



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
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RICCARDO MUTI OPENS THE 2021/22 SEASON LEADING THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN THREE DISTINCT PROGRAMS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 23

Muti and CSO Reunited for Their First Concerts Together at Symphony Center Since February 2020

**Opening Program Features Music by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, and
Florence Price and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*)—September 23-25**

**Celebrated Violinist Leonidas Kavakos joins Muti and CSO for Brahms' Violin Concerto
on Program with Beethoven's Symphony No. 7—September 30-October 2**

**The CSO's First Performances of Missy Mazzoli's *These Worlds in Us*
Open a Program with Liadov's *The Enchanted Lake* and
Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*)—October 7-9**

CHICAGO—Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago in September for his first performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) since February 2020. With the opening concert of the 2021/22 season on [Thursday, September 23, at 7:30 p.m.](#), Muti begins his 12th season as music director and launches the Orchestra's 131st season. Between September 23 and October 9, Muti will lead three distinct programs that include the Orchestra's first performances of works by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges; Florence Price, and former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli, as well as two Beethoven symphonies, the Brahms Violin Concerto with celebrated violinist Leonidas Kavakos as soloist and works by 19th-century Russian composers Anatoly Liadov and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Muti's opening concerts with the CSO will resume at regular capacity in Symphony Center and align with current public health guidelines and safety protocols. Ticket information is available at [cso.org](https://www.csso.org) and additional patron information is available at [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.csso.org/safeandsound).

"My musical family is the Chicago Symphony and I have missed them enormously," said Riccardo Muti. "When I think about the emotion that we will have when we get together again, it will be like a miracle, not only because we can play music together, but because the feelings of every person will come together to create something magical, and the audience will feel the importance of the music as harmony and beauty."

Muti Conducts Saint-Georges, Price & Beethoven 3 (September 23-25)

The opening program of the 2021/22 season includes the CSO's first performances of the Overture to the 18th-century comic opera *L'Amant anonyme* (The Anonymous Lover) by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, who was born in Guadeloupe to a French father and Senegalese mother. An accomplished composer, conductor and violinist, Bologne lived in Paris and wrote chamber and orchestral works during the Classical period, as well as several operas, including *L'Amant anonyme*, which is his only surviving opera still performed today. The program continues with the CSO's first performance of the Andante moderato written by Black American composer Florence Price, whose Symphony No. 1 received its world premiere performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933. Price revisited a movement from her String Quartet in G Major to create this lyrical work for string orchestra. To complete this program, Muti and the Orchestra perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*), as one of several of the composer's symphonies to be featured in the 2021/22 season.

Muti, Kavakos & Beethoven 7 (September 30-October 2)

In this program, Muti leads the CSO and violinist Leonidas Kavakos in the Brahms Violin Concerto in D Major, a landmark work of depth and melodic expression. Muti and the CSO welcome Kavakos to the Orchestra Hall stage to build on their critically acclaimed performances of Beethoven's Violin Concerto in 2019. The program closes with the energy and exuberance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.

Muti Conducts Mazzoli & Tchaikovsky Pathétique (October 7-9)

Muti's final program in his fall 2021 residency opens with the CSO's first performances of Missy Mazzoli's 2006 orchestral work *These Worlds in Us*. Inspired by her father's military service and a poem honoring a military pilot's life, the work uses a colorful array of orchestral instruments, including an eclectic selection of percussion instruments. Works by 19th-century Russian composers Anatoly Liadov and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky complete the program. Liadov's orchestral tone poem *The Enchanted Lake* suggests the peaceful scene of moonlit night and is followed by the dark atmosphere evoked in Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*).

Additional 2021/22 Season Programming Highlights for Riccardo Muti and the CSO

As previously announced, Muti will return for additional 2021/22 season performances, including the following:

world premiere performances of the CSO-commissioned works by former and current Mead Composers-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli and Jessie Montgomery, respectively (spring 2022);

the CSO's first performances of Philip Glass' Symphony No. 11 in honor of the composer's 85th birthday (winter 2022);

the CSO's first performances of Florence Price's Symphony No. 3 (spring 2022); and

season finale programs in June 2022 including Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*, performed in concert, and a free Concert for Chicago in Millennium Park.

Details and ticket information for programs presented January through June 2022 will be announced in October.

Safe and Sound at Symphony Center

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 will be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test upon arrival at all performances. Options for proof of vaccination include presentation of a vaccination card or via the mobile app [Bindle](#), which is accepted at Symphony Center and other Chicago-area performing arts venues. Alternatively, proof of a negative PCR test within 72 hours of performance date or antigen test within 6 hours of performance must be shown upon arrival. Children under 12 will also need to present proof of a negative test and are required to be masked when attending performances at Symphony Center.

Since restrictions at Chicago area concert venues eased this past spring, Symphony Center has welcomed audiences for three weeks of Chicago Symphony Orchestra programs in May and June, as well as a Symphony Center Presents Jazz performance featuring Herbie Hancock on September 2, 2021, which also marked the opening of the 2021/22 season and had an audience of more than 1,800.

