

# CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PATRONS TOUR: EUROPE 2025

*Unusual journey with* **R. Crusoe & Son**  
an Andrew Harper® company



*CSO musicians accompany us on a cruise along Amsterdam's historic canals.*

Dear Chicago Symphony  
Orchestra Patrons:

I am thrilled to announce our  
next Patrons Tour to Europe.  
In May 2025, we follow the  
orchestra and conductor Jaap  
van Zweden on a swing through  
Amsterdam, Dresden, and Prague.



The tour begins in Amsterdam,  
where the orchestra participates in the world-renowned  
Mahler Festival, performing the composer's 6th and 7th  
symphonies.

In Dresden, we attend another CSO performance  
and explore this incredible German city that rose from  
the ashes of World War II. Our touring includes a visit  
to the Zwinger, an extraordinary Baroque palace with  
outstanding art collections. Here we sit down to a private  
recital.

Finally, to lovely Prague. Aside from the CSO  
concert, come explore this historic city, including special  
entree into a monastery library and a tour of Lobkowitz  
Palace led by the current prince. A CSO ensemble  
performs just for us in the theater where Mozart debuted  
*Don Giovanni*.

I hope to see you in Europe.

Dale Hedding

Vice President for Development

**I**n May 2025, join us for what promises to be a musically  
and culturally rich CSO Patrons Tour. We head to Europe  
to attend concerts by our beloved musicians as well as to  
explore the layered history and cultural uniqueness of each  
of three marvelous European cities. We hope you'll join us  
for the Full Tour, but if your time is limited, we also offer  
the tour in two parts, **SEGMENT I:** Amsterdam (12-17 May)  
and **SEGMENT II:** Dresden and Prague (16-23 May).

## SEGMENT I

Arrive in *Amsterdam, the Netherlands*, on Tuesday, 13 May.  
Our hotel is the Conservatorium Amsterdam, a contemporary  
property named the Netherlands' number one luxury hotel.



*See Van Gogh's "Almond Blossom." Currently on display at the  
Van Gogh Museum.*



Known as the “Venice of the North” for its vast network of old canals, Amsterdam is the Netherlands’ capital as well as its cultural heart. A major world port during the 17th-century Dutch Golden Age, the Netherlands proved itself not only an economic powerhouse, the leading center for finance and trade, but also a center for the creation of outstanding secular art.

The main highlight of our time in Amsterdam is *the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performances of Mahler’s 6th and 7th symphonies at the Concertgebouw as part of the prestigious Mahler Festival.*

But those performances are only the beginning. Other activities in Amsterdam include:

- ✳️ Welcome dinner with a group of CSO musicians.
- ✳️ Lecture and lunch with Cristina Rocca, CSO Vice President for Artistic Planning.
- ✳️ Pre-concert dinner with CSO artistic leadership.
- ✳️ A tour of the Van Gogh Museum, the largest collection of Van Gogh’s paintings and drawings in the world.
- ✳️ A canal cruise, accompanied by a group of CSO musicians, to see the three main canals built during the Dutch Golden Age. The area is a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- ✳️ A visit to the Rijksmuseum, one of the world’s greatest fine-art museums. Its incredible collection includes more than 8,000 Dutch and European works of art, including masterpieces by Rembrandt, Vermeer, and van Gogh.
- ✳️ A tour of the historic Jewish community of Amsterdam, including the brand new National Holocaust Museum. It tells the story of the persecution of Dutch Jews.

## SEGMENT II

On Saturday, 17 May, we fly from Amsterdam to *Dresden, Germany.* (Those patrons joining the tour for Segment II depart the U.S. on Friday, 16 May, for an overnight flight to Germany.) Despite being razed by Allied bombing during World War II, the Altstadt, Dresden’s Old Town,



Vermeer’s “The Milkmaid.” See it at the Rijksmuseum.

has preserved or rebuilt its most important buildings, which date from the Renaissance and Baroque eras and the 19th century.

We stay at an historic and newly renovated luxury hotel, the Taschenbergpalais Kempinski Dresden.

During our visit to Dresden, our activities include:

- ✳️ A CSO CONCERT at the Kulturpalast followed by a post-concert reception with a group of CSO musicians.
- ✳️ A tour of the Royal Palace and the State Apartments of King Augustus the Strong, magnificently restored after 33 years of intensive work.
- ✳️ We also visit the palace’s Green Vaults—a vast treasury of Baroque objets collected by the

king in the early 1700s. The Historic Green Vault showcases the items out in the open in lavish period rooms. The New Green Vault, on the other hand, exhibits a thousand objects encased in glass cabinets. (And no wonder: In 2019, thieves broke into the Green Vault and stole \$1.1 billion worth of royal jewelry.) Keep an eye out for the world’s largest green diamond.

