Marche slave.

May 30
Susanna Mälkki returns to the Orchestra Hall podium for Mahler’s magnificent Fourth Symphony, which portrays a journey toward innocence concluding with “The Heavenly Life” sung by “luminous soprano” (The New York Times) Camilla Tilling. Two rarely heard Beethoven works—the dramatic concert aria Ah! perfido and the grand Namensfeier Overture—complete the program.
Juanjo Mena conducts the CSO in a program featuring Holst’s powerful and haunting *The Planets*. Sally Matthews, a soprano of “incandescent verve” (*The Times*, London), performs two scenes from Barber’s 1966 opera that opened the Metropolitan Opera’s new house at Lincoln Center. Detroit-based composer James Lee III’s celebratory *Sukkot Through Orion’s Nebula* illustrates an ancient Hebrew harvest festival refracted through the lens of the Book of Revelation.

Featuring some of the most passionate and heart-wrenching music he ever composed, Mahler’s Sixth Symphony is famous for the thunderous hammer blows of fate in its finale. Jaap van Zweden, music director of the New York Philharmonic, returns to conduct this tour de force with the CSO, whose “musical DNA is closely intertwined with Mahler” (*Chicago Tribune*).
## Series Highlight: June 21

**Muti Conducts Beethoven 9**

In a triumphant finale to a season honoring the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth, Riccardo Muti assembles the combined forces of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chorus and internationally renowned soloists for “the symphony to end all symphonies” (*The Guardian*), the euphoric Ninth. A masterpiece whose staggering influence can be seen across classical music, it concludes with the famous *Ode to Joy*, which powerfully calls for understanding, peace and universal goodwill.

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### Series Highlights

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<td><em>Dvořák’s Eighth Symphony is a lyrical masterpiece</em> that <em>The Guardian</em> calls “35 minutes of life-enhancing joy.” Edo de Waart conducts this profound work, along with John Adams’ exuberant “foxtrot for orchestra,” an outtake from his opera <em>Nixon in China</em>. The phenomenally gifted Leila Josefowicz returns to perform Stravinsky’s brilliant neoclassical Violin Concerto.</td>
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<td><strong>Feb 23</strong></td>
<td>Opening with the most famous four notes in all of classical music, <em>Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony</em> is a staggering masterwork that became a symphonic blueprint for all subsequent composers. Riccardo Muti leads a program that also features the composer’s buoyant, humorous Second Symphony and a world premiere concerto performed by CSO Bass Clarinet J. Lawrie Bloom.</td>
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**SERIES HIGHLIGHT: APRIL 28**

**Symphonie fantastique**

Emmanuel Krivine conducts Berlioz’s semi-autobiographical epic that portrays an artist’s obsessive, self-destructive passion for his beloved. Two colorful works by Richard Strauss include the mischievous *Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks* and the delightful, rarely heard *Burlesque*, featuring rising German sensation Joseph Moog.

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**29 OCT**

* Brahms 3
  - HAYDN Symphony No. 44 (Mourning)
  - R. STRAUSS Death and Transfiguration
  - BRAHMS Symphony No. 3
  - David Afkham conductor

**12 NOV**

* Muti Conducts Brahms Double Concerto
  - WAGNER Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*
  - BRAHMS Double Concerto
  - SCHUMANN Symphony No. 3 (Rhenish)
  - Riccardo Muti conductor
  - Stephanie Jeong violin
  - Kenneth Olsen cello

**4 FEB**

* Lewis Plays Beethoven
  - TIPPETT Little Music for String Orchestra
  - BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1
  - TIPPETT Praeludium for Brass, Bells and Percussion
  - BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4
  - Sir Andrew Davis conductor
  - Paul Lewis piano

**17 MAR**

* Rhapsody in Blue & Boléro
  - GERSHWIN, ARR. BENNETT *Porgy and Bess, A Symphonic Picture*
  - GERSHWIN *Rhapsody in Blue*
  - RAVEL Piano Concerto in G Major
  - RAVEL *Boléro*
  - André de Ridder conductor
  - Inon Barnatan piano

**28 APR**

* Muti, Fischer & Brahms Violin Concerto
  - BRAHMS Violin Concerto
  - PRICE Symphony No. 3
  - Riccardo Muti conductor
  - Julia Fischer violin

**5 NOV**

* Muti, Kavakos & Beethoven Violin Concerto
  - BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto
  - RANDS DREAM for Orchestra WORLD PREMIERE, CSO COMMISSION
  - STRAVINSKY Divertimento from *The Fairy’s Kiss*
  - Riccardo Muti conductor
  - Leonidas Kavakos violin

**10 DEC**

* Higdon & Tchaikovsky 4
  - HIGDON blue cathedral
  - WIENIAWSKI Violin Concerto No. 1
  - TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4
  - John Storgårds conductor
  - Ray Chen violin

**21 APR**

* Symphonie fantastique
  - R. STRAUSS *Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks*
  - R. STRAUSS Burlesque
  - BERLIOZ Symphonie fantastique
  - Emmanuel Krivine conductor
  - Joseph Moog piano

**26 MAY**

* Mozart Jupiter Symphony
  - HAYDN Overture to *L’isola disabitata*
  - BACH Keyboard Concerto No. 1 in D Minor, BWV 1052
  - BACH Keyboard Concerto No. 5 in F Minor, BWV 1056
  - MOZART Symphony No. 41 (Jupiter)
  - Bernard Labadie conductor
  - Beatrice Rana piano

**9 JUN**

* Ein Heldenleben
  - MENDELSSOHN The Hebrides Overture
  - MOZART Piano Concerto No. 17
  - R. STRAUSS *Ein Heldenleben*
  - Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider conductor
  - Piotr Anderszewski piano
A glamorous musical celebration!

