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Press Contacts:
[Eileen Chambers](#)
312-294-3092

RICCARDO MUTI LEADS THREE CSO PROGRAMS TO OPEN 2023/24 SEASON IN SEPTEMBER AND TWO PROGRAMS WITH THE CSO AT NEW YORK'S CARNEGIE HALL IN OCTOBER

Muti and the CSO Perform Stravinsky's *Firebird* and Brahms' Symphony No. 2 on Opening Program (September 21, 22 & 26)

Renowned Violinist Leonidas Kavakos joins Muti and CSO to Perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto at Symphony Ball Concert on September 23

Muti Leads CSO in World Premiere of *The Triumph of the Octagon* by Philip Glass on Program with Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 (*Italian*) and Strauss' *Aus Italien* (September 28-30)

Muti and CSO Open Carnegie Hall's 2023/24 Season With Two Programs on October 4 & 5

SEPTEMBER 21–OCTOBER 5, 2023

CHICAGO — Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago in September to open the 2023/24 Season, which marks the 133rd Season for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). He continues his artistic collaboration with the CSO in his new role as Music Director Emeritus for Life, following 13 years of celebrated partnership with the Orchestra as music director. His three-week residency in September and October features three concert programs in Chicago, including the annual Symphony Ball concert, and two concerts at New York's Carnegie Hall, marking the opening of the historic venue's 2023/24 season programming and the first appearance there for Muti and the CSO since 2019.

In his first CSO subscription program, Muti and the CSO perform the 1919 Suite from Stravinsky's colorful ballet score for *The Firebird* on a program that also highlights the beauty of the natural world in Liadov's *The Enchanted Lake* and Brahms' Symphony No. 2 ([September 21, 22 & 26](#)). Renowned violinist Leonidas Kavakos joins Muti and the CSO for a performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto at the festive Symphony Ball concert that also features Italian opera selections by Puccini, Leoncavallo, Giordano and Verdi ([September 23](#)). Muti and the CSO cap their time together in Chicago with a subscription program inspired by Muti's native Italy featuring Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 (*Italian*), Strauss' symphonic fantasy *Aus Italien* and opening with the world premiere of *The Triumph of the Octagon*, a CSO-commissioned work by American composer Philip Glass ([September 28-30](#)). Following the September 30 performance, Muti participates in a postconcert book and CD signing at Symphony Center. Muti's residency with the CSO continues with two concerts at Carnegie Hall — an [October 4](#) concert with Leonidas Kavakos as soloist in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition* followed by an [October 5](#) concert with the Italian-inspired program including works by Glass, Mendelssohn and Strauss. For program, ticket and patron information, visit cso.org.

Muti Conducts The Firebird ([September 21-26](#))

Muti and the CSO open the 2023/24 Season with a program featuring music that captures the beauty and power of nature, including Liadov's *The Enchanted Lake* — a shimmering musical depiction of a moonlit night — Stravinsky's 1919 Suite from his groundbreaking score for *The Firebird* and Brahms' Symphony No. 2, which the composer wrote after spending a summer near Austria's Lake Wörth.

Symphony Ball: Muti and Kavakos ([September 23](#))

This annual celebration is a festive part of the season-opening weekend and begins with red carpet arrivals and a champagne toast for all concertgoers. The highlight of the evening is the concert which features Muti and the CSO performing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with internationally renowned Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakos as soloist. A former *Gramophone* Artist of the Year, Kavakos is revered for his virtuosity and appears regularly in the world's great concert halls as a soloist and chamber musician. Muti, recognized as today's leading interpreter of Italian opera, will also lead the CSO in instrumental selections from well-known operas including Giordano's *Fedora*, Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, closing the program with Verdi's Overture to *Giovanna d'Arco* (Joan of Arc). This fundraising benefit is presented by the Women's Board of the CSOA (Judy Feldman, President) along with CSOA Board Trustee Roderick Branch, with all ticket proceeds benefiting the CSOA's artistic, educational and community engagement programs in Chicago and across the globe.

Gala ticket packages include a post-concert reception and dinner at The Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, and concert tickets, including the champagne toast, can be reserved online at [cso.org/symphonyball](https://www.cso.org/symphonyball).

Muti, Glass and Mendelssohn Italian ([September 28-30](#))

In his second subscription program, Muti leads the CSO on a musical journey inspired by the culture, history and landscapes of Italy. Muti conducts Mendelssohn's *Italian* Symphony, which features a captivating final movement marked *Saltarello* after the traditional Italian folk dance of the same name, and Strauss' evocative symphonic fantasy *Aus Italien*. After traveling widely across Italy in 1886, Strauss composed his four-movement work with the programmatic titles "In the Country," "In the Ruins of Rome," "At the Beach at Sorrento," and "Neapolitan Folk Life," which features the popular tune from the Neapolitan song "Funiculi, Funiculà" by Luigi Denza. Theodore Thomas, the CSO's first music director, introduced *Aus Italien* into the Orchestra's repertoire in 1899. It was played by the Orchestra only twice more in 1905 and 1908 until Muti led a performance in his CSO podium debut appearance in 1973. Muti and the CSO returned to the work in 2011 subscription concerts and on their European tour that year.