✳️ A walking tour of the Old Town, the center of city life. It is home to the city hall, the Saxon state parliament, and important cultural institutions—from the Old Masters Picture Gallery and Semper Opera House to the State Theater and the Royal Palace. The central landmark here? Dresden Frauenkirche, the magnificent domed Baroque



Explore Dresden, a stunning city rebuilt after World War II.



church that once again dominates the skyline. It was rebuilt within the last 30 years with donations from all over the world as a monument for peace.

✳ If you wish, attend an optional performance of *Candide* at the Semper Opera House.

On Tuesday, 20 May, we drive to *Prague, Czech Republic*, our final leg of the tour. Our hotel is the exceptional Four Seasons, on the banks of the Vltava River and around the corner from Old Town Square.

Prague is a political, cultural, and economic hub of Central Europe, with a rich history and Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture. It was the residence of several Holy Roman emperors and an important city to the Habsburg monarchy.

Highlights in Prague include:

✳ A CSO CONCERT at Smetana Hall, an Art Nouveau beauty and Prague's grandest concert venue.

✳ A private backstage tour of the Estate Theater, where Mozart premiered *Don Giovanni* in 1787. While here, we attend a private recital by a CSO ensemble.

✳ Dinner with Jaap van Zweden and a group of CSO musicians.



*At Strahov Monastery Library, go where the public cannot. Prague.*

## PATRONS TOUR: EUROPE 2025 CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERTS

Jaap van Zweden, Conductor

### MAHLER FESTIVAL AT CONCERTGEBOUW, AMSTERDAM

Wednesday, 14 May, 8:15 p.m.  
MAHLER Symphony No. 6

Thursday, 15 May, 8:15 p.m.  
MAHLER Symphony No. 7

### KULTURPALAST, DRESDEN

Monday, 19 May, 7:30 p.m.  
MAHLER Symphony No. 7

### SMETANA HALL, PRAGUE

Tuesday, 20 May, 8:00 p.m.  
MAHLER Symphony No. 6

✳ A tour of Prague's Castle District, including a behind-the-ropes visit to Strahov Monastery Library, where the public cannot go, to view a collection of rare books from the 10th to 17th centuries.

✳ A tour of Lobkowitz Palace, renovated in the 18th century by Joseph Franz Maximilian, the Seventh Prince Lobkowitz, a devoted patron of Beethoven. The composer dedicated his *Eroica* and 5th and 6th symphonies to the prince. The current prince, William Lobkowitz, leads us on a private tour of the palace, including the music gallery, which displays such treasures as handwritten compositions by Beethoven and Mozart's handwritten re-orchestration of Handel's *Messiah*.

✳ A walking tour of the medieval Old Town, its main square, the Town Hall's Astronomical Clock (1410), and the magnificent Gothic Church of Our Lady before Tyn, built in the 14th century.

✳ A visit to the Jewish Quarter and the Jewish Museum. Together, they reveal the strong community presence Jews have had in Prague since at least A.D. 965.

✳ Gather for a farewell lunch at a wonderful restaurant in town. The remainder of the day and evening are at your leisure.

On Friday, 23 May, fly home.

# Chicago Symphony Orchestra Patrons Tour: Europe 2025.

## SEGMENT I: AMSTERDAM

### \* Day 1: United States Monday, 12 May 2025

Depart on a flight to the Netherlands.

*Overnight in flight.*

### \* Day 2: Amsterdam, the Netherlands Tuesday, 13 May 2025

Arrive Amsterdam, transfer to hotel, optional Van Gogh Museum tour at 4:00 p.m., welcome dinner with a group of CSO musicians. (Note: Hotel check-in time begins at 3:00 p.m.) *Conservatorium Amsterdam.*

### \* Day 3-5: Amsterdam Wednesday-Friday, 14-16 May 2025

CSO CONCERTS, welcome dinner with a group of CSO musicians, dinner with CSO artistic leadership, sightseeing including canal cruise with a group of CSO musicians, lecture and lunch with Cristina Rocca, CSO Vice President for Artistic Planning, Rijksmuseum tour, and historic Jewish community tour including the new National Holocaust Museum. *Conservatorium Amsterdam.*

**BOOKING DEADLINE:**  
**FRIDAY, 2 AUGUST 2024**

After that date, reservations will be offered first come, first served on a space-available basis. To book this journey, contact Nina Edlin at [csos@rcrusoe.com](mailto:csos@rcrusoe.com) or call 312-980-8007.



*Explore Prague's picturesque Old Town.*

## SEGMENT II: DRESDEN & PRAGUE

### \* Day 6: Amsterdam; Dresden, Germany Saturday, 17 May 2025

**FULL-TOUR PATRONS:** Fly Amsterdam to Dresden, group transfer to hotel, Old Town walking tour, group dinner. *Hotel Taschenbergpalais Kempinski.*



**SEGMENT I PATRONS:** Depart on your own to the airport for your flight home.

### SEGMENT II

**PATRONS:** Arrive in Dresden, transfer from the airport to our hotel, optional 4:00 p.m. Old Town walking tour, group dinner. (Note: Hotel check-in time begins at 3:00 p.m.)

