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## **2022 CHICAGO YOUTH IN MUSIC FESTIVAL AND NATIONAL PATHWAYS SUMMIT COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL SET OF EVENTS IN CHICAGO**

**CSO Music Director Riccardo Muti Led Side-by-Side Orchestra of  
More Than 100 Musicians in Free, Open Rehearsal at Symphony Center to  
Conclude Festival on April 11**

**50 High School Musicians from 10 U.S. Cities and Music Education Leaders and  
Partners Assembled in Chicago to Participate in Three Days of Workshops,  
Rehearsals, Discussions and Cultural Activities**

CHICAGO – The Chicago Youth in Music Festival (CYMF) took place April 9-11, 2022, representing an ambitious nationwide partnership spanning 10 cities. Participating in the expanded Festival — the first since 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic — were 50 young musicians who are affiliated with pathways programs in Chicago, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, Atlanta, Nashville, San Antonio, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Washington, D.C. These pathways programs provide a broad array of training and other resources to students whose backgrounds are underrepresented in American orchestras. The weekend also included the inaugural National Pathways Summit bringing together music teachers, administrators, and families of music students, who participated in workgroup meetings on topics such as program sustainability, efficacy, and building a national network. [Lina González-Granados](#), the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice, led Festival Orchestra preparatory rehearsals that culminated with student musicians playing Liszt's *Les préludes* side-by-side with musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), Civic Orchestra of Chicago and Chicago Sinfonietta's Project Inclusion, in a free open rehearsal led by [CSO Music Director Riccardo Muti](#) on Monday, April 11 at Symphony Center. Watch video from the April 11 open rehearsal in a CBS-2 segment available [here](#).

Muti led more than 100 musicians in the Festival Orchestra in front of an enthusiastic audience as part of his recent residency activities in Chicago. Since becoming music director of the CSO in 2010, Muti has maintained a commitment to training the next generation of musicians, having

led a number of open rehearsals at the Festival and with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, as well as a remote coaching session on Zoom in 2021 with musicians from the Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative (CMPI). Muti welcomed the musicians and audience to the open rehearsal noting: “The orchestra is an example of how a society should be. The different instruments play different parts, not one against the other but together in harmony.”

The 2022 Chicago Youth in Music Festival was presented by the [Negaunee Music Institute \(NMI\)](#) at the CSO in partnership with the [National Instrumentalist Mentoring and Advancement Network \(NIMAN\)](#) and [Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative \(CMPI\)](#).

Stanford Thompson, board chair of the National Instrumentalist Mentorship and Advancement Network, added: “This year’s side-by-side rehearsal has offered a tremendous opportunity for the next generation of classical musicians to be coached by professionals while allowing arts leaders from across the country to discover new ways to support their advancement.”

According to Jonathan McCormick, director of education at the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, it’s important for students “to engage with peers who have similar dreams, aspirations and challenges. The Youth in Music Festival offered a rigorous musical experience and a social event as well, so the orchestra could really bond.” Speaking about the opportunity to make music alongside professional and pre-professional musicians, McCormick added: “It’s so meaningful to play alongside a musician who is more advanced than you are. This can really accelerate a student’s growth.”

The 2022 Chicago Youth in Music Festival follows the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association’s recent announcement of a CSO Fellowship Program that seeks to welcome early-career musicians from populations that have traditionally been underrepresented in American symphony orchestras, including, but not limited to, those who identify as Black, Latino or Indigenous. Applications for the 2022-23 season are currently being accepted at [cso.org/fellowship](https://cso.org/fellowship). The new program is part of the CSOA’s ongoing commitment to creating training opportunities for the next generation of musicians that also includes the [Percussion Scholarship Program](#), [Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative \(CMPI\)](#) and [Sphinx Orchestral Partners Auditions](#) and the [Civic Orchestra of Chicago](#).

Access additional 2022 Chicago Youth in Music Festival and National Pathways Summit press materials and photos [here](#).

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

The 2022 Chicago Youth in Music Festival was generously sponsored by Megan and Steve Shebik and Michael and Linda Simon.

The National Pathways Summit was generously sponsored by the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.

Special thanks to William Harris Lee & Co. for their generous loan of fine string instruments to select students participating in the 2022 Chicago Youth in Music Festival.

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### **About the Chicago Youth in Music Festival**

The [Chicago Youth in Music Festival](#) began in 2009 and was created to support and inspire young musicians who are passionate about symphony orchestras. Each Festival is presented in partnership with local, national, and sometimes international organizations, and includes rehearsals, workshops and performances that inspire the next generation of musicians.

The 2022 Festival and National Pathways Summit is centered around organizations that nurture young musicians whose backgrounds are underrepresented in American orchestras. The national scope of the project highlights the extraordinary work of programs in Chicago and around the country and celebrates the diversity of participants.

### **About the Festival Partners**

The 2022 Chicago Youth in Music Festival was presented in partnership and co-hosted by the [Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative \(CMPI\)](#), the [National Instrumentalist Mentoring and Advancement Network \(NIMAN\)](#) and the [Negaunee Music Institute \(NMI\)](#) at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO).

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO is a co-founder and member of the advisory council for the Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative (CMPI), which launched in the 2019-20 season with the mission of preparing young musicians from underrepresented backgrounds to attend top music schools and thus ultimately helping to diversify American orchestras. The Chicago Youth in Music Festival provided an opportunity for the two groups to expand this work nationally by collaborating with NIMAN, which is a national coalition that works to align, promote and develop equitable opportunities and inclusive environments to advance BIPOC [Black, indigenous and people of color] instrumentalists to thrive in classical music.

### **National partners for the Festival and Summit:**

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Talent Development Program  
Boston BEAM  
Cincinnati Symphony Nouveau Program  
Cleveland Institute of Music Musical Pathway Fellowship  
Merit School of Music  
Nashville Symphony Accelerando  
Peabody Preparatory Baltimore Pathways Program  
PMAY Artists' Initiative  
Washington Musical Pathways Initiative  
Youth Orchestra San Antonio Rising Star Fellows

