CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

RICCARDO MUTI
ZELL MUSIC DIRECTOR

SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS

2019/20

The 10th Anniversary Season of Riccardo Muti as Music Director

Celebrating Beethoven’s 250th Birthday
We should all become brothers and sisters—this is the message of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. For two hundred and fifty years, we have tried to find the secret behind the untouchable music of this divine architect and to comprehend the enormity of his timeless philosophical, spiritual and human message. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra and I invite you to explore the symphonies of Beethoven and the music of many other composers worth celebrating. With each performance, we strive to reach the ideal that is the triumph of beauty.

RICCARDO MUTI

“Riccardo Muti and the CSO took to the stage to reaffirm their current eminence among the world’s greatest musical ensembles.”

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

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CENTER INSERT: Subscription Series Guide & Grid
Riccardo Muti conducts 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. Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra explore the unprecedented individuality, overwhelming power and true genius of Ludwig van Beethoven in this season-long celebration.

The piano was the instrument of Beethoven’s imagination, and the piano sonata his essential means for personal expression. Renowned for his virtuosity and gift for improvisation, Beethoven achieved fame, even notoriety, for his performances that embodied skill, originality and incredible pathos—a true poet of the piano. Performed in their entirety by esteemed artists Evgeny Kissin, Maurizio Pollini, Sir András Schiff, Rudolf Buchbinder, Igor Levit and Kirill Gerstein, the thirty-two sonatas are Beethoven’s most intimate lasting legacy, illustrating his lifelong and evolving relationship with his primary instrument.

Music should strike fire from the heart of man."  
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Riccardo Muti, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and artists on the Symphony Center Presents series perform signature works by Ludwig van Beethoven in honor of the approaching 250th anniversary of his birth. His symphonies, concertos, solo and chamber works stand as testament to his creative genius and matchless power of expression. Immerse yourself in a celebration of some of the most stirring, dazzling and revolutionary music of all time, culminating in a performance of “the symphony to end all symphonies” (The Guardian), Beethoven’s euphoric Ninth.

September 26–28
Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3, Consecration of the House Overture
Riccardo Muti conductor
CSO Main series THU A/F, FRI B, SAT D

October 13
Piano Sonatas Nos. 2, 4, 16, 19 & 22
Kirill Gerstein
SCP Piano series E/A; Beethoven Sonata Cycle

October 27
Violin Sonata No. 6
Christian Tetzlaff violin, Lars Vogt piano
SCP Chamber Music series

November 1–5
Piano Sonatas Nos. 2, 4, 16, 19 & 22
Kirill Gerstein
SCP Piano series E/A; Beethoven Sonata Cycle

November 6
Piano Sonatas Nos. 1, 3, 20 & 23 (Appassionata)
Rudolf Buchbinder
Beethoven Sonata Cycle

November 10
Piano Sonatas Nos. 5–7 & 18
Rudolf Buchbinder
SCP Piano series E/B, Beethoven Sonata Cycle

January 22
Violin Sonatas Nos. 4, 5 (Spring) & 9 (Kreutzer)
Anne-Sophie Mutter violin, Lambert Orkis piano
SCP Chamber Music series

January 30–February 4
Piano Concertos Nos. 1 & 4
Sir Andrew Davis conductor
Paul Lewis piano
CSO Main series THU C/D, FRI A, SAT A/F, TUE A

February 20–23
Symphonies Nos. 2 & 5
Riccardo Muti conductor
CSO Main series THU B/H, FRI D, SAT A/E, SUN A

March 2
Piano Trios: Opp. 1, No. 3; 70, No. 2 & 97 (Archduke)
Emanuel Ax piano / Leonidas Kavakos violin / Yo-Yo Ma cello
SCP Chamber Music series

March 29
Piano Sonatas Nos. 24, 25, 26 (Les Adieux), 27 & 28
Sir András Schiff
SCP Piano series E/A; Beethoven Sonata Cycle

March 31
Piano Sonatas Nos. 12, 13 (Quasi una fantasia), 14 (Moonlight) & 15 (Pastoral)
Sir András Schiff
Beethoven Sonata Cycle

