



**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION**  
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## **MUSIC DIRECTOR RICCARDO MUTI RETURNS TO CHICAGO FOR FIRST CSO SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS OF 2023 FOLLOWING CRITICALLY HERALDED NORTH AMERICAN TOUR**

**Muti and the CSO Welcome Julia Fischer for Performances of  
Schumann's Violin Concerto on Program with Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony**

**FEBRUARY 23–25, 2023**

CHICAGO — Music Director Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago in February to lead his first Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) subscription concerts of 2023 following sold out performances across a critically heralded North American tour (January 22-February 2) that featured stops in four U.S. states before concluding with the Orchestra's first performances in Toronto, Canada in more than a century. For the February subscription concerts ([February 23-25](#)), Muti and the CSO welcome famous violin soloist Julia Fischer for performances of Schumann's Violin Concerto on a program that also includes Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony. This program also travels to Kansas City's Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts for a February 26 performance before Muti and the Orchestra continue on to Florida for tour performances in Orlando on February 28, Sarasota on March 1 and in Naples on March 2 and 4.

During his February week in Chicago, Muti will lead an open rehearsal for invited senior, veterans and community groups on February 23 as part of an ongoing commitment to create access for a wide array of audiences across the Chicago area. In addition, Muti will also participate in a post-concert book and CD signing after the February 24 performance.

For program, ticket, tour performance and patron information, visit [cso.org](https://www.cso.org).

### **Muti, Fischer & Tchaikovsky Manfred** ([February 23-25](#))

Muti's first subscription program of 2023 features Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony. The programmatic symphony is inspired by Lord Byron's poem that follows a weary traveler who wanders the Alps and is bewitched by supernatural forces. German violinist Julia Fischer joins Muti and the Orchestra to open the program with Schumann's Violin Concerto.

One of world's leading violinists, Julia Fischer is a versatile musician also known for her extraordinary abilities as a concert pianist, a chamber musician and a violin teacher. The first prize at the international Yehudi Menuhin Competition in 1995 was one of the milestones in her early career and she has since performed with top orchestras worldwide, frequently working with renowned conductors such as Herbert Blomstedt, Jakub Hruška, Vladimir Jurowski, Juanjo Mena, Riccardo Muti, Vasily Petrenko, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Thomas Søndergård, Yuri Temirkanov and Michael Tilson Thomas, among others. Fischer currently serves as Artist in Residence of the Staatskapelle Dresden, and during the 2022/23 season has embarked on a tour with the orchestra and conductor Christian Thielemann, as well as performing a solo recital and chamber music with members of the orchestra. She has received numerous awards including the Federal Cross of Merit, Gramophone Award and the German Culture Prize. She plays a violin by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini (1742) as well as an instrument made by Philipp Augustin (2018). Fischer most recently appeared with Muti and the CSO in 2016 in noteworthy performances of Beethoven's Violin Concerto.

Audiences are invited to attend a post-concert CD and book signing with Riccardo Muti immediately following the performance on Friday, February 24. The signing will take place in the first floor of the Symphony Center rotunda and is open to all ticketholders. The critically acclaimed CSO Resound recording of Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* and other CSO items will be available for purchase in the Symphony Store throughout the day, as well as in the lobby after the performance.

### **Riccardo Muti and CSO - Additional U.S. Tour Appearances** ([February 26-March 4](#))

Following his February subscription concerts and activities in Chicago, Muti and the CSO embark on an additional set of U.S. tour appearances including a February 26 performance of the program with Julia Fischer at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, presented by the Harriman-Jewell Series. That concert is followed by a Florida tour featuring the 2023 North American tour programs of works by Beethoven, Liadov, Mussorgsky and Prokofiev, with stops in three cities: Orlando at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts (February 28); Sarasota at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center, presented by the Sarasota Concert Association (March 1), and Naples at Frances Pew Hayes Hall presented by Artis—Naples (March 2 & 4). The 2023 North American tour and these additional U.S. touring activities are the first for

Muti and the Orchestra since 2020. More information is available at [cso.org/tour](https://www.cso.org/tour).

### **Patron Information**

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. The walk-up Box Office at 220 S. Michigan Ave. is open Monday-Saturday 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) is committed to creating a comfortable, enjoyable and safe environment for its musicians, patrons and staff. To ensure everyone's visit to Symphony Center is safe and sound, the CSOA will continue to modify guidelines and the concert experience, based on the latest public health recommendations and in consultation with leading health experts. Patrons are encouraged to visit [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.cso.org/safeandsound) for audience protocol instructions and the most recent information.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Programs are sponsored by the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

The performances on February 23-25 are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's appearances in Florida are generously sponsored by Judy and Verne Istock, Nancy A. Lauter and Alfred L. McDougal Charitable Fund, Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz, The Clinton Family Fund, the Regenstein Foundation and the Zell Family Foundation.

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#### **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 24, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 25, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

**Julia Fischer**, violin

SCHUMANN      Violin Concerto in D Minor  
TCHAIKOVSKY    *Manfred* Symphony, Op. 58

Tickets: \$55-\$399

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### **Riccardo Muti**

Riccardo Muti is one of the world's preeminent conductors. In 2010, he became the tenth music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. It was recently announced that he would extend his tenure through the 2022/23 season at the request of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. Muti's 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 thirteen world premieres to date; the enthusiastic reception he and the CSO have received on national and international tours; and eleven recordings on the CSO Resound label, with three Grammy awards among them. In addition, his 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 that 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. 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 December 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.

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. He was made an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. 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.

In September 2010, Riccardo Muti became music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and was named 2010 Musician of the Year by *Musical America*. In 2011, Muti was selected as the recipient of the coveted Birgit Nilsson Prize. In 2011, he received the Opera News Award in New York City and Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Award 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. On August 15, 2021, Muti received the Great Golden Decoration of Honor for Services to the Republic of Austria, the highest possible civilian honor from the Austrian government.

Passionate about teaching young musicians, Muti founded the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra in 2004 and the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in 2015. The purpose of the Italian Opera Academy — which takes place in Italy, as well as in Japan since 2019 as part of a multi-year collaboration with the Tokyo Spring Festival — is to pass on Muti's expertise to young musicians and to foster a better understanding of the complex journey to the realization of an opera. 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. The label RMMUSIC is responsible for Riccardo Muti's recordings.

[riccardomuti.com](http://riccardomuti.com)

[riccardomutioperacademy.com](http://riccardomutioperacademy.com)

[riccardomutimusic.com](http://riccardomutimusic.com)

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](http://cso.org)**

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10<sup>th</sup> music director. Jessie Montgomery is Mead Composer-in-Residence, and Hilary Hahn is CSO Artist-in-Residence.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 63 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at [cso.org/radio](http://cso.org/radio). Recordings by the CSO have earned 64 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti's first of eleven releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [cso.org/resound](http://cso.org/resound).

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago (Ken-David Masur, Principal Conductor), a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert led by Muti, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.