



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
RICCARDO MUTI MUSIC DIRECTOR

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559
TELEPHONE 312-294-3333
FACSIMILE 312-294-3329

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Press Contacts:
[Eileen Chambers](#)
312-294-3092

MAY PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Spring Residency with Music Director Riccardo Muti Features World Premiere Performances of *Hymn for Everyone* by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and First Performances of Works by William Grant Still and Florence Price

Other Highlights include CSO Debut of Conductor Karina Canellakis and Podium Returns for Julian Rachlin and Esa-Pekka Salonen, Symphony Center Presents Piano Recitals with Yefim Bronfman and Evgeny Kissin and CSO MusicNOW featuring Music of Montgomery, Tower, Weinberg and Moore

Symphony Center Presents Jazz Series Features Trumpeter Sean Jones in *Dizzy Spellz*, a Tribute to Legendary Trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie in Concert that Opens with the Thaddeus Tukes Quintet

***Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra* by Former Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates Receives First CSO Performances in School and Family Concerts**

Civic Orchestra of Chicago and All-Access Chamber Music Programs Continue

CHICAGO — May programming presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) at Symphony Center and in other Chicago and community venues features a wide variety of concerts including Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) subscription concerts, CSO MusicNOW, CSO for Kids: Once Upon a Symphony and Family Matinee programs, two All-Access Chamber Music series concerts with ensembles of CSO musicians and Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances, including the Civic Fellows performing with the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE).

CSO subscription concerts for the month begin with two programs that are part of Music Director Riccardo Muti's spring residency featuring a [May 3](#) concert that includes *Hymn for Everyone*, the first CSO-commissioned world premiere work by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery. The program also includes the Double Bass Concerto No. 2 by 19th-century Italian composer Giovanni Bottesini with CSO Principal Bass Alexander Hanna as soloist, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 (*Pastoral*). The following week ([May 5-7](#)), Muti leads a program with music of Beethoven and two 20th-century African American composers – William Grant Still's *Mother and Child* and Florence Price's Symphony No. 3. Before each of these concerts, audiences can discover more about composer Florence Price at a special panel discussion and performances of chamber music by Price and Jessie Montgomery featuring ensembles from the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and the Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative (CMPI).

CSO subscription concerts continue [May 12-14](#) with conductor and violinist/violist Julian Rachlin leading a program with music of Beethoven, Mozart & Tchaikovsky and joining Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong to perform Mozart's Sinfonia concertante. On [May 19-22](#), Karina Canellakis, principal guest conductor of the London Philharmonic, makes her CSO debut in a program featuring Richard Strauss' tone poem *Ein Heldenleben*. San Francisco Symphony Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen opens a two-week residency [May 26-28 & 31](#), with a program featuring Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* and Stravinsky's Symphony in Three Movements, as well as a new violin concerto by Bryce Dessner with Pekka Kuusisto as soloist.

The SCP Piano series continues [May 8](#) when internationally renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman returns to perform a program featuring sonatas by Beethoven, Chopin and Galina Ustvolskaya. Pianist Evgeny Kissin also makes an anticipated return to the series on [May 15](#), performing Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor (transcribed by Carl Tausig) and music of Mozart, Beethoven and Chopin.

On [May 20](#), the SCP Jazz series offers a double bill opening with Thaddeus Tukes Quintet and continuing with *Dizzy Spellz*, an homage to jazz great Dizzy Gillespie's vision of hope led by trumpeter Sean Jones and featuring dancer and vocalist Brinae Ali.

The 2021-22 season of CSO MusicNOW – curated by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery – concludes [May 23](#) with a program highlighting contemporary interpretations of the concerto, including works by Joan Tower, Alyssa Weinberg and James Moore.

CSO for Kids: Once Upon a Symphony returns on [May 7](#) with the delightful retelling of Jack and the Beanstalk and CSO for Kids: Family Matinees caps the 2021-22 season in a [May 14](#) program featuring *Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of an Orchestra* by former Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates.