April 5
Six Bagatelles, Op. 126 & Diabelli Variations
Mitsuko Uchida
SCP Piano series E/B, Beethoven Sonata Cycle

April 30–May 3
Symphonies Nos. 4 & 7
Riccardo Muti conductor
CSO Main series THU A/G, SAT B/G, SUN A; CSO at Wheaton

May 10
Eroica Variations & Piano Sonatas Nos. 8 (Pathétique), 17 (Tempest) & 21 (Waldstein)
Evgeny Kissin
SCP Piano series E/B, Beethoven Sonata Cycle

May 20
Piano Sonatas Nos. 9–11 & 29 (Hammerklavier)
Igor Levit
Beethoven Sonata Cycle

May 24
The Last Sonatas, Nos. 30–32
Maurizio Pollini
SCP Piano series E/A, Beethoven Sonata Cycle

May 28–30
Namenfeier Overture & Ah! perfido
Susanna Mälkki conductor
Camilla Tilley soprano
CSO Main series THU C/E, FRI C, SAT B/G

June 11–13
Symphonies Nos. 6 & 8, Overture To The Ruins of Athens
Riccardo Muti conductor
CSO Main series THU B/F, FRI A, SAT C

June 18–21
Symphony No. 9
Riccardo Muti conductor
Chicago Symphony Chorus
Duain Wolfe chorus director
CSO Main series THU C/D, FRI C, SAT B/H, SUN A
Riccardo Muti and esteemed guest conductors introduce music by some of the most original and powerful voices of the 20th and 21st centuries, including distinctive works by American composers. Presenting new and invigorating artistic talent is an integral part of the CSOA’s mission to promote classical music’s future. Be part of the excitement this season and experience fresh interpretations and repertoire. All music was once new.

**NEW & AMERICAN VOICES**

October 3–5
**Avner Dorman Eternal Rhythm**
The U.S. premiere of a percussion concerto that celebrates rhythm as the essence of music and the pulse of life, performed by CSO Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh.

CSO Main series THU C/D, FRI C, SAT B/H

November 1–5
**Mutti Conducts Bernard Rands DREAM for Orchestra**
Mutti and the CSO give the first-ever performance of a new work by the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer.

CSO Main series FRI B, SAT A/F, TUE B

November 21–24
**James Lee III Sukkot Through Orion’s Nebula & Barber Two Scenes from Antony & Cleopatra**
Michigan-born composer James Lee III’s tone poem that depicts the celestial source of the Messiah and the jubilation at his arrival is paired with music from Samuel Barber’s lush 1966 opera.

CSO Main series THU B/I, SAT C, SUN A; CSO at Wheaton

December 5–10
**Jennifer Higdon blue cathedral**
“Imaginative, richly orchestrated and accessible... blue cathedral is one of the most frequently performed new works in the United States” (The New York Times).

CSO Main series THU C/E, FRI A, SAT A/E, TUE B

December 12–14
**Mason Bates Resurrexit**
Bates, former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence, calls his new work “a theatrical and fast-paced conjuring of the classic Resurrection narrative.”

CSO Main series THU B/H, FRI B, SAT B/G

December 19–22
**John Adams The Chairman Dances**
Edo de Waart conducts Adams’ exuberant “foxtrot for orchestra,” a study for his opera Nixon in China.

CSO Main series THU A/F, FRI A, SAT D, SUN A

February 20–23
**Mutti Conducts Nicolas Bacri Ophelia’s Tears**
Riccardo Muti and the CSO present a new bass clarinet concerto by French composer Nicolas Bacri featuring the CSO’s own J. Lawrie Bloom.

CSO Main series THU B/H, FRI D, SAT A/E, SUN A

“...vital and powerful...“ — William Mann, Chicago Reader

April 2–4
**Adès Dances from Powder Her Face**
Hear rapturous orchestral excerpts from British composer Thomas Adès’ sensational 1995 opera about the notorious Duchess of Argyll.

CSO Main series THU C/E, FRI D, SAT A/E, TUE A

April 23–28
**Mutti Conducts Price Symphony No. 3**
Riccardo Muti conducts the work of two 20th-century African American composers: Florence Price’s expressive Third Symphony and William Grant Still’s beguiling Mother and Child.