### \* Day 7-8: Dresden Sunday & Monday, 18-19 May 2025

CSO CONCERT, post-concert reception with a group of CSO musicians, sightseeing including Royal Palace State Apartments and Green Vaults, Old Town walking tour, optional Semper Opera House performance of *Candide* on 18 May. *Hotel Taschenbergpalais Kempinski.*

### \* Day 9: Dresden; Prague, Czech Republic Tuesday, 20 May 2025

Drive to Prague, walking tour of Prague Old Town, CSO CONCERT. *Four Seasons Prague.*

### \* Day 10-11: Prague Wednesday & Thursday, 21-22 May 2025

Dinner with Jaap van Zweden and a group of CSO musicians, sightseeing including the Jewish Quarter, backstage tour of the Estate Theater and private recital by a CSO ensemble, Prague Castle District and a beyond-the-ropes tour of Strahov Monastery Library, Lobkowitz Palace tour led by the current Prince Lobkowitz, farewell lunch. *Four Seasons Prague.*

### \* Day 12: Prague; U.S. Friday, 23 May 2025

Depart on your own to the airport for your flights home.

*This itinerary is subject to change.*



## TOUR PRICES

Per person based on double occupancy.

### SEGMENT I: AMSTERDAM

Tour price.....	\$6,290
Single supplement.....	\$1,880

### SEGMENT II: DRESDEN & PRAGUE

Tour price.....	\$7,780
Single supplement.....	\$2,190
Amsterdam-Dresden airfare estimate (per person).....	TBD

Concert ticket estimate per person, per performance. . .	\$200-250
CSO donation per person. ....	\$2,500

*R. Crusoe strongly recommends that travelers purchase travel insurance. If you have a pre-existing health condition, be sure to purchase this insurance within 21 days of booking.*

The tour is sold as described. Space on this tour is limited. Bookings are taken on a first come, first served basis. There are *no refunds for unused portions of this journey*. The tour price is based on a minimum of 28 travelers on each tour segment at present fuel and currency exchange rates. If fewer than the minimum number of travelers participates, or if there is a major change fuel or currency exchange rates, a price supplement may apply and/or the itinerary may be adjusted. All breakfasts are included in the tour price, plus at least one lunch or dinner each day. Airfare to and from Europe is not included. Full terms and conditions will be provided separately. Expect a detailed itinerary a few weeks before departure.

Concert tickets are limited and available only to patrons participating in the tour. Patrons receive a separate invoice from the CSO for performance tickets and the donation.

✱ **Inclusions.** Accommodations (based on double occupancy); arrival airport transfer; ground transportation; sightseeing as indicated; meal as indicated with local wine and beer with included meals; hotel taxes; entrance fees; gratuity for drivers, guides, hotel porters, and included meals; baggage handling; tour development and planning; reservation management by R. Crusoe travel advisor; and preparation and delivery of preliminary and final documents.

✱ **Exclusions.** International airfare, internal airfare (listed separately); airport departure transfer; sightseeing listed as at leisure or optional; costs of passports; personal expenses such as laundry; premium beverages (mixed drinks) may incur

an additional cost, meals not listed; room service, excess baggage fees, communication charges, and travel insurance.

✱ **Hotels.** This tour includes deluxe or similar category rooms. Check-in at both the Conservatorium Amsterdam and the Hotel Taschenbergpalais Kempinski Dresden is 3:00 p.m. Early arrival requests cannot be guaranteed unless a pre-night is booked at the hotel. If you would like to reserve additional hotel nights before or after the tour, or to inquire about room upgrades, contact R. Crusoe's Nina Edlin at 312-980-8007 or email [nedlin@rcrusoe.com](mailto:nedlin@rcrusoe.com).

✱ **Air Travel.** Airfare to and from Europe is not included. If you require assistance with international airfares, please let Nina Edlin know. The final cost of the Amsterdam-Dresden airfare will be announced once the flight is confirmed. *All internal airfare is non-refundable.*

✱ **Meals.** Breakfast is included daily, with lunch and/or dinner on most days.

✱ **Registration.** A *nonrefundable* deposit of 25 percent of the tour cost per person is required when you book. The remainder of the cost of your trip is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express.

✱ **Cancellation.** Cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations received more than 91 days or more prior to departure are subject to a 25 percent per person cancellation fee; 90-61 days, 50 percent of the tour cost; 60-31 days, 75 percent of the tour cost; and 30 days or less, 100 percent of the tour cost.

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