Free concerts in May feature the Civic Orchestra of Chicago with its Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur in a [May 2](#) program including Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery's *Caught by the Wind*, Dvořák's *In Nature's Realm* and Strauss' *An Alpine Symphony*, as well as a [May 11](#) concert featuring Civic Fellows performing music of George Lewis with musicians from

the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE).

In addition, the All-Access Chamber Music series, which features ensembles of CSO musicians, continues [May 1](#) at the South Shore Cultural Center with the Sequoia Quartet performing quartets by Strauss and Mendelssohn and on [May 17](#), with the Emerald Ensemble performing music of Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson, Dohnányi and Schumann at Symphony Center.

May 2022 concerts at Symphony Center are presented without audience capacity restrictions and align with current public health guidelines and safety protocols. Proof of vaccination or a negative antigen test is required for all patrons 5 years of age and older. Children younger than 5 years of age must provide proof of a negative antigen test no more than three hours prior to entry. Ticket information is available at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org) and additional patron and safety protocol information is available at [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.cso.org/safeandsound).

A chronological list of May 2022 concert programs is available [here](#).

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concerts

Muti Conducts Montgomery & Beethoven Pastoral ([April 28-30 & May 3](#))

Muti's spring residency programs open with the world premiere of *Hymn for Everyone*, the first CSO-commissioned work by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery since beginning her appointment this season. Completing the program is the Double Bass Concerto No. 2 by 19th-century Italian composer Giovanni Bottesini with CSO Principal Bass Alexander Hanna as soloist, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 (*Pastoral*).

Muti Conducts Beethoven, Still & Price ([May 5-7](#))

Muti's next program includes the CSO's first performances of William Grant Still's *Mother and Child* for string orchestra from 1943 and Florence Price's Symphony No. 3, which was commissioned by the Works Progress Administration's Federal Music Project and received its premiere in 1940. Price was the first Black female composer to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra, when her Symphony No. 1 received its world premiere by the CSO in 1933. Two works by Beethoven, the Overture to *Egmont* and the Symphony No. 4, complete the program.

Before each of these concerts, audiences can discover more about the life and work of composer Florence Price at a panel discussion featuring scholars Dr. Tammy Kernodle, Dr. Doug Shadle and special guest Jessie Montgomery, moderated by Dr. Toni-Marie Montgomery, Dean of Northwestern's Bienen School of Music. Patrons can also attend preconcert chamber performances of music by Price and Jessie Montgomery featuring musicians of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative (CMPI).

Beethoven, Mozart & Tchaikovsky ([May 12-14](#))

The music of Mozart is the focal point of a program led by the multi-talented Lithuanian-born conductor and violinist/violist Julian Rachlin. He joins Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong in Mozart's Sinfonia concertante for violin and viola and conducts the composer's Symphony No. 36 (*Linz*). Also featured are Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir d'un lieu cher* in Glazunov's

arrangement for violin and orchestra and Beethoven's Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus*.

Ein Heldenleben ([May 19-22](#))

Karina Canellakis, principal guest conductor of the London Philharmonic, makes her CSO debut in a program featuring Richard Strauss' tone poem *Ein Heldenleben*, as well as Schumann's Piano Concerto with Kirill Gerstein as soloist and the Orchestra's first performances of *Brio* by former Mead Composer-in-Residence Augusta Read Thomas.

Salonen Conducts Ravel & Stravinsky ([May 26-28 & 31](#))

Esa-Pekka Salonen, music director of the San Francisco Symphony, opens a two-week residency with a program featuring the CSO's first performances of Grammy Award-winning composer Bryce Dessner's Violin Concerto, written during the pandemic for soloist Pekka Kuusisto. The program also includes Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* and Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements*.