CSO Main series THU C/E, FRI D, SAT A/E, TUE A

April 30–May 3
**Mutti Conducts Missy Mazzoli Orpheus Undone**
Mutti debuts an orchestral suite from a new ballet by current CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli.

CSO Main series THU A/G, SAT B/G, SUN A; CSO at Wheaton

**“The best kind of classical performance is not a retreat into the past but an intensification of the present.”**

ALEX ROSS, LISTEN TO THIS
**2019/20 SERIES AT A GLANCE**

**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
The most exciting and dynamic classical music performed by the world’s finest classical musicians.

**CSO MAIN SERIES**

**EVENINGS**
- 5 Tuesdays at 7:30
- 10 or 5 Thursdays at 8:00
- 5 Fridays at 8:00
- 10 Saturdays at 8:00

**THU A/I**

**FRI C & D**

**SAT A/H**

**MATINEES**
- 8 Fridays at 1:30
- 6 Sundays at 3:00

**CSO AT THE MOVIES**
- 3 FRIDAYS AT 7:30
See blockbuster favorites with scores performed by the CSO.

**CSO AT WHEATON**
- 3 FRIDAYS AT 7:30
CSO concerts in the heart of the western suburbs at Wheaton College’s Edman Memorial Chapel.

**MusicNOW**
- 4 MONDAYS AT 7:00
Groundbreaking repertoire curated by Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli and performed by musicians of the CSO.

**CSO FAMILY MATINEES**
- 3 SATURDAYS AT 11:00 OR 12:45
Fun and engaging CSO performances for children ages 5 and up.

**SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS**

**CHAMBER MUSIC**

**4-CONCERT SERIES**
Intimate performances with the world’s finest classical artists.

**ORCHESTRAS**

**3-CONCERT SERIES**
Bringing exceptional ensembles from around the world to Orchestra Hall.

**PIANO**
- 10 OR 5 SUNDAYS AT 3:00
Dazzling displays of virtuosity from internationally acclaimed pianists in recital.

**BEETHOVEN SONATA CYCLE**
Hear the complete Beethoven piano sonatas performed by the virtuosos musicians from the SCP Piano series.

**JAZZ**
The icons and innovators of jazz. Programming to be announced April 2019.

**THE BEST WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE 2019/20 SEASON IS TO SUBSCRIBE!**

As a subscriber, you’ll secure your seat to an incredible season and save up to 39% over the price of individual tickets.

*Browse the following pages to see the full concert calendar, and use the enclosed Subscription Series Guide to view concerts by series and select your perfect package.*

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Prices listed in this brochure are valid until single tickets go on sale August 9, then begin to increase based on demand. Lock in the best prices of the season by subscribing today!

FOR EXAMPLE...
A premium Main Floor seat to Muti Conducts Beethoven 9 on Saturday evening:
As part of a curated 10-concert series: $92
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PRIORITY ACCESS
Meet CSO musicians and guest artists at special receptions and postconcert Q&As, and learn more about the music at FREE preconcert conversations held 75 minutes before CSO Main concerts.

SAVINGS ON PARKING
Enjoy an exclusive parking rate of $17 per park at the Grant Park South Garage for CSO and Symphony Center Presents concerts when purchased in advance. Add parking to your order today!
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1-INSTALLMENT PLAN (ORDER BY MARCH 1)
25% of the total subscription cost, add-on tickets and parking will be charged upon receipt of order, march 15, april 15 and may 15.

2-INSTALLMENT PLAN (ORDER BY APRIL 15)
One-third of the total subscription cost, add-on tickets and parking will be charged upon receipt of order, April 15 and May 15.

CREDIT CARDS ONLY. A ONE-TIME $15 PROCESSING FEE APPLIED.
2019/20 SEASON CALENDAR

SEP

19 THU C/E 8:00
CSO Main
Muti, Andsnes & Grieg Piano Concerto
MENDELSSOHN Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage Overture
GRIEG Piano Concerto
SCRIABIN Rêverie
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 6
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. The brilliant Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, hailed by the Wall Street Journal as “one of the most gifted musicians of his generation,” performs Edvard Grieg’s treasured Piano Concerto.

