



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
RICCARDO MUTI MUSIC DIRECTOR

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

For Immediate Release:
August 16, 2022

Press Contacts:
[Eileen Chambers](mailto:Eileen.Chambers@csosymphony.org)
312-294-3092

**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA RELEASES
NEW RECORDING WITH RICCARDO MUTI ON
CSO RESOUND LABEL—
CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA**

Digital Download Available September 16, 2022
with CD Available for Pre-Order Now and Released Worldwide in Late 2022

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) will release the 11th recording with Music Director Riccardo Muti on its CSO Resound label — *Cavalleria rusticana* — for digital download and streaming through platforms including Apple Music, Amazon Music and Spotify, as well as [symphonystore.com](https://www.symphonystore.com) on September 16, 2022. *Cavalleria rusticana* also marks the first CSO Resound release to be available in Spatial Audio with Dolby Atmos® format. The CD release, which will be available at retailers worldwide in late 2022, is available now for pre-order at online retail outlets, including [symphonystore.com](https://www.symphonystore.com).

The CSO Resound release of *Cavalleria rusticana* by 19th-century Italian composer Pietro Mascagni captures one of the most famous examples of *verismo* opera in the repertoire. The vivid musical drama retains all the urgency and impact of this seminal work in a concert performance recorded live in Orchestra Hall in February 2020. It features Riccardo Muti leading the assembled musical forces of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by Chorus Director Duain Wolfe, and internationally acclaimed soloists including mezzo-soprano Anita Rachvelishvili, who Muti has called “the greatest mezzo-soprano of today” as Santuzza; tenor Piero Pretti, in a CSO debut, as Turiddu; baritone Luca Salsi as Alfio; mezzo-soprano Ronnita Miller as Lucia, Alfio’s mother; and mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke as Lola, Alfio’s wife.

Recognized as today’s preeminent interpreter of the music of Giuseppe Verdi, Riccardo Muti has led the CSO in celebrated concert performances of his works (*Aida*, *Falstaff*, *Macbeth*, *Otello*, *Un ballo in maschera*, *Messa da Requiem* and *Four Sacred Pieces*, among others) since becoming music director in 2010. In this recording he and the CSO return to Italian opera, and

he reunites the orchestra with Mascagni's landmark score in its first complete performance of the opera since 1931. A work of special significance for the CSO, the opera's famous Intermezzo was programmed by founding music director Theodore Thomas for the orchestra's second-ever program on October 19, 1891. The CSO also performed the complete opera in the pit — a distinctive chapter in the early part of its history — more than 50 times.

Cavalleria rusticana, which translates as “rustic chivalry,” is a one-act opera based on a play by Giovanni Verga, who is recognized as one of the most significant writers of Italian realism and was part of the 19th-century verismo (“truth”) literary movement. The story unfolds on Easter Sunday in a small Sicilian village as jealous passions flare between Santuzza and Turiddu, who has left her for the married Lola, and Lola's vengeful husband, Alfio. The celebrated Intermezzo is filled with sheer orchestral color and beauty and offers one of the opera's only moments of respite from intense drama. The powerful and often turbulent emotional atmosphere of the work is present in memorable arias and stunning sections for ensemble, such as the powerful Easter Hymn with full chorus, orchestra and Santuzza's soaring plea to heaven.

In reflecting on the performance of *Cavalleria rusticana*, Riccardo Muti said in a 2020 interview, “There is an aspect of the real Italy reflected in the veristic repertoire that should not be shouted in a vulgar way. Mascagni was a wonderful composer, and this is a great opera, written with a very good instrumentation. *Cavalleria rusticana* requires a certain knowledge of the culture of Sicily and southern Italy. There are elements of the opera that are full of blood and full of passion, yet it is never vulgar. It retains a dignity and a sense of honor, always.”

The *Opera News* review of the CSO's performance of *Cavalleria rusticana* noted, “Muti's forces provided all the passion imaginable, yet never descended into sensation or vulgarity. One basked in the idiomatic *italianità* of it all. This was the most beautiful orchestral performance in memory of Mascagni's seminal score.”

The *Chicago Tribune* called the performance “Hair-raising and exquisite,” while the *Chicago Sun-Times* said the “CSO, Riccardo Muti, soloists triumph . . . an utterly superlative offering in every way.” Hedy Weiss of *WTTW.com* added that Muti was “in top form, [and] is not just a conductor here, but every bit the director. . . magic.”

“Muti, like all the great conductors in their maturity, carefully chooses the repertoire . . . [For] one of the greatest symphonic orchestras in the world . . . it was the right choice,” noted *Il sole 24 ore* and *Corriere della Sera* added “Riccardo Muti lights the fuse to music that is already on fire.”

Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* was recorded live in February 2020 at Orchestra Hall in Chicago. The recording was produced, edited and mixed by Charlie Post, and mastered by Silas Brown, Legacy Sound. Post received his first Grammy Award as part of a group of engineers including David Frost and Silas Brown for the CSO Resound recording of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13 (*Babi Yar*). Post has also recorded other CSO Resound projects, such as the 2018 release of “Riccardo Muti Conducts Italian Masterworks,” and the 2014 release of Prokofiev's Suite from *Romeo & Juliet*.

Riccardo Muti | Chicago Symphony Orchestra | CSO Resound Recordings

Muti and the CSO's first recording together on the CSO Resound label — Verdi's Requiem with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, released in 2010 — won two Grammy awards for Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance. The most recent CSO Resound recording, Shostakovich Symphony No. 13 (*Babi Yar*), received the 2021 Grammy Award for best engineered album in the Classical category. Muti and the CSO's 2016 world premiere recording of Mason Bates's *Anthology of Fantastic Zoology* received a Grammy nomination.

The 2013 recording of Verdi's *Otello* won an International Opera Award. *Schoenberg: Kol Nidre and Shostakovich: Suite on Verses of Michelangelo Buonarroti* was named as one of the Best Classical Albums of 2016 by *The New York Times*, who called the album "gripping" and "compelling." The CSO Resound recording of Bruckner's Ninth Symphony with Muti and the CSO was named as one of "The 25 Best Classical Albums of 2017" by *The New York Times*.

Other CSO Resound recordings featuring Muti and the CSO in works by Berlioz, Prokofiev and contemporary works by former CSO Mead Composers in Residence Anna Clyne and Mason Bates have continued to garner critical acclaim. *Riccardo Muti Conducts Italian Masterworks*, the CSO Resound release that previously featured a 2017 performance of Mascagni's Intermezzo from *Cavalleria rusticana*, was praised by the Austrian newspaper *Kurier* as "exquisite" and "enchanting."

The CSO's commercial recording history began more than 100 years ago on May 1, 1916. More information can be found [here](#).

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

This recorded performance received generous support from the Nelson D. Cornelius Endowed Concert Fund.

The appearance of the Chicago Symphony Chorus was made possible by a generous gift from Jim and Kay Mabie.

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

This program was partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

###



Mascagni Cavalleria rusticana

RICCARDO MