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MARCH PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

CHICAGO — March programming presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) at Symphony Center and in community venues features a wide variety of events, including Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) concerts with renowned guest conductors and soloists. March CSO concert highlights include a CSO podium debut for conductor Santtu-Matias Rouvali in a program that features the return of Chopin Competition winner and international piano sensation Seong-Jin Cho in Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto (February 27-March 2). Gustavo Gimeno makes his subscription concert debut (March 6-8) followed by return podium appearances for guest conductors Manfred Honeck (March 13-15), Jakub Hrůša (March 20-22) and Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider (conductor and violin, March 27-29).

March programming showcases a variety of guest artists and soloists including CSO Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson performing the world premiere of the CSO-commissioned concerto *Indigo Heaven* by Christopher Theofanidis (March 6-8). Tenor Andrew Haji makes his CSO debut in the CSO's first performances of Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*, alongside returning soloists Joëlle Harvey (soprano), Jennifer Johnson Cano (mezzo-soprano) and Joshua Hopkins (baritone) (March 13-15). Pianist Simon Trpčeski returns as soloist in Rachmaninov's First Piano Concerto (March 20-23).

Additional highlights include programs across a variety of CSO concert series. The Family Matinee series continues with *The Music of Our Emotions* led by Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser (March 8). CSO Chamber Music features the Civitas Ensemble in a program of works by Bonis and Dvořák at Symphony Center (March 4) and The Wabash Avenue Music Collective in a program of works for viola, flute, harp and mezzo-soprano at Senn High School (March 23). Mead Composer-Curator Jimmy López shares the next CSO MusicNOW concert of the 2024/25 Season with a program

featuring two of his own works alongside an array of contemporary pieces by Pierre Boulez, Quinn Mason and Adam Schoenberg (March 23).

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) concerts in March feature highlights such as acclaimed violinist Leonidas Kavakos and CSO Artist-in-Residence Daniil Trifonov in an afternoon of chamber music (March 9), Japanese pianist Mao Fujita in his SCP Piano series debut (March 16), the Bill Charlap Trio with special guests Dee Dee Bridgewater and Nicholas Payton on the jazz series (March 21) and renowned chamber musicians Julia Fischer (violin) and Jan Lisiecki (piano) (March 30).

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago showcases several collaborations throughout March, including CSO trombone Michael Mulcahy conducting a Civic Brass and Percussion concert (March 3). A performance and fundraising benefit, Impact: Showcasing Education & Community Engagement at the CSO, features current members and alumni from programs across the Negaunee Music Institute (March 17). Jerry Hou conducts the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in the final round of the 2025 Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition featuring four pianists in Orchestra Hall (March 22).

Tickets and more information are available at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org).

[Explore](#) a chronological list of March 2025 concert programs.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Seong-Jin Cho Plays Prokofiev ([February 27-March 2](#))

Principal Conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra and Chief Conductor of the Gothenburg Symphony Santtu-Matias Rouvali makes his CSO podium debut leading Sibelius' Fifth Symphony. Evoking Roman carnivals, Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio Italien* opens the program, and Seong-Jin Cho — the award-winning Artist-in-Residence for the Berliner Philharmoniker this season — performs Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto.

Cho will participate in a CD signing after the concert on Sunday, March 2. The signing will take place in the Rotunda, with merchandise available at the Symphony Store and in the Orchestra Hall outer lobby prior to the event.

Ravel Daphnis and Chloe ([March 6-8](#))

Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Luxembourg and Toronto Symphony Orchestra Gustavo Gimeno leads the world premiere of American composer Christopher Theofanidis' clarinet concerto *Indigo Heaven*, commissioned by the CSO and written for Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson. Written in 1942, Barber's wartime Second Essay opens the program, and two signature works by Ravel close the program — *Rapsodie espagnole* and Suite No. 2 from *Daphnis and Chloe*.

Haydn Mass in Time of War ([March 13-15](#))

Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Manfred Honeck leads the CSO's first performances of Haydn's *Mass in Time of War* with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by guest chorus director Donald Nally. Tenor Andrew Haji makes his CSO debut as soloist alongside returning guest artists soprano Joëlle Harvey, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano and baritone Joshua Hopkins. Honeck opens the program with the CSO's first performances of James MacMillan's *Larghetto* — having led the world premiere performance himself in 2017 — followed by Beethoven's First Symphony.

On Thursday, March 13, WXRT's Terri Hemmert hosts [Classic Encounter](#), a preconcert interactive multimedia discussion with a guest musician from the Chicago Symphony Chorus in Grainger Ballroom. Patrons may add the event to a ticket order after selecting seats for the concert.

Hrůša, Trpčeski & Rachmaninov ([March 20-22](#))

Chief Conductor of the Bamberg Symphony, Music Director Designate of The Royal Opera Covent Garden and Principal Guest Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Jakub Hrůša leads a program of substantial Russian works. Simon Trpčeski joins the CSO and Hrůša as the featured soloist in Rachmaninov's First Piano Concerto. Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11 (*The Year 1905*), which depicts events of the Russian Revolution, closes the program.