20 FRI A 1:30
CSO Main

21 SAT 7:00
CSO Special Concert
Symphony Ball: Tchaikovsky Romeo and Juliet
VERDI Sinfonia from La battaglia di Legnano
GRIEG Piano Concerto
TCHAIKOVSKY Romeo and Juliet
SUPPÉ Overture to Boccaccio
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.

26 THU A/F 8:00
CSO Main
Muti Conducts Beethoven 1 & 3
BEETHOVEN Consecration of the House Overture
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 1
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3 (Eroica)
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.

27 FRI B 1:30
CSO Main

28 SAT B 8:00
CSO Main

OCT

3 THU C/D 8:00
CSO Main

4 FRI C 8:00
CSO Main

5 SAT B/H 8:00
CSO Main
Shostakovich 8
DORMAN Eternal Rhythm
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 8
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.”

7 MON 7:00
MusicNOW HARRIS THEATER FOR MUSIC AND DANCE / 205 E. RANDOLPH
The 22nd season of MusicNOW opens with the world premiere of a newly commissioned fanfare by Chicago-based composer Wang Lu, works by up-and-coming musical polymath Li White and more.

MusicNOW is generously presented by the Zell Family Foundation, the Sally Mendelssohn Foundation, Enno Sargent, the Julian Family Foundation and the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust.
**Sunwook Kim**

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*.

**Kirill Gerstein**

As a survey of Beethoven’s complete piano sonatas on the Symphony Center Presents Piano series opens with the versatile Kirill Gerstein performing sonatas from the composer’s early and middle periods, including the bright No. 2, the deeply affecting No. 19 and the humorous No. 22. "Gerstein translates his ideas into music clearly, giving the Beethoven a speedy dramatic style and impulsive direction. Everything seems deliberately shaped…a most refined performance" (Salzburger Nachrichten).

**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.

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**Vivaldi The Four Seasons**

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.

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**Brahms 3**

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!”

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**Montreal Symphony Orchestra**

An exciting program from the illustrious Montreal Symphony Orchestra returns with music director Kent Nagano for a program of works by Bartók and Prokofiev. Electrolyzing pianist Denis Matsuev joins for Rachmaninov’s exquisite, well-loved Rhapsody. “Nagano’s conducting was a model of taut rhythmic definition, athleticism and atmosphere…the Montreal musicians were at the world-class top of their game” (Chicago Tribune).
Christian Tetzlaff and Lars Vogt, each eloquent soloists with a long history of performing together, make a thrilling recital appearance. This evocative program features rich and colorful violin sonatas by Beethoven, Shostakovich and Franck, as well as György Kurtág’s Tre Pezzi, which showcases both instruments in new and haunting ways. “With Christian Tetzlaff and Lars Vogt, everything sounds bigger and better. Brilliant musicianship” (The Boston Globe).

**BEETHOVEN**
- Violin Sonata No. 6 in A Major, Op. 30, No. 1

**SHOSTAKOVICH**
- Violin Sonata

**KURTÁG**
- Tre Pezzi

**FRANCK**
- Violin Sonata

**NOV**

**1 FRI 1:30**
- Muti, Kavakos & Beethoven Violin Concerto

**CSO Main**
- BEETHOVEN: Violin Concerto
- RANDS: DREAM For Orchestra
- STRAVINSKY: Divertimento from *The Fairy’s Kiss*

The season-long Beethoven celebration continues with the composer’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.

**6 WED 8:00**
- Rudolf Buchbinder Piano

- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 2, No. 1
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 3 in C Major, Op. 2, No. 3
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 20 in G Major, Op. 49, No. 2
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, Op. 57 (Appassionata)

Renowned for his Beethoven interpretations, Rudolf Buchbinder is acclaimed for performances that have “immense and focused force…sparks fly” (NPR). In this special Symphony Center Presents Piano series evening recital, Buchbinder performs the weighty Third Sonata and one of Beethoven’s greatest and most challenging sonatas, the Appassionata.

