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RICCARDO MUTI TO LEAD CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON U.S. TOUR TO 6 CITIES, INCLUDING A RETURN TO NEW YORK'S CARNEGIE HALL ON JANUARY 21

**Opening and Closing Tour Concerts Include Osvaldo Golijov's *Megalopolis Suite*,
Which Receives World Premiere Performances with Muti and CSO in November**

JANUARY 14–24, 2025

CHICAGO – [Riccardo Muti](#) leads the [Chicago Symphony Orchestra \(CSO\)](#) on a six-city, eight-concert U.S. tour (January 14–24, 2025) that marks their first domestic tour together since January 2023. Muti, the Orchestra's distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became Music Director Emeritus for Life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Muti is in Chicago through November 9 for CSO subscription concerts that include the world premiere performances of the CSO-commissioned *Megalopolis Suite*, by [Osvaldo Golijov](#), a former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence from 2006 to 2010. Created from the score for the 2024 Francis Ford Coppola film *Megalopolis*, the new suite will also be performed in concerts that open and close the U.S. tour on January 14 in Naples, Florida and January 24 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Additional tour repertoire features music from the world of Italian opera, including overtures from Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and Bellini's *Norma*, as well as the The Four Seasons from Verdi's *I vespri siciliani*. Dance-inspired works evoking the landscapes and traditions of southern Spain, including Chabrier's *España* and Falla's Suite No. 2 from the ballet *The Three-Cornered Hat*, as well as Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 and Schubert's Symphony No. 8 (*Unfinished*) round out the tour programs.

Muti and the CSO begin the tour with two concerts in Naples, Florida presented by Artis—Naples ([January 14 & 15](#)), marking their fifth set of concerts there, followed by return appearances in three other Florida cities – Miami at the Adrienne Arsht Center ([January 16](#)), West Palm Beach at the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing

Arts ([January 17](#)) and Orlando at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts ([January 18](#)). The tour continues with a [January 21](#) concert at New York’s Carnegie Hall – Muti and the CSO’s seventh appearance together at the prestigious venue – and culminates with a two-day residency ([January 23 & 24](#)) at the McKnight Center for the Performing Arts in Stillwater, Oklahoma on the campus of Oklahoma State University following Muti and the CSO’s debut at the venue on the 2023 North American Tour.

Muti and the CSO continue a long and distinguished tradition as cultural ambassadors, having completed 19 tours together since 2007, with their most recent being a critically heralded 11-city European Tour in January 2024. The U.S. tour will feature multiple masterclasses led by CSO musicians in Naples, Florida and Stillwater, Oklahoma. Educational activities on tour are organized by the [Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO](#).

U.S. Tour concert and ticket information is available at cso.org.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

Zell Family Foundation is the sponsor of the U.S. Tour.

The Miami and New York concerts are sponsored by Kenneth C. Griffin and Citadel & Citadel Securities.

The January 21 performance is partially endowed by The Eloise W. Martin Endowed Fund in support of Chicago Symphony Orchestra Appearances at Carnegie Hall.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Frances Pew Hayes Hall
Artis—Naples
5833 Pelican Bay Boulevard
Naples, FL

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

DONIZETTI
VERDI

Overture to *Don Pasquale*
The Four Seasons
from *I vespri siciliani*

GOLIJOV

Megalopolis Suite
[CSO Commission]

CHABRIER
FALLA

España
Suite No. 2 from
The Three-Cornered Hat

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Frances Pew Hayes Hall
Artis—Naples
5833 Pelican Bay Boulevard
Naples, FL

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

BELLINI Overture to *Norma*
SCHUBERT Symphony No. 8 (*Unfinished*)
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Adrienne Arsht
Center for the Performing Arts
1300 Biscayne Blvd.
Miami, FL

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

BELLINI Overture to *Norma*
SCHUBERT Symphony No. 8 (*Unfinished*)
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Raymond F. Kravis
Center for the Performing Arts
701 Okeechobee Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL

Friday, January 17, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

BELLINI Overture to *Norma*
SCHUBERT Symphony No. 8 (*Unfinished*)
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Dr. Phillips Center
for the Performing Arts
445 S. Magnolia Ave.
Orlando, FL

Saturday, January 18, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

BELLINI Overture to *Norma*
SCHUBERT Symphony No. 8 (*Unfinished*)
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Carnegie Hall
57th Street and 7th Ave
New York, NY

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor

BELLINI Overture to *Norma*
VERDI The Four Seasons
from *I vespri siciliani*

TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

McKnight Center for the
Performing Arts
705 W University Ave
Stillwater, OK

Thursday, January 23, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

BELLINI Overture to *Norma*
SCHUBERT Symphony No. 8 (*Unfinished*)
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

McKnight Center for the
Performing Arts
705 W University Ave
Stillwater, OK

Friday, January 24, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

DONIZETTI Overture to *Don Pasquale*
VERDI The Four Seasons
 from *I vespri siciliani*
GOLIJOV *Megalopolis Suite*
 [CSO Commission]
CHABRIER *España*
FALLA Suite No. 2 from
 The Three-Cornered Hat

Riccardo Muti

Riccardo Muti is one of the world's preeminent conductors. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's distinguished tenth music director from 2010 until 2023, Muti became Music Director Emeritus for Life beginning with the 2023/24 Season.

His leadership has been distinguished by the strength of his artistic partnership with the Orchestra; his dedication to performing great works of the past and present, including sixteen world premieres to date; the enthusiastic reception he and the CSO have received on national and international tours; and twelve recordings on the CSO Resound label, with three Grammy awards among them. In addition, Muti's contributions to the cultural life of Chicago—with performances throughout its many neighborhoods and at Orchestra Hall—have made a lasting impact on the city.