Symphony Center Presents Piano

Yefim Bronfman ([May 8](#))

Internationally renowned pianist and a longtime featured artist on the SCP Piano series, Bronfman returns with a varied recital program including two Beethoven sonatas, the joyous and inventive No. 11 in B-flat Major and No. 23 in F Minor (*Appassionata*), as well as Chopin's Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58 and the Sonata No. 4 by composer Galina Ustvolskaya.

Evgeny Kissin ([May 15](#))

Captivating audiences at each of his Symphony Center performances, Kissin shares a program that includes J.S. Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor (transcribed by Carl Tausig), Mozart's Adagio in B Minor, K. 540, Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, as well as music of Chopin, including mazurkas and the composer's Andante spianato and Grande polonaise brillante, Op. 22.

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

Sean Jones' Dizzy Spellz/Thaddeus Tukes Quintet ([May 20](#))

Created by trumpeter and music director Sean Jones and dancer/vocalist Brinae Ali, *Dizzy Spellz* is both an homage to jazz great Dizzy Gillespie's vision of hope and an Afro-futuristic articulation of the African American experience through jazz, tap, hip-hop and bebop. The new work was an untitled concept evolving for many years in the minds of the husband-wife team that was premiered in March 2021 by Washington (D.C.) Performing Arts in a live-streamed performance. Trumpeter Jones leads a small jazz ensemble (Alex Brown, piano, Kris Funn, bass and CV Dashiell, drums) with expressive dance sequences featuring Ali. The evening opens with the Thaddeus Tukes Quintet. A native of Chicago, vibraphonist Tukes trained in the CSO's Percussion Scholarship Program and has gone on to form his own quintet, releasing *Let's Vibe* in April 2020.

CSO MusicNOW

Concerto ([May 23](#))

Individual and collective virtuosity is on full display in a program led by American conductor Jeffrey Milarsky that opens with *Overture*, a new work by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery. Joan Tower's *Rising* for flute and strings builds energy and excitement through its exploration of quickening tempos and ascending melodies and features CSO Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson as soloist. Gabriel Cabezas is the featured soloist in Alyssa Weinberg's *Caligo*, that highlights the cello's broad spectrum of sonic color, and composer James Moore is the soloist in *Sleep is Shattered*, his stunning concerto for electric guitar.

CSO for Kids: Once Upon a Symphony

Jack and the Beanstalk ([May 7](#))

Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum! Climb up the beanstalk in this unforgettable version of the fairy tale that emphasizes Jack's creativity and persistence, his love for his family and the importance of music!

CSO for Kids: Family Matinee

Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra ([May 14](#))

Written by former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates, this new work was co-commissioned by the CSO and several other major U.S. symphony orchestras and was scheduled to be premiered in 2020. Delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the multimedia work receives its first performances by CSO in 2022, led by conductor Edwin Outwater. It invites audiences to discover a unique blend of music, animation and live action that introduces the instruments of the orchestra in a vibrant medium. The program also includes excerpts from Bates' *Mothership* and music by Walker, Fung, Gounod and Dukas.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Nature's Realm ([May 2](#))

Civic Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur returns to the podium for a program featuring musical depictions of the natural world including Richard Strauss' *An Alpine Symphony*, which was inspired by the dramatic setting of the Bavarian Alps and evokes images of a majestic sunrise, cattle grazing in the field and a fierce storm. Also on the program is *Caught by the Wind*, a lively meditation on the cycles of life and nature by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and Antonín Dvořák's *In Nature's Realm*, which transports the listener to the forested countryside of his Czech homeland.

Civic Fellows and International Contemporary Ensemble ([May 11](#))

Civic Fellows and musicians from International Contemporary Ensemble come together for a concert centered around George Lewis' evocative, open-form piece *P. Multitudinus* for large ensemble. A member of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM) since 1971, Lewis is the Edwin H. Case Professor of American Music at Columbia University.