**7 THU 8/1 8:00**
- Muti Conducts Brahms Double Concerto

**CSO Main**
- WAGNER: Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*
- BRAHMS: Double Concerto
- SCHUMANN: Symphony No. 3 (Rhenish)

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.

**10 SUN 3:00**
- Rudolf Buchbinder Piano

- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 10, No. 1
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 7 in D Major, Op. 10, No. 3
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 18 in E-flat Major, Op. 31, No. 3

Austrian pianist Rudolf Buchbinder, an artist of “immense and focused force” and “piano purism” (NPR), concludes his share of the Beethoven piano sonata cycle with the three Op. 10 sonatas that showed the composer boldly experimenting. He closes the program with the jocular No. 18, nicknamed “The Hunt” for its horn-call theme.

**THE APPEARANCE OF RUDOLF BUCHBINDER IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY JS CHARITABLE TRUST**
Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal

**MOZART**

*Chi la mi scordi di te?...*

Non temer, amato bene

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, "the greatest generator of energy on the international podium" (**The Financial Times**), and "a Brucknerian to be reckoned with" (**MusicWeb International**), brings his Montreal ensemble to Symphony Center for a performance of the composer’s stirring Fourth Symphony. A mezzo-soprano of “flawless virtuosity” and “glowing beauty of tone” (**The Daily Telegraph**), Joyce DiDonato performs two of Mozart’s most famous arias.

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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.

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CSO Family Matinee: Bold Voices

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Introduce the young people in your life to the orchestra with the CSO’s fun and engaging concert series for children. This concert, which marks the 100th anniversary of the CSO’s concerts for children, celebrates the life and legacy of one of the most influential composers of all time, Ludwig van Beethoven. He changed the sound of the orchestra and responded to tremendous personal challenges by expressing humanity, hope and joy in ways that still inspire listeners today. Perfect for ages 5 and up!

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**NOV / DEC**

**29** SAT 7:30

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire™ in Concert

*CSO at the Movies*

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Get ready to fight a dragon, swim with merpeople and find out just who put Harry’s name in the Goblet of Fire™. Rediscover the magic of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire™* while the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performs Patrick Doyle’s unforgettable score. Bring the family for a fun Thanksgiving outing!

Harry Potter characters, names and related indicia are © & ™ Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

**30** SAT 7:30

IŞonic Boys Choir: Christmas in Vienna

Captivating millions around the globe, the Vienna Boys Choir is one of the world’s oldest and most celebrated choral groups. The ensemble returns to Symphony Center for an enchanting performance of popular folk songs, beloved classical music and cherished holiday favorites.

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**DEC**

**2** MON 7:00

MusicNOW HARRIS THEATER FOR MUSIC AND DANCE / 205 E. RANDOLPH

MusicNOW celebrates renowned composer Michael Gordon with a program of his works and music by up-and-coming composers he has influenced.

Major support for MusicNOW is generously provided by the Zell Family Foundation, The Sally Mead Hands Foundation, Cindy Sargent, the Julian Family Foundation and the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust.
A Chanticleer Christmas  
FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / 126 E. CHESTNUT
Kick-start your holiday season with the Grammy-winning male chorus, known around the world as “an orchestra of voices.” With the stunning gothic architecture of Chicago’s Fourth Presbyterian Church as a backdrop, Chanticleer performs Christmas music spanning centuries and continents with awe-inspiring clarity and precision.

Higdon & Tchaikovsky

5  THU  C/E  8:00
CSO Main

HIGDON blue cathedral
WIENIAWSKI Violin Concerto No. 1
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
John Storgårds conductor
Ray Chen violin
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 Orchestra Hall 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.

Home in Concert

6  FRI  7:00
CSO Special Concert

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Richard Kaufman conductor
Experience this holiday classic on the big screen with John Williams’ whimsical score performed by Members of the CSO. Macaulay Culkin stars as Kevin McCallister, an 8-year-old boy who’s accidentally left behind when his family leaves for Christmas vacation, and who must defend his suburban Chicago home against two bungling thieves. Hilarious and heart-warming, Home Alone is holiday fun for everyone!

