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RICCARDO MUTI RETURNS TO CHICAGO TO LEAD TWO CSO PROGRAMS IN JUNE

Principal Trumpet Esteban Batallán Makes CSO Solo Debut with Muti and the Orchestra in Program Featuring a Pair of Concertos and Symphonies by Haydn and Schubert (June 12-14)

Muti Leads Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Performances of Verdi's Requiem Mass in the Culminating Subscription Concerts of 2024/25 Season (June 19-24)

JUNE 12-24

CHICAGO — Riccardo Muti, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Music Director Emeritus for Life, returns to Chicago in June for the first time since leading the CSO on a critically acclaimed U.S. tour in January 2025. He continues his artistic collaboration with the CSO following 13 years of celebrated partnership with the Orchestra as music director from 2010 to 2023. His CSO residency in June features two subscription concert programs; a CSO rehearsal open to donors, senior and community groups, and the presentation of the Orchestra's Theodore Thomas medallion for distinguished service to retired CSO musicians at the June 14 concert.

In the first CSO subscription program, Muti leads performances that feature Principal Trumpet Esteban Batallán, who was appointed by Muti in 2019, in his CSO debut as soloist in two concertos, by Michael Haydn — performed by the CSO for the first time here — and by Telemann. On the same program there are two Classical-era symphonies by Haydn (No. 48, *Maria Theresa*) and Schubert (No. 4, *Tragic*) ([June 12-14](#)). In his second set of subscription concerts, Muti leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and distinguished soloists in four performances of Verdi's

Requiem Mass ([June 19-24](#)). The Chicago Symphony Chorus is prepared by guest chorus director Donald Palumbo, who was recently named Chorus Director for an initial three-year term beginning July 1. Widely considered today's preeminent interpreter of the music of Giuseppe Verdi, Muti has led acclaimed performances of Verdi's Requiem Mass this season with the Orchestre National de France, followed by the Philadelphia Orchestra and London's Philharmonia Orchestra, where he served as music director from 1980 to 1992 and chief conductor from 1972-1982, respectively. For program, ticket and patron information, visit [cso.org](https://www.cso.org).

In addition to his U.S. tour with the CSO in January 2025, Muti returns to Chicago following a set of critically acclaimed U.S. concerts with the Vienna Philharmonic — including three programs at Carnegie Hall — an appearance at the Tokyo Spring Festival and recent tour concerts in Italy with the Berliner Philharmoniker. Visit [Experience CSO](#) to access an online article and photo gallery with highlights from Muti's recent activities around the world.

Riccardo Muti & Esteban Batallán ([June 12-14](#))

Muti welcomes Principal Trumpet Esteban Batallán for his much-anticipated debut as a soloist with the CSO in a pair of classical trumpet concertos. Batallán is featured in Telemann's Concerto in D Major, TWV 51, D7, as well as the CSO's first performances of Michael Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in D Major, MH 104. Muti frames the program with Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 48 and Schubert's Symphony No. 4 (*Tragic*).

During the June 14 performance, Muti will recognize several retired CSO musicians with the Theodore Thomas Medallion for Distinguished Service, including Blair Milton (violin), Nancy Park (violin), Loren Brown (cello), David Sanders (cello), Daniel Armstrong (bass) and James Ross (percussion).

Soloist Esteban Batallán has been principal trumpet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since his appointment by Riccardo Muti in 2019. He holds the Adolph Herseth Principal Trumpet Chair, which is endowed by an anonymous benefactor. He was previously the principal trumpet of the Hong Kong Philharmonic during the 2018/19 season and the Granada City Orchestra from 2002 to 2018. He also served as guest principal trumpet with the Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala and the Filarmonica della Scala in 2015 and 2018. Batallán has appeared with distinguished orchestras around the world, including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonieorchester Basel, Houston Symphony and Symphony Orchestra of India, among others. Previously as a soloist, Batallán has performed with Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, Granada City Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic of Galicia, Geneva Camerata, and the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra in a large variety of works, including his own compositions and concertos written for him. In 2021, Batallán premiered a piece dedicated to him, composed by his dear friend and renowned trumpet player, Arturo Sandoval, titled *Mr. Batallán*. Also a

talented teacher, he has led masterclasses during many CSO tours, is a coach for the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and is currently on the trumpet faculty at the DePaul University School of Music. A native of the town of Barro in Galicia, Spain, Batallán began his musical studies at age seven at the school of music in his hometown. He is also the winner of several prestigious competitions, including the Yamaha International Competition (2003) and the 2006 Maurice André International Trumpet Competition.

Following the concert on Thursday, June 12, the CSO Latino Alliance will host a reception celebrating the musical talent of Esteban Batallán. Tickets required for entry. Learn more about the event at [CSO Latino Alliance](#).

Muti Conducts Verdi Requiem ([June 19-24](#))

In its fervent quest for eternal rest, Verdi's Requiem Mass stands as a powerful demonstration of the composer's ability to harness the human voice. Muti first conducted Verdi's Requiem Mass with the CSO and Chorus at Symphony Center in January 2009, during his first concerts as the Orchestra's music director designate. A live recording of the work from these performances was released in 2010 on the CSO Resound label and later was recognized with two Grammy Awards for Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance. Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus reprised the work on October 10, 2013, as part of a concert and livestream broadcast celebrating the 200th anniversary of Verdi's birth. Verdi's Requiem Mass has also been part of international tour performances for Muti and the CSO, including those at Vienna's Musikverein in 2014 and 2020, and at Tokyo's Bunka Kaikan in 2019. The June 2025 performances represent the first Chicago performances of Verdi's Requiem Mass for Muti with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and soloists since November 2018.

The guest chorus director for this program is former Metropolitan Opera Chorus Master and former Lyric Opera of Chicago Chorus Director Donald Palumbo, who was recently named the third Director of the Grammy Award-winning Chicago Symphony Chorus starting July 1. At the invitation of Maestro Muti, Palumbo has previously prepared the Chicago Symphony Chorus for the June 2022 performances of Verdi's *Un ballo in Maschera*, and for the June 2023 performances of Beethoven's *Missa solennis*.

Food and Beverage

The Thomas Club, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan, offers a prix fixe menu featuring traditional American fare for a seamless preconcert dining experience. View menus, make reservations, and learn more about dining at the Thomas Club at [cso.org/dining](https://www.cso.org/dining).

Parking and Transit Options

Exclusive parking rates are available through Millennium Garages, the Preferred Parking Partner for Symphony Center. The closest parking garage is the Grant Park South Garage, located at 325 S. Michigan Ave. Valet parking is available for select performances at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Visit [cso.org/parking](https://www.cso.org/parking) for more parking and transit options.

Patron Information

Contact Patron Services for personalized assistance online at [cso.org/contact](https://www.cso.org/contact) or by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000), Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The walk-up Box Office at 220 S. Michigan Ave. is open Monday-Saturday 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter.

The performances June 12 to 14 are made possible with the generous sponsorship of Josef and Margot Lakonishok.

Leadership support for Muti Conducts Verdi Requiem is provided by the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation in memory of Charles T. Angell.

Major support for the presentation of Verdi's Requiem Mass is provided by the Zell Family Foundation, the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon, and the Nelson D. Cornelius Endowed Concert Fund.

Program support is provided by Nancy A. Abshire, Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz, Cathy and Bill Osborn, Betty W. Smykal, and the Sargent Family Foundation.

The appearance of the Chicago Symphony Chorus has been made possible by a generous gift from The Grainger Foundation.

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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 was named 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

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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](http://cso.org/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.