Bruch & Schumann Rhenish ([March 27-29](#) & CSO at Wheaton [March 28](#))

Music Director of the Orchestre national de Lyon and violinist Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider leads the CSO as soloist in Bruch's richly melodic First Violin Concerto. Trading violin bow for baton, Szeps-Znaider conducts Boulez's *Livre pour cordes*, in honor of the centenary of the composer's birth. Schumann's Third Symphony (*Rhenish*) concludes the program.

The program is also offered on Friday, March 28, at Wheaton College's Edman Memorial Chapel (401 E. Franklin St., Wheaton, IL) as part of the [CSO at Wheaton](#) concert series.

CSO for Kids

The Music of Our Emotions ([March 8](#))

Resident Conductor of Engagement and Education at the San Francisco Symphony and Principal Education Conductor and Community Ambassador of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser leads members of the CSO in a program for kids ages 5-12 demonstrating how music can help express one's emotions. The program explores a variety of feelings through selections from works such as Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, former Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery's

Starburst, Mozart's Symphony No. 40, Bingham's *Diamond*, Beethoven's Eighth Symphony and Prokofiev's First Symphony (*Classical*).

CSO Chamber Music

Civitas Ensemble Plays Bonis & Dvořák ([March 4](#))

The Civitas Ensemble, featuring CSO musicians Yuan-Qing Yu (Assistant Concertmaster), Ni Mei (violin), Danny Lai (viola), Kenneth Olsen (Assistant Principal Cello) and guest Winston Choi (piano), performs two masterpieces of Romantic expression. Bonis' First Piano Quartet opens the program with lush harmonies and emotive melodies, followed by Dvořák's Piano Quintet in A Major.

Tickets for this concert are pay what you wish, starting at \$15.

The Wabash Avenue Music Collective at Senn High School ([March 23](#))

The Wabash Avenue Music Collective, featuring CSO musician Max Raimi (viola and composer) and guests Hillary Horton (flute), Eleanor Kirk (harp) and Sara Dailey (mezzo-soprano), explores works with expansive soundscapes and highlights the world premiere of Raimi's *Two Stephen Ackerman Poems*. The program also includes Saint-Saëns' *Fantaisie in A Major*, Jan Bach's *Eisteddfod* and Debussy's iconic *Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp*.

This free concert takes place at Nicholas Senn High School (5900 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, IL). Reservations are required and open March 7.

CSO MusicNOW

Jimmy López: Inner Dialogues ([March 23](#))

Mead Composer-Curator Jimmy López crafts a mosaic of contemporary works featuring musicians from the CSO, including his string quartet *La Caresse du Couteau*, influenced by the musical map of an enneagram, and *Guardian of the Horizon*, inspired by the soul's metaphysical journey to the afterlife and spotlighting Stephanie Jeong (Associate Concertmaster) and Karen Basrak (cello). The program opens with Pierre Boulez's *Domaines*, a foundational 20th century work for solo clarinet, featuring Assistant Principal Clarinet John Bruce Yeh, in celebration of the composer's centenary. Next, Quinn Mason's dynamic *Weapon Wheel* employs three bass drums, and Adam Schoenberg's *Reflecting Light* completes the program.

The CSO Latino Alliance hosts a postconcert networking reception on March 23. Tickets are required for entry. Learn more about the event and specially priced tickets for individual Latino Alliance concert dates at cso.org/LatinoAlliance.

Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music

Leonidas Kavakos & Daniil Trifonov ([March 9](#))

One of the world's most renowned violinists, Leonidas Kavakos, and CSO Artist-in-Residence Daniil Trifonov present a program of works for violin and piano, including sonatas by Beethoven, Poulenc and Brahms. Bartók's First Rhapsody closes this virtuosic program.

Following the matinee concert on Sunday, March 9, ticketholders can enjoy an engaging Q&A session with Trifonov and Kavakos.

Julia Fischer & Jan Lisiecki ([March 30](#))

Internationally acclaimed violinist Julia Fischer joins award-winning pianist Jan Lisiecki for a program featuring Mozart's Violin Sonata in B-flat Major, Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 5 in F Major (*Spring*) and Schumann's Violin Sonata No. 2 in D Minor.

Symphony Center Presents Piano

Mao Fujita ([March 16](#))

Rapidly rising star and Japanese pianist Mao Fujita makes his SCP Piano series debut. Chopin's Twenty-Four Preludes opens the program, followed by Mozart's Variations on *Ah vous dirai-je, maman* and two substantial works by Beethoven — 32 Variations on an Original Theme in C Minor and the quintessential *Appassionata* Sonata No. 23 in F Minor.

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

Bill Charlap Trio with special guests Dee Dee Bridgewater & Nicholas Payton ([March 21](#))

Grammy Award-winning pianist Bill Charlap and his trio, featuring Peter Washington (bass) and Kenny Washington (drums), collaborate with three-time Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and Tony Award-winning stage actress Dee Dee Bridgewater (vocals) and Nicholas Payton (trumpet) for an evening of reimagined jazz classics and "postmodern New Orleans music."