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Stravinsky & Dvořák 8

Stravinsky

JOHN ADAMS The Chairman Dances

Dvořák Carnival Overture

Dvořák Symphony No. 8

Dvořák’s Eighth Symphony is a lyrical masterpiece that The Guardian 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 Nixon in China. The phenomenally gifted Leila Josefowicz returns to perform Stravinsky’s brilliant neoclassical Violin Concerto.

Chamber Music

SCP

JOE DE WAART Leila Josefowicz

Piano

Anne-Sophie Mutter returns with her longtime collaborative pianist Lambert Orkis to perform three of Beethoven’s celebrated violin sonatas. Ranging from refreshing and sunny to sorrowful and full of anguish, each sonata reveals different facets of the composer’s psyche as he began to wrestle with increasing symptoms of deafness.

SCP

LEILA JOSIFOWICZ

Violin

The NFM Wrocław Philharmonic Orchestra has been growing in international acclaim since the opening of its new concert hall, Poland’s National Forum of Music, and the appointment of music director Giancarlo Guerrero, “an authoritative conductor with confidence and flair” (Seen and Heard International). They perform Brahms’ sublime First Symphony and Bartók’s final completed work with Polish pianist Piotr Anderszewski, celebrated for his “intellectual power and keen imagination” (The Daily Telegraph).

SCP

Piano

Lewis Plays Beethoven

Renowned English pianist Paul Lewis returns to perform two of Beethoven’s extraordinary piano concertos—the good-humored First and the intimate 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.
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.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti
conductor

Anita Rachvelishvili
mezzo-soprano
santuzza

Piero Pretti
tenor
turiddu

Luca Salsi
baritone
alfio

Chicago Symphony Chorus
Duain Wolfe
chorus director

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).

Jordi Savall: Splendor of the Iberian Baroque
IN THE TIME OF LOPE DE VEGA & CALDERÓN DE LA BARCA
Jordi Savall: treble viol and director
Hospitán XXI
La Capella Reial 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).

Yuja Wang has captivated audiences around the world with her dazzling performances. Witness her charismatic artistry as she returns to Symphony Center in recital. “Wang’s combination of technical ease and sheer power has always been remarkable... but there is an ever-greater depth to her musicianship, drawing you into the world of each composer with compelling immediacy” (The Financial Times).

Russian piano star Daniil Trifonov, acclaimed for his outstanding performances, returns to the Symphony Center Presents Piano series. “He was struck not only by Trifonov’s comprehensive technique and aptly gigantic sound but by the precision and sonic depth of his performance” (Chicago Tribune).
Emanuel Ax / PIANO
Leonidas Kavakos / VIOLIN
Yo-Yo Ma / CELLO

BEETHOVEN: Piano Trio in C Minor, Op. 1, No. 3
BEETHOVEN: Piano Trio in E-flat Major, Op. 70, No. 2
BEETHOVEN: Piano Trio in B-flat Major, Op. 97 (Archduke)

Three of today’s most extraordinary musicians come together again for an intimate and unforgettable performance of works by Beethoven. The trio returns after a sold-out 2018 appearance at Symphony Center that the Chicago Tribune praised as “warmly engaged and richly communicative… no wonder the fans erupted in an affirmative roar at the end. Chamber music playing doesn’t get any better than this.”

SCP Chamber Music

Blomstedt Conducts Brahms 2

MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 23
BRAHMS: Symphony No. 2

After leading a 2018 CSO performance of Beethoven’s Enigma 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.

CSO Main

Once Upon a Symphony®

BEGIN your child’s journey into the world of music with performances featuring small ensembles of CSO musicians, vivid storytelling, costumes and multimedia. Perfect for children ages 3 to 5!

NOTE: This program will also be performed on April 25 and May 16 at the times and locations here.

CSO at the Movies

Casablanca in Concert

“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.

CSO Main

Gergiev Conducts Shostakovich Leningrad

A committed advocate of the music of his homeland, 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).
MusicNOW HARRIS THEATER FOR MUSIC AND DANCE / 205 E. RANDOLPH

Quince Vocal Quartet, “the Anonymous 4 of new music” (Opera News), performs the world premiere of a major new work by Courtney Bryan, composed specifically for Quince and musicians from the CSO, as well as works by Gilda Lyons, David Remnick and others.

