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ONCE UPON A SYMPHONY, PERFORMANCES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES, OFFERS TWO PROGRAMS AT SYMPHONY CENTER IN THE 2023/24 SEASON

Popular Storybook Titles Featuring Live Music Performed by Members of the CSO Include [The Three Little Pigs](#) Opening December 9 and [Goldilocks and the Three Bears](#) Opening April 6

Free Bus Transportation Available for CPS Schools Attending Once Upon a Symphony Performances

CHICAGO — Once Upon a Symphony is the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's family-friendly, matinee concert series for young audiences ages three to five and is part of the 2023/24 Season of CSO for Kids programming at Symphony Center. The series is presented in Buntrock Hall at Symphony Center, and weaves together musical selections performed by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with storytelling, sets, costumes and multimedia elements to create a captivating and magical introduction to live music for children. The two programs presented on Saturdays this season are [The Three Little Pigs](#), opening December 9, and [Goldilocks and the Three Bears](#), opening April 6, 2024, with two performances offered each performance date at 10:00 and 11:45 a.m. Additional school performances are offered on Monday mornings for each program, with free bus transportation available to CPS school groups. Once Upon a Symphony programs are produced and presented in partnership with Chicago Children's Theatre. Tickets and more information for Once Upon a Symphony performances are available at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org).

The Three Little Pigs (December 9 | January 6, 2024 | February 10, 2024)

When the Three Little Pigs are sent out into the world by their father, each chooses to build a house using a different material. With the Big Bad Wolf on the prowl, the pigs are quick to learn whether straw, sticks or bricks can best withstand his ferocious strength. Delightful musical selections combine with this classic story that explores how the combination of courage, hard work and individual talent leads to

success. The program features members of the CSO along with storyteller and acclaimed Chicago actor Shawn Pfautsch.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears (April 6, 2024 | April 20, 2024 | May 18, 2024)

This imaginative, musical and theatrical adaptation of the classic fairy tale of a young girl and her adventures in the cottage of the three bears provides a wonderful introduction to classical music through a familial story and includes music by Beethoven, Debussy, Grieg and Mussorgsky. The program features members of the CSO along with a master storyteller.

CSO for Kids School Concerts: Once Upon a Symphony for Pre-K

Schools are invited to participate in Monday performances of Once Upon a Symphony. The Three Little Pigs will be performed for students on Monday, December 11 and Monday, February 12, 2024, and Goldilocks and the Three Bears will be performed for students on Monday, April 8, 2024 and Monday, May 20, 2024. School performance times on each date are at 10:00 and 11:30 a.m.

Free tickets and transportation are provided to CPS schools attending these performances. To complete a school group reservation form online visit [cso.org](https://www.cso.org) or call the Education Concerts Hotline at [312-294-3076](tel:312-294-3076) during regular business hours for more information.

Patron Information

Tickets for Saturday performances of Once Upon a Symphony are \$20 and \$10 for kids. Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org) or by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000), Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

Support for Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association programming for children and families is provided by Abbott Fund, John D. and Leslie Henner Burns, John Hart and Carol Prins, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Kinder Morgan, PNC, Courtney Shea, Megan and Steve Shebik, Michael and Linda Simon, the Walter and Caroline Sueske Charitable Trust and an anonymous family foundation.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](https://www.cso.org)

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the world's great orchestras. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, was recently named Music Director Emeritus for Life beginning with the 2023/24 Season. Jessie Montgomery is Mead Composer-in-Residence, and Hilary Hahn is CSO Artist-in-Residence.

The CSO commands a vast repertoire, from baroque through contemporary music. Its renowned musicians perform more than 150 concerts annually, in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in downtown Chicago and each summer at the Ravinia Festival in suburban Highland Park. The ensemble regularly tours nationally, and since 1892, has made 63 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

Patrons around the globe enjoy weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings via the WFMT Radio Network and online at cso.org/radio. Launched in 2007, [CSO Resound](#) is the ensemble's Grammy Award-winning independent record label, featuring live performances with world-class conductors and guest artists. Since 1916, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have amassed an extensive discography that has earned 64 Grammy awards from the Recording Academy.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA), which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Symphony Center Presents, and the Negaunee Music Institute. The [Chicago Symphony Chorus](#), founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919–20 season, the [Civic Orchestra of Chicago](#) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. [Symphony Center Presents](#) features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The [Negaunee Music Institute](#) offers community and educational programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds throughout the Chicagoland area.

Through the Institute and numerous other activities — including annual free community concerts in Chicago neighborhoods — the CSO is committed to using the power of music to strengthen bonds with its longtime patrons and create connections with new audiences.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.