His work in electronic and computer music, computer-based multimedia installations, and notated and improvisatory forms is documented on more than 150 recordings and has been recognized with a MacArthur Fellowship and Guggenheim Fellowship, among others.

CSO Chamber Music

Curated and performed by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the All-Access Chamber Music series presents free concerts in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center and in venues throughout the city.

CSO Chamber: All-Access Program 3 ([May 1](#))

The All-Access series continues with a program at the South Shore Cultural Center. The Sequoia Quartet — Rong-Yan Tang (violin), Kozue Funakoshi (violin), Youming Chen (viola), Karen Basrak (cello) — performs R. Strauss' String Quartet in A Major and Mendelssohn's String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor.

CSO Chamber: All-Access Program 4 ([May 17](#))

The Emerald Ensemble — Ni Mei (violin), Sunghee Choi (viola), Katinka Kleijn (cello), Spencer Myer (piano) — performs Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson's Movement for String Trio, Dohnányi's Serenade in C Major for String Trio, and Schumann's Piano Quartet in E-flat Major at Symphony Center.

CSOtv

Audiences in Chicago and worldwide can connect with the extraordinary artistry of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with free access to a wide variety of content available through the [CSOtv \(cso.tv\)](#) video portal. Email sign up is required to access free content. Content includes the critically acclaimed CSO Sessions series, as well as the CSO for Kids and Civic Orchestra of Chicago series, archival concert performances and more.

Recent releases on CSOtv include a September 2021 performance of Florence Price's Andante moderato by Riccardo Muti and the CSO, as well as CSO Sessions: Episodes 25-27, featuring three historic programs that reopened Symphony Center for live concerts in May and June of 2021. CSO Sessions: Episode 28 will premiere on May 1 and features music by composer Richard Strauss, including his *Metamorphosen* for string septet (arranged by Rudolf Leopold) and Serenade in E-flat Major, Op. 7, as well as *Arabesques* for flute and percussion by composer Adolphus Hailstork.

Patron Information | 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.

For everyone's comfort and safety, patrons 5 years of age and older are required to provide proof of vaccination or a recent negative test for entry. Proof of full vaccination can be demonstrated by showing a valid photo ID along with either a vaccination card, a photo of the vaccination card, a digital record or mobile app, or printed record from a vaccination provider. (Photo ID is required for those 16 and older.)

Patrons must be fully vaccinated as defined by the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). Currently, all patrons must wear a face mask throughout their visit to Symphony Center.

Concessions have returned to Symphony Center for most performances and patrons can now enjoy refreshments before the performance and during intermission.

Visit [cso.org](#) for more information. Patrons are encouraged to visit [cso.org/safeandsound](#) for audience protocol instructions and the most recent information.

Round-trip shuttle service is now available for an additional \$25 per person for patrons traveling to Symphony Center from the North Shore for Friday matinees. Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](#), by calling [312-294-3000](#) (Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 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.

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

SCP Jazz Series is sponsored by Exelon, WBEZ Chicago, WDCB 90.9 FM, and *DownBeat*.

The All-Access Series is generously sponsored by an anonymous donor.

CSO for Kids: Once Upon a Symphony is sponsored in part by PNC.

The 2021/22 Civic Orchestra of Chicago season is generously sponsored by The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.

The world premiere of Jessie Montgomery's *Hymn for Everyone* is commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra through the Helen Zell Commissioning Program.

The May 3 program with Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti is generously sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross.

The performances on May 5-7 are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

The performances on May 12-14 are generously sponsored by the Randy and Melvin Berlin Family Fund for the Canon.

Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra is a CSO Co-commission, through the Helen Zell Commissioning Program.

The appearance of Kirill Gerstein is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

The performances on May 19-22 are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

Major support for CSO MusicNOW is generously provided by the Zell Family Foundation, Cindy Sargent, the Sally Mead Hands Foundation and the Julian Family Foundation.

CSO MusicNOW is sponsored by WBEZ Chicago and the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: 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 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.