MAJOR SUPPORT FOR MUSICNOW IS GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY THE ZELL FAMILY FOUNDATION, THE SALLY MEAD HARDS FOUNDATION, CHICAGO SINFONETTA, THE JULIAN FAMILY FOUNDATION AND THE ELIZABETH MORSE CHARITABLE TRUST.

BACH
Orchestral Suite No. 3
HANDEL
Selected Arias
PURCELL
Chacony in G Minor
PURCELL
Dido’s Lament from Dido and Aeneas
HANDEL
Suite No. 2 from Water Music

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.”

CSO Family Matinee: New Voices

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Introduce the young people in your life to the orchestra with the CSO’s fun and engaging concert series for children. This program, which focuses on the music of 21st century composers, demonstrates how every musical innovation is built on the shoulders of preceding generations of musicians. Perfect for ages 5 and up!

CSO Main

Brahms 4

ADÉS
Dances from Powder Her Face

DVOŘÁK
Piano Concerto

BRAHMS
Symphony No. 4

Jakub Hrůša leads the CSO in an eclectic program ranging from orchestral dances from Thomas Adés’ breakthrough opera 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.
The Symphony Center Beethoven celebration continues as Mitsuko Uchida performs the composer’s adventurous Diabelli Variations and meditative Six Bagatelles. “Uchida’s performance of the Diabelli Variations became unbridled longing before a shimmering, tranquil conclusion. The audience knew it had been on a very special journey, and let it all soak in quietly before an instantaneous roar and standing ovation” (Chicago Classical Review).

BEETHOVEN
Six Bagatelles, Op. 126
Diabelli Variations
SCP Piano
E/B

Beethoven Piano Sonata Cycle

van Zweden Conducts Mahler 6

MAHLER
Symphony No. 6
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Jaap van Zweden conductor

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 entwined with Mahler” (Chicago Tribune).

BERLIOZ
Symphonie fantastique
R. STRAUSS
Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks
R. STRAUSS
Burlesque

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.

RICCARDO MUTI

Muti, Fischer & Brahms Violin Concerto

BRAHMS Violin Concerto
STILL Mother and Child
PRICE Symphony No. 3

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.
Rising star George Li has rapidly established an international reputation for his brilliant virtuosity. He makes his Symphony Center debut with a program of glittering works by Haydn, Ravel and Schumann. “Li’s performance left no doubt that he combines staggering technical prowess, a sense of command and depth of expression” (The Washington Post).

Program to include:

HAYDN: Sonata in E-flat Major, Hob. XVI:49
RAVEL: Three Pieces from Miroirs
SCHUMANN: Carnaval

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 CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli, “Brooklyn’s post-millennial Mozart” (Time Out New York), opens the program.

MAZZOLI: Orpheus Undone
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 4
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 7

Russian superstar Evgeny Kissin, “the world’s most acclaimed classical pianist” (The Economist), continues Beethoven’s 250th birthday celebration with some of the composer’s most well-known piano works, including the heroic Waldstein Sonata and the exhilarating Eroica Variations, which Beethoven later reworked into the finale of the Eroica Symphony.

**CSO Family Matinee: American Voices**

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thomas Wilkins conductor

Introduce the young people in your life to the orchestra with the CSO’s fun and engaging concert series for children. This concert of music by American composers, including Aaron Copland, George Gershwin and Jessie Montgomery, explores the soundscape of our country and the American people. Perfect for ages 5 and up!

**CSO Family Matinee: American Voices**

Mark your calendars for the CSO Family Matinee – American Voices on Saturday, May 12 at 3:00 p.m. Join us for an engaging and fun-filled afternoon!

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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**

**14 THU A/F 8:00**

**CSO Main**

**All-Tchaikovsky**

TCHAIKOVSKY Capriccio italien

TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto

TCHAIKOVSKY Marche slave

TCHAIKOVSKY Selections from The Nutcracker

Hear sparkling selections from The Nutcracker and the dazzling Violin Concert, 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.

