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SINGER-SONGWRITER BEN FOLDS TO PERFORM WITH THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON JUNE 16

Concert Tickets Go On Sale Thursday, November 14

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announced today that singer-songwriter Ben Folds returns to Symphony Center to perform with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Steven Reineke, on [Monday, June 16, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.](#) Concert tickets go on sale November 14 and are available at cso.org or by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000).

Folds is an Emmy-nominated singer-songwriter and composer who has created an enormous body of genre-bending music that includes pop albums with Ben Folds Five, multiple solo albums, and numerous collaborative records.

His latest pop solo album *What Matters Most* was released in 2023 to rave reviews and sold-out performances. He released his first Christmas album *Sleigher* in time for the 2024 holiday season, and recently recorded a LIVE album with the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) at the Kennedy Center slated for 2025.

While he tours as a pop artist, he also performs with some of the world's greatest symphony orchestras and is serving in his 8th year as the first ever Artistic Advisor to the NSO. In his role as Artistic Advisor, Folds curates an ongoing concert series called "Declassified: Ben Folds Presents," which pairs contemporary artists from all genres of music with the orchestra.

A New York Times Best Selling author and former podcast host, Ben is also working on new compositions for screen and theatre, and frequently guest stars in film and TV.

In 2022, Ben launched a music education charitable initiative in his native state of North Carolina entitled "Keys For Kids," which provides funds and keyboards to existing nonprofits that offer free or affordable piano lessons to school-age children from economically-disadvantaged households. He also continually advocates for improving

public policies for the arts and arts education on the national level as a member of Americans For The Arts and the Arts Action Fund.

Steven Reineke has proved himself as one of North America's leading conductors of popular music and is in his second decade as Music Director of The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall. Additionally, he is Principal Pops Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center and Principal Pops Conductor of the Houston and Toronto Symphony Orchestras. Reineke is a frequent guest conductor with The Philadelphia Orchestra, and his extensive North American appearances include Dallas, Detroit and the Ravinia Festival. Previous Reineke-led performances at Symphony Center include Kelli O'Hara Sings Broadway and Cody Fry with the CSO. As the creator of more than 100 orchestral arrangements for the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Reineke's work has been performed worldwide and can be heard on numerous Cincinnati Pops Orchestra recordings on the Telarc label.

Patron Information

Tickets for this performance go on sale to the public on Thursday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m. 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.

Artists, programs and ticket prices are subject to change.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

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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](#), 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.