The program opens with the world premiere of a CSO-commissioned work, *The Triumph of the Octagon*, written by American composer Philip Glass and scored for winds, harp and strings. Glass, whose lifelong fascination with mathematics and patterns has continued to inform his music, responded to the creative power of the eight-sided shape, which is found in the design of the 13th-century citadel Castel del Monte (Castle on the Mountain) located in the Puglia region of Muti's native Italy. About the work, Glass noted that "the mystery of this ancient place and the uniqueness of its geometric proportions, specifically its eight octagonal towers, was an interesting catalyst; while I have written music about people, places, events, and cultures, I cannot recall ever composing a piece about a building. What became clear was that I was not writing a piece about Castel del Monte per se, but rather about one's imagination when we consider such a place."

Audiences are also invited to attend a postconcert CD and book signing with Riccardo Muti immediately following the performance on Saturday, September 30. The signing will take place in the First Floor Rotunda and is open to all ticketholders. Merchandise will be available for purchase in the Symphony Store lobby and online in advance of the event.

Riccardo Muti and CSO at Carnegie Hall ([October 4 & 5](#))

To mark the opening of the 2023/24 Season at New York's Carnegie Hall, Riccardo Muti leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in two celebratory programs that represent their

first appearances together at the historic venue since 2019. Muti and the CSO welcome Leonidas Kavakos — a former Carnegie Hall Perspectives Artist — as soloist in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto on the October 4 program that also features Mussorgsky's vivid orchestral tapestry *Pictures from an Exhibition*, a work that Muti conducted in his 1973 CSO podium debut. For their second program, Muti and the CSO share music inspired by the conductor's native Italy with works including the New York premiere of Philip Glass' *The Triumph of the Octagon*, Mendelssohn's *Italian* Symphony and Strauss' programmatic symphonic poem *Aus Italien*. During the CSO's engagement at Carnegie Hall, several members of the Orchestra will also lead master classes with young musicians, hosted by the Weill Music Institute.

Newest CSO Resound Recording – Contemporary American Composers

In June 2023, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) released its 12th recording with Music Director Riccardo Muti on its CSO Resound label — *Contemporary American Composers* — for digital download and streaming through platforms including Apple Music, Amazon Music and Spotify. The release is also available on CD at retailers worldwide, including [symphonystore.com](https://www.symphonystore.com). It features performances recorded live in Orchestra Hall and includes three recent works, with two CSO commissions from Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and Max Raimi, as well as the CSO's first performance of the Symphony No. 11 by Philip Glass. The recording opens with Montgomery's *Hymn for Everyone* from 2022, continues with Raimi's song cycle *Three Lisel Mueller Settings* and concludes with the Glass symphony. *Contemporary American Composers* is available in Spatial Audio with Dolby Atmos® format. Upon its release, *Gramophone* noted that "Muti's legacy with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra will most likely be remembered for his interpretations of more classical repertoire; but *Contemporary American Composers* stands as testimony to the Italian master's innate ability to bring out the best in almost everything he conducts."

Food and Beverage

From lobby bars serving enticing selections of refreshments to sit-down dining experiences and options for unforgettable private events, there are a variety of opportunities to elevate your concert experience. Symphony Center's restaurant, Forte, features contemporary Mediterranean cuisine and classic cocktails, draft beer, locally roasted coffee and gelato. The Thomas Club, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan, opens on select dates for dining. View menus, make reservations, and learn more about dining at the Thomas Club or Forte restaurant at [cso.org/dining](https://www.cso.org/dining).

Patron Information

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket orders by web chat at 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.

Parking and Transit Options

Symphony Center and SpotHero, the nation's leading parking reservation app, have teamed up to help make parking easier. To reserve a parking spot, visit spothero.com or download the SpotHero app and search for "Symphony Center." Valet parking is available for most performances at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Exclusive subscriber parking rates are available through the Grant Park South Garage. Visit cso.org/parking for more parking and transit options.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter for the September 21-26 and September 28-30 performances.

The September 21, 22 and 26 performances are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

Northern Trust is the Presenting Sponsor of Symphony Ball.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Programs are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

The Triumph of the Octagon is commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra through the Helen Zell Commissioning Program.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, September 21, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 22, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 26, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

LIADOV

The Enchanted Lake

STRAVINSKY

Suite from *The Firebird*

BRAHMS Symphony No. 2

Tickets: \$55-\$325

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, September 23, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Symphony Ball

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

Leonidas Kavakos, violin

TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto
GIORDANO Intermezzo from *Fedora*
PUCCINI Intermezzo from *Manon Lescaut*
LEONCAVALLO Intermezzo from *Pagliacci*
VERDI Overture to *Giovanna d'Arco*

Tickets: \$45-\$275

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, September 28, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 29, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 30, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

GLASS *The Triumph of the Octagon* [World
Premiere, CSO Commission]
MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 4 (*Italian*)
R. STRAUSS *Aus Italien*

Tickets: \$65-\$325

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Carnegie Hall

881 7th Ave

New York, NY 10019

Wednesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

Leonidas Kavakos, violin

TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto
MUSSORGSKY Pictures from an Exhibition

Tickets: [carnegiehall.org](https://www.carnegiehall.org)

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: [csso.org](https://www.csso.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 [csso.org/radio](https://www.csso.org/radio). Launched in 2007, [CSO Resound](https://www.csso.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 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](https://www.csso.org/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](https://www.csso.org/civic-orchestra-of-chicago) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. [Symphony Center Presents](https://www.csso.org/symphony-center-presents) features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The [Negaunee Music Institute](https://www.csso.org/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.