**15 FRI 7:30**

**CSO at the Movies**

**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!

*CSO Special Concert

**18 MON 7:00**

**MusicNOW**

HARRIS THEATER FOR MUSIC AND DANCE / 205 E. RANDOLPH

MusicNOW celebrates the 55th anniversary of Chicago’s own Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), founded in May 1965. The AACM pays homage to the diverse styles of expression within the body of Black Music in the US, Africa and throughout the world, an experience that extends from ancient traditions to futuristic sounds. On May 18, the CSO will honor the organization’s long history and its profound impact on modern music.

**MAJOR SUPPORT FOR MUSICNOW IS GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY THE ZELL FAMILY FOUNDATION, THE SALLY MEAD HANES FOUNDATION, CINDY SARGENT, THE JULIAN FAMILY FOUNDATION AND THE ELIZABETH MORSE CHARITABLE TRUST.**

**20 WED 8:00**

**CSO Main**

**Beethoven Piano Sonata Cycle**

Igor Levit PIANO

BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 9 in E Major, Op. 14, No. 1

BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 10 in G Major, Op. 14, No. 2

BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 11 in B-flat Major, Op. 22

BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 29 in B-flat Major, Op. 106 (Hammerklavier)

Igor Levit, recipient of the 2018 Gilmore Artist Award, performs four of Beethoven’s magnificent sonatas as part of the season-long Beethoven celebration. He takes on probably the composer’s greatest and most difficult sonata, the colossal Hammerklavier. “From the very first note, Levit radically changed the atmospheric pressure in the hall…he hit the first note and the sheer depth and resonant sovereignty of his tone engulfed a monumental space” (Los Angeles Times).

**21 THU B/H 8:00**

**CSO Main**

**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)

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.

**24 SUN 3:00**

**CSO Main**

**Maurizio Pollini PIANO**

SCP Piano E/A

BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 30 in E Major, Op. 109

BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, Op. 110

BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 32 in C Minor, Op. 111

Legendary pianist Maurizio Pollini brings the complete Beethoven Piano Sonata cycle at Symphony Center to a poigniant close with the composer’s sublime final three sonatas. “Pollini’s immaculate performance of Beethoven’s final sonatas brought out the simmering undercurrents, the glinting colors, the swirling detail. A majestic, peerless performance” (The Guardian).
Mälkki Conducts Beethoven & Mahler

**BEETHOVEN**
- Namensfeier Overture
- Ah! perfido

**MAHLER**
- Symphony No. 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.

Joyce DiDonato MEZZO-SOPRANO / Il Pomo d’Oro

Enthrancing mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato makes her Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music series debut alongside Il Pomo d’Oro, recognized around the world for the group’s authentic and dynamic baroque and classical interpretations. Together they perform arias by Monteverdi, Gluck, Handel and Purcell. “DiDonato’s instinctive feeling for the drama within each aria carried the day, enhanced at every turn by the wonderfully vivacious support she received from the fine young Pomo d’Oro” (Chicago Tribune).

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 returns to Orchestra Hall with his “articulate, bold and beautiful” (Gramophone) rendition of Mozart’s spirited Piano Concerto No. 17.

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.

Denis Kozhukhin makes his series debut with a high spirited program, closing out the Symphony Center Presents Piano season with a recital performance of one of Gershwin’s most celebrated works. “Kozhukhin’s sensitivity to the shifting moods and diverse rhythms set the scene well for *Rhapsody in Blue*. Vibrant musical colors mingled with foot-tapping rhythms to create a concert finale of heady exhilaration” (Bachtrack).
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.

Of the 2014 CSO performance that has been streamed more than 14 million times worldwide, the Chicago Tribune wrote: “Given the fraught state of the world at the present time, the magnificent spiritual balm provided by Beethoven’s music, in this performance, merits the widest possible dissemination. The lines from German poet Friedrich Schiller’s Ode to Joy say it all: ‘Receive this embrace, you millions! This kiss is for the whole world!’”

“Receive this embrace, you millions! This kiss is for the whole world!”
FRIEDRICH SCHILLER, ODE TO JOY
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AT THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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