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Civic Orchestra Brass & Percussion ([March 3](#))

Chicago Symphony Orchestra trombonist Michael Mulcahy leads musicians from the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in works by composers such as Dukas, Gounod, Fauré, Ravel, Langlais and Tomasi that showcases the virtuosity and range of brass and percussion instruments.

Tickets for this concert are pay what you wish starting at \$5.

Impact: Showcasing Education & Community Engagement at the CSO ([March 17](#))

This performance and fundraising benefit produced by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO showcases musical performances by extraordinary artists affiliated with the Institute, including musicians from the [Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#), [Civic Orchestra of Chicago](#), [Percussion Scholarship Program](#), [Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative](#), [Young Composers Initiative](#), [Young Artists Competition](#) and more.

Performance highlights include Gabrieli's Canzon per Sonare No. 2, performed by musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Civic Orchestra of Chicago led by conductor Jerry Hou. First-year Percussion Scholarship Program (PSP) students and PSP alumnus Josh Jones perform Amandi's Ritmo Bagatello, followed by a solo selection by Jones on marimba. The program continues with *Pull of Life* — a work written by Sylvia Pine, a student participant in the Young Composers Initiative — performed by a quartet of CSO musicians (Yuan-Qing Yu, violin, Assistant Concertmaster; Jesús Linárez, violin, CSO Fellow; Danny Lai, viola, and Kenneth Olsen, Assistant Principal Cello). Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative Fellow Jacob Cornejo performs Mozart's Allegro maestoso from Flute Concerto No. 1. The program also includes an arrangement of Smetana's *The Moldau* performed by current members and alumni of the Civic Fellowship Program. The program also includes performances by the full Civic Orchestra of Chicago of excerpts from Britten *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* and Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5.

In addition to the concert, patrons may enhance their experience with two different event packages: [the Celebration Package or Legacy Package](#).

The Celebration Package includes a ticket to the concert with reserved seating in the Lower Balcony and a private postconcert reception, held in Buntrock Hall. Guests will gather for desserts, wine and signature drinks following the performance as lively background music is performed by an NMI alumni ensemble.

The Legacy Package includes a ticket to the concert with reserved seating in the Lower Balcony, admission to the postconcert reception, and a special preconcert tribute dinner. The preconcert dinner honors Judy McCue, CSOA Life Trustee and founding board chair of the Negaunee Music Institute, and Scott McCue for their remarkable dedication to music education and community engagement. The dinner features curated food stations and a special performance by a CSO horn quartet.

Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition Finals ([March 22](#))

The Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition is a concerto competition for Illinois' top young soloists. This year's competition was open to pianists. Four finalists perform in the final round in Orchestra Hall with conductor Jerry Hou and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

Tickets are free, but reservations are required. Reservations open March 7.

Food and Beverage

The Thomas Club, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan, offers a prix fixe menu featuring traditional American fare for a seamless preconcert dining experience. View menus, make reservations, and learn more about dining at the Thomas Club at [cso.org/dining](https://www.cso.org/dining).

Parking and Transit Options

Exclusive parking rates are available through Millennium Garages, the Preferred Parking Partner for Symphony Center. The closest parking garage is the Grant Park South Garage, located at 325 S. Michigan Ave. Valet parking is located at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance, and is available for select performances. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Visit [cso.org/parking](https://www.cso.org/parking) for more parking and transit options.

Patron Information

Contact Patron Services for personalized assistance online at [cso.org/contact](https://www.cso.org/contact) 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.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.

The 2024/25 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

Major support for the Civic Orchestra of Chicago also provided by Robert and Joanne Crown Income Charitable Fund; Nancy Dehmlow; Leslie Fund, Inc.; Judy and Scott McCue; Leo and Catherine Miserendino; Barbara and Barre Seid Foundation; The George L. Shields Foundation, Inc.; the Maval Foundation, and Paul and Lisa Wiggin.

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The Seong-Jin Cho Plays Prokofiev concerts are generously sponsored by Zell Family Foundation.

The Ravel Daphnis and Chloe concerts are supported in part by a generous grant from the E. Nakamichi Foundation.

The Ravel Daphnis and Chloe performances are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The performance of Indigo Heaven is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The appearance of Manfred Honeck is made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The Haydn Mass in Time of War concerts are supported in part by the League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association Endowed Concert Fund.

The appearance of the Chicago Symphony Chorus has been made possible by a generous gift from The Grainger Foundation.

The Hruša, Trpčeski & Rachmaninov concerts are generously sponsored by Zell Family Foundation.

The appearance of Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

Support for the CSO at Wheaton series is provided by Megan and Steve Shebik.

CSO at Wheaton performances are generously sponsored by the JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of DuPage Foundation.

Leadership support for CSO MusicNOW is provided by the Zell Family Foundation, Sargent Family Foundation, Sally Mead Hands Foundation, the Julian Family Foundation and the Aaron Copland Fund for Music.

The Artist-in-Residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is made possible through a generous gift from James and Brenda Grusecki.

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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](https://www.cso.org/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](https://www.cso.org/civic-orchestra-of-chicago) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. [Symphony Center Presents](https://www.cso.org/symphony-center-presents) features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The [Negaunee Music Institute](https://www.cso.org/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.