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2025/26 SEASON OF SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS JAZZ SERIES ANNOUNCED

Two Additional Symphony Center Presents Concerts and an Additional CSO Concert Added to 2025/26 Season

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) has announced the 2025/26 Season of Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz, an eight-concert series established in 1994, that highlights a diverse range of jazz artistry. The season features a collaboration between Christian McBride and Brad Mehldau, Herbie Hancock’s 15th Symphony Center performance and the Joshua Redman Quartet with Gabrielle Cavassa. The series also includes a reimagining of Marvin Gaye’s *I Want You* from vocalist José James and special guest Lizz Wright, debut performances by Nubya Garcia and Somi, as well as a tribute to Miles Davis with a solo piano performance by Gonzalo Rubalcaba and an all-star group led by John Beasley. The SCP Jazz series concludes with a program exploring Chicago’s rich jazz history curated by Mike Reed, and a return performance by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis as part of a monthlong journey through American music.

Explore program listings and ticketing information for the 2025/26 Season of SCP Jazz at cso.org/jazz.

“The 2025/26 Symphony Center Presents Jazz series offers Chicago audiences a diverse lineup, continuing our tradition of showcasing both established and pioneering jazz artists,” stated James Fahey, Senior Director of Programming for Symphony Center Presents. “This season highlights the dynamic range of jazz, from the artistry of Joshua Redman and Herbie Hancock’s continued innovation, to unique tributes including the reimagining of Marvin Gaye’s *I Want You*, and two vastly different celebrations of the Miles Davis centennial on one evening. For the first time, we’ve invited two important Chicago jazz programmers to be Guest Curators, Kate Dumbleton and Mike Reed. Each have invited artists who are shaping the current landscape of jazz by presenting series debuts and new music inspired by Chicago’s important and unique jazz history.

This season underscores the ever-evolving nature of jazz, offering both familiar sounds and new explorations for all audiences.”

The 2025/26 Season of the SCP Jazz series opens on [Friday, October 10, 2025, at 8:00 p.m.](#), with Christian McBride and Brad Mehldau, artists with a history of collaborative work. In a performance highlighting the bass and piano duo format, McBride and Mehldau present their established musical connection and interactive performance style. Brad Mehldau’s musical approach has been noted for its inventive and refined qualities, while Christian McBride’s instrumental skill has been recognized for its distinct proficiency.

With a 28-year history with the SCP Jazz series, Herbie Hancock returns to Symphony Center on [Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.](#) Hancock’s career is characterized by his consistent exploration of new musical avenues and his ongoing development of new ways to communicate through music. His illustrious career spans five decades and 14 Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year in 2008 for *River: The Joni Letters*.

On [Friday, November 7, 2025, at 8:00 p.m.](#), the SCP Jazz series presents the Joshua Redman Quartet, featuring Gabrielle Cavassa as a special guest. Joshua Redman, who first appeared on the series in 1994, is recognized for his combination of instrumental proficiency, spontaneous improvisation and engagement with the audience. The quartet’s program includes material from its forthcoming album, *Words Fall Short*, releasing June 20 on Blue Note Records. Vocalist Gabrielle Cavassa joins the quartet for selections from their previous collaborative recording, *where we are*.

Marvin Gaye’s album *I Want You*, released in 1976, demonstrated a fusion of jazz, funk, rhythm and blues, soul and disco. The blending of genres had a significant impact on the music of its time and continues to influence artists today. On [Friday, February 6, 2026, at 8:00 p.m.](#), vocalist José James and special guest Lizz Wright reimagine the music of this influential work to commemorate its 50th anniversary. James, noted for his vocal improvisation, and Wright, known for her soulful delivery, offer a performance that explores the depth and complexity of Gaye’s original compositions.

SCP Jazz features two series debuts on [Friday, March 13, 2026, at 8:00 p.m.](#) Saxophonist Nubya Garcia, a prominent figure in the U.K. jazz community, integrates elements of Afro-Caribbean rhythms, dub, spiritual jazz and electronic textures into her musical compositions — conveying significant meaning and emotional depth. Grammy-nominated vocalist and Illinois native Somi, whose heritage stems from East African immigrants, performs songs that blend African rhythmic patterns, jazz vocal techniques and socially conscious themes. Her music has been noted for its ability to combine these diverse elements in a harmonious manner. This program is guest curated by Kate Dumbleton, executive and artistic director of the Hyde Park Jazz Festival.