Ticket holders for upcoming performances will receive specific instructions for entry in advance of the performance. From September 2 through November 21, 2021, concerts will be presented without intermission and will last less than 90 minutes. Patrons are encouraged to visit [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.cso.org/safeandsound) for audience protocol instructions and the most recent information.

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org), by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000) (Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.) or by emailing patronservices@cso.org.

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.

The performances on September 23, 24 and 25 are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

The performances on September 30 and October 1 and 2 are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 24, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 25, 2021, 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra**Riccardo Muti**, conductorSAINT-GEORGES Overture to *L'Amant anonyme**

PRICE Andante moderato*

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*)**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Thursday, September 30, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 1, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 2, 2021, 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra**Riccardo Muti**, conductor**Leonidas Kavakos**, violin

BRAHMS Violin Concerto

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 7

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, October 7, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 8, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 9, 2021, 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra**Riccardo Muti**, conductorMAZZOLI *These Worlds in Us**LIADOV *The Enchanted Lake*TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*)

*indicates CSO first performance.

Riccardo Muti

Born in Naples, Italy, Riccardo Muti is one of the preeminent conductors of our day. In 2010, when he became the tenth music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, he had more than forty years of experience at the helm of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (1968–1980), the Philharmonia Orchestra (1973–1982), the Philadelphia Orchestra (1980–1992), and Teatro alla Scala (1986–2005). Muti's tenure with the CSO has been distinguished by the strength of their artistic partnership; his dedication to performing great works of the past and present, including thirteen world premieres to date; and the enthusiastic reception he and the CSO have received on national and international tours; as well as his contributions to the cultural life of Chicago with performances throughout the city's many neighborhoods and at Orchestra Hall.

Muti studied piano under Vincenzo Vitale at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella in Naples and subsequently received a diploma in composition and conducting from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan. His principal teachers were Bruno Bettinelli and Antonino Votto, principal assistant to Arturo Toscanini at La Scala. After he won the Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition in Milan in 1967, Muti's career developed quickly.

Herbert von Karajan invited him to conduct at the Salzburg Festival in Austria in 1971, and Muti has maintained a close relationship with the summer festival—having celebrated the 50th anniversary of his debut in 2021—and with its great orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic. In addition, he has led the orchestra in its annual New Year's concert from the Golden Hall of the Musikverein on six occasions (1993, 1997, 2000, 2004, 2018, and 2021), a rare privilege accorded to very few conductors. Muti and the Vienna Philharmonic received the prestigious audience award, the Romy Prize, for their 2021 New Year's Concert in the TV Moment of the Year category. The event was broadcast in over ninety countries and followed by millions of radio and television viewers around the globe, making it the largest worldwide event in classical music. Muti has received the distinguished Golden Ring and the Otto Nicolai Gold Medal from the Philharmonic for his outstanding artistic contributions to the orchestra. He also is a recipient of a silver medal from the Salzburg Mozarteum and the Golden Johann Strauss Award by the Johann Strauss Society of Vienna. He is an honorary member of Vienna's Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, the Vienna Hofmusikkapelle, the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna State Opera. On August 15, 2021, Muti received the Great Golden Decoration of Honor for Services to the Republic of Austria, the highest honor a civilian can receive from the Austrian government.

Muti has received innumerable international honors. He is a Cavaliere di Gran Croce of the Italian Republic, Officer of the French Legion of Honor and a recipient of the German Verdienstkreuz. Queen Elizabeth II bestowed on him the title of honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire, Russian President Vladimir Putin awarded him the Order of Friendship and Pope Benedict XVI made him a Knight of the Grand Cross First Class of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great, the highest papal honor. Muti also has received Israel's Wolf Prize in Music, Sweden's prestigious Birgit Nilsson Prize, Spain's Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts and Japan's Order of the Rising Sun Gold and Silver Star and Praemium Imperiale. Muti holds more than 20 honorary degrees from universities around the world.

Past awards from his native Italy include the gold medal from Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his promotion of Italian culture abroad, the prestigious Presidente della Repubblica award from the Italian government, and the Viareggio Repaci Special Prize. During the past year, he received the honorary citizenship of the city of Palermo for his commitment to spreading the values of peace and communion among peoples through the universal language of music, as well as the Manna of San Nicola, the highest honor given by the city of Bari. In June, Muti received the distinguished De Sanctis Europa Prize, bestowed to figures of extreme importance in the European cultural, scientific, and literary fields. In July, the Conservatory of Naples San Pietro a Majella presented Muti with the Guido Dorso Prize, acknowledging Muti as a distinguished "Ambassador of the South" for his great artistic and cultural commitment, and for his particular attention to the new generations of musicians. In July, immediately following celebrations of his 80th birthday, Muti conducted performances in Rome at the Quirinale Palace at the first-ever G20 Cultural Minister's Meeting, a summit that formally added the cultural sector to the G20 process, recognizing its crucial role in daily life and in the health of the global economy.

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 available in Italian; and *Le sette parole di Cristo—Dialogo con Massimo Cacciari* (The Seven Last Words of Christ: a Dialogue with Massimo Cacciari), published in 2020.

riccardomutimusic.com

Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org and experience.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 10th 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 62 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. Recordings by the CSO have earned 63 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 eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at cso.org/resound.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) 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.