Saturday, September 21, 7:00

SYMPHONY BALL

VERDI Sinfonia from La battaglia di Legnano  GRIEG Piano Concerto
TCHAIKOVSKY Romeo and Juliet  SUPPÉ Overture to Boccaccio
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti conductor  Leif Ove Andsnes piano

The Women’s Board of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association proudly presents a prestigious gala evening of music and celebration to open the 2019/20 season. Riccardo Muti conducts a rousing program featuring music by Verdi and Suppé, as well as Tchaikovsky’s sumptuous Romeo and Juliet. “A pianist of magisterial elegance, power and insight” (The New York Times), Leif Ove Andsnes performs Grieg’s magnificent Piano Concerto.

November 29–December 1

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire™ in Concert
Rediscover the magic of Harry Potter on the big screen with the score performed by the CSO.

November 30

Vienna Boys Choir:
Christmas in Vienna
The enchanting ensemble returns to Symphony Center.

December 3 & 4

A Chanticleer Christmas
FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / 126 E. CHESTNUT
The Grammy-winning male chorus performs Christmas music with awe-inspiring clarity.

December 6–8

Home Alone in Concert
Experience this holiday classic with Members of the CSO performing John Williams’ beloved score.

December 14–23

Merry, Merry Chicago!
Members of the CSO and the Chicago Symphony Chorus perform holiday favorites!

A festive preconcert champagne reception is open to all ticketholders. Symphony Ball gala patrons will continue their evening with postconcert dinner and dancing at the Four Seasons.

For further information, call 312-294-3185 or email symphonyball@cso.org.

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SPECIAL CONCERTS

Saturday, October 26, 8:00
FARRUQUITO
Named “one of the great flamenco dancers of this new century” (The New York Times), Farruquito mesmerizes audiences with his lightning-fast movements and intense drama. Experience the entrancing rhythms and fiery passion of his authentic style of improvised flamenco.

Wednesday, December 18, 8:00
THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BRASS
Experience the staggering power and razor-sharp precision of the legendary brass section of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in a program of traditional favorites and symphonic masterworks arranged for brass ensemble.

Saturday, January 18, 3:00 & 7:30
Warner Bros. presents
BUGS BUNNY AT THE SYMPHONY 30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
Warner Bros. Symphony Orchestra  George Daugherty conductor
Bring the whole family to Symphony Center for the beloved cartoons and classical music of Bugs Bunny at the Symphony. Celebrating 30 years of Bugs Bunny on the concert stage, this new edition of Looney Tunes and live orchestra includes old favorites like What’s Opera, Doc? and The Rabbit of Seville plus new 3D animated shorts Coyote Falls and Rabid Rider. Created by George Daugherty and David Ka Lik Wong. TM & © Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. (2019)

Sunday, February 9, 4:00
JORDI SAVALL: SPLENDOR OF THE IBERIAN BAROQUE
In the Time of Lope de Vega & Calderón de la Barca
Jordi Savall treble viol and director  Hespèrion XXI  La Capella Reial De Catalunya
One of the most versatile musical personalities of his generation, Jordi Savall has been researching, teaching and performing early music for more than 50 years. With an ensemble of period instruments, he brings to Symphony Center a rich program of rediscovered baroque gems from the Iberian Peninsula. “Jordi Savall testifies to a common cultural inheritance of infinite variety. He is a man for our time” (The Guardian).

Sunday, March 15, 3:00
CASABLANCA IN CONCERT
Chicago Symphony Orchestra  Richard Kaufman conductor
“ Probably on more lists of the greatest films of all time than any other single title” (Roger Ebert), this romantic story of a man torn between love and virtue returns to Symphony Center. Don’t miss this timeless classic brought to life by the CSO performing Max Steiner’s evocative score together with the full feature film.

Sunday, April 19, 3:00
RENÉE FLEMING AND EVGENY KISSIN IN RECITAL
A Symphony Center Presents and Lyric Opera of Chicago Collaboration
Renée Fleming soprano  Evgeny Kissin piano
Two of the world’s most illustrious classical musicians join forces for an extraordinary one-night-only event. Legendary soprano and Lyric Opera of Chicago Creative Consultant Renée Fleming has dazzled opera audiences in leading roles around the world. Pianist and Chicago favorite Evgeny Kissin is internationally renowned for his astonishing virtuosity. They make a rare appearance together in recital at Symphony Center.

Lyric

Sunday, May 17, 3:00
JURASSIC PARK IN CONCERT
Chicago Symphony Orchestra  Richard Kaufman conductor
Relive the magic of Jurassic Park on the big screen together with a thrilling performance of John Williams’ iconic score by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The action-packed adventure pits man against prehistoric predators in the ultimate battle for survival. Featuring visually stunning imagery and groundbreaking special effects, this epic film is sheer movie magic 65 million years in the making. Welcome… to Jurassic Park! TM & © Universal Studios.

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