On [Friday, March 27, 2026, at 8:00 p.m.](#), Cuban pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba, recognized for his technical skill and creative musical approach, performs a solo piano tribute to Miles Davis. Rubalcaba's performance highlights Davis' influence on the landscape of jazz piano. The tribute continues with John Beasley's "Unlimited Miles" project connects Davis' historical contributions to the ongoing evolution of jazz with performances by an all-star roster. This project features arrangements that encompass various periods of Davis' career, exploring his innovative approach to music.

The SCP Jazz series continues [Friday, May 1, 2026, at 8:00 p.m.](#) with two distinct performances curated by Chicago-based drummer and composer Mike Reed. The first half of the program features saxophonist Geof Bradfield, accompanied by selected high school jazz musicians from the Jazz Institute of Chicago's Jazz Links program, performing selections compiled by Reed in his book *The City Was Yellow*, which captures 53 important works from Chicago's jazz scene between 1980 and 2010. Following this, Reed explores the musical legacy of Fred Hopkins, a Chicago-based bassist and member of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM). Reed presents newly composed works, including a commission from Henry Threadgill, performed by a collective of Chicago-based improvisers. Reed is the founding director of the Pitchfork Music Festival, the current programming chair of the Chicago Jazz Festival, and the owner and director of acclaimed performing arts venues Constellation and Hungry Brain.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, led by Wynton Marsalis, returns to Symphony Center on [Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 8:00 p.m.](#) The ensemble performs newly commissioned pieces and established compositions by artists such as Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk, reflecting its commitment to the preservation and continued performance of jazz. That same week the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra also joins the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in its first performances of Wynton Marsalis' *Liberty* (Symphony No. 5) as part of a monthlong journey through American music ([June 4-6, 2026](#)).

Additional Concerts Added to 2025/26 Season

Beyond the eight concerts in the 2025/26 SCP Jazz series, two additional Symphony Center Presents concerts and an additional CSO concert have been added to the previously announced slate of programs.

On [Friday, September 26, 2025, at 8:00 p.m.](#), Aida Cuevas, "The Queen of Ranchera Music," presents a performance commemorating her 50-year career as an interpreter of Mexican and Latin American musical traditions. The program features selections from her extensive repertoire, encompassing well-known songs such as "El Pastor" and "Quizás Mañana," performed with an emphasis on the stylistic elements of the genre.

Also added is the Ravi Shankar Ensemble on [Sunday, March 22, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.](#) Curated by Sukanya and Anoushka Shankar, the ensemble is a multi-generational collective dedicated to presenting Ravi Shankar's masterful compositions and preserving the rich traditions of North Indian classical music. The ensemble's debut tour showcases his soul-stirring music alongside rare archival visuals, offering a powerful tribute to his enduring legacy.

On [Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.](#), the Chicago Symphony Orchestra presents a concert showcasing the significant musical contributions of composer John Williams to the cinematic works of director Steven Spielberg. Conducted by Steven Reineke, this performance features selections from the 50-year partnership, highlighting works from films such as *Jurassic Park*, *Jaws*, *Indiana Jones* and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*. This concert is also part of a monthlong journey through American music.

Patron Information

Subscriptions are now on sale for the 2025/26 Season of Symphony Center Presents Jazz, which include four- and eight-concert curated subscriptions and the option to create your own subscription of three or more concerts.

Curated subscribers initially save up to 30% on standard ticket prices and save 15% on additional tickets ordered throughout the season. Additional subscriber benefits include priority seating, flexible ticket exchange privileges, access to reduced parking rates and offers at the Symphony Store. Symphony Center Presents Jazz curated subscribers also have access to a free one-year subscription to *DownBeat* and 50% off at Jazz Showcase on SCP Jazz concert nights.

Subscriptions may be ordered online, by phone, by mail or in person at the Symphony Center Box Office. A convenient payment plan option is available for purchases made by credit card. Individual concert tickets for 2025/26 Season programs go on sale to the public in August.

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at cso.org 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.

Chicago Jazz, *DownBeat* Magazine, WBEZ Chicago and WDCB are media partners for the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series.

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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. 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](https://www.cso.org/radio). Launched in 2007, [CSO Resound](https://www.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](https://www.cso.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.cso.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.cso.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.cso.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.