Born in Naples, Riccardo Muti studied piano under Vincenzo Vitale at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella, graduating with distinction. He subsequently received a diploma in composition and conducting from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan under the guidance of Bruno Bettinelli and Antonino Votto.

He first came to the attention of critics and the public in 1967, when he won the Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition, by unanimous vote of the jury, in Milan. In 1968, he became principal conductor of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, a position he held until 1980. In 1971, Muti was invited by Herbert von Karajan to conduct at the Salzburg Festival, the first of many occasions, which led to a celebration of fifty years of artistic collaboration with the Austrian festival in 2020. During the 1970s, Muti was chief

conductor of London's Philharmonia Orchestra (1972–1982) succeeding Otto Klemperer. From 1980 to 1992, he inherited the position of music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra from Eugene Ormandy. From 1986 to 2005, he was music director of Teatro alla Scala, and during this time, he directed major projects such as the three Mozart/Da Ponte operas and Wagner's *Ring* cycle in addition to his exceptional contributions to the Verdi repertoire. Alongside the classics, he brought many rarely performed and neglected works to light, including pieces from the Neapolitan school, as well as operas by Gluck, Cherubini and Spontini. Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* earned Muti the prestigious Abbiati Prize. His tenure as music director of Teatro alla Scala, the longest in its history, culminated in the triumphant reopening of the restored opera house on Dec. 7, 2004, with Salieri's *Europa riconosciuta*.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Riccardo Muti has conducted the most important orchestras in the world: from the Berlin Philharmonic to the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and from the New York Philharmonic to the Orchestre National de France; as well as the Vienna Philharmonic, an orchestra to which he is linked by particularly close and important ties, and with which he has appeared at the Salzburg Festival since 1971.

When Muti was invited to lead the Vienna Philharmonic's 150th-anniversary concert, the orchestra presented him with the Golden Ring, a special sign of esteem and affection, awarded only to a few select conductors. In 2021, he conducted the Vienna Philharmonic in the New Year's Concert for the sixth time, having previously led the concert in 1993, 1997, 2000, 2004, and 2018. The 2018 recording went double platinum, and the 2021 concert received the prestigious audience award, the Romy Prize in the TV Moment of the Year category.

In April 2003, the French national radio channel, France Musique, broadcast a "Journée Riccardo Muti," consisting of fourteen hours of his operatic and symphonic recordings made with all the orchestras he has conducted throughout his career. On Dec. 14 of the same year, he conducted the long-awaited opening concert of the newly renovated La Fenice opera house in Venice. Radio France broadcast another "Riccardo Muti Day" on May 17, 2018, when he led a concert at the Auditorium de la Maison de la Radio. Muti's recording activities, already notable by the 1970s and distinguished since by many awards, range from symphonic music and opera to contemporary compositions. The label RMMusic is responsible for Riccardo Muti's recordings.

In September 2010, Riccardo Muti became music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and was named 2010 Musician of the Year by *Musical America*. At the 53rd annual *Grammy Awards* ceremony in 2011, his live performance of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus was awarded Grammy awards for Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance. In 2011, Muti was selected as the recipient of the coveted Birgit Nilsson Prize, presented in a ceremony at the Royal Opera in Stockholm in the presence of King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia. In 2011, he received the Opera News Award in New York City, and he was awarded Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Prize for the Arts. That summer, he was named an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic and honorary director for life of the Rome Opera. In May 2012, he was awarded the highest papal honor: the Knight of the Grand Cross First Class of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Benedict XVI. In 2016, he was honored by the Japanese government with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

Muti has received numerous international honors over the course of his career. He is Cavaliere di Gran Croce of the Italian Republic and a recipient of the German Verdienstkreuz. He received the decoration of Officer of the Legion of Honor from French President Nicolas Sarkozy in a private ceremony held at the Élysée Palace. He was made an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in Britain. The Salzburg Mozarteum awarded him its silver medal for his contribution to Mozart's music, and in Vienna, he was elected an honorary member of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, Vienna Hofmusikkapelle and Vienna State Opera. The State of Israel has honored him with the Wolf Prize in the arts. In July 2018, President Petro Poroshenko presented Muti with the State Award of Ukraine during the Roads of Friendship concert at the Ravenna Festival in Italy following earlier performances in Kiev. In October 2018, Muti received the prestigious Praemium Imperiale for Music of the Japan Arts Association in Tokyo. Muti received the Great Golden Decoration of Honor for Services to the Republic of Austria, the highest possible civilian honor from the Austrian government, in August 2021. In addition, he has received

more than twenty honorary degrees from the most important universities in the world.

Passionate about teaching young musicians, Muti founded the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra in 2004 and the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in 2015. Through *Le vie dell'Amicizia* (The Roads of Friendship), a project of the Ravenna Festival in Italy, he has conducted in many of the world's most troubled areas in order to bring attention to civic and social issues.

Riccardo Muti's vast catalog of recordings, numbering in the hundreds, ranges from the traditional symphonic and operatic repertoires to contemporary works. He also has written four books: *Verdi, l'italiano* and *Riccardo Muti, An Autobiography: First the Music, Then the Words*, both of which have been published in several languages; as well as *Infinity Between the Notes: My Journey Into Music*, published in May 2019, and *The Seven Last Words of Christ: a Dialogue with Massimo Cacciari*, published in 2020; both titles are available in Italian.

riccardomuti.com

riccardomutioperacademy.com

riccardomutimusic.com

Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the world's great orchestras. In April 2024, Klaus Mäkelä was named the Orchestra's 11th music director, and he will begin an initial five-year tenure as Zell Music Director with the 2027/28 Season. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became Music Director Emeritus for Life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Daniil Trifonov is the CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2024/25 Season.

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 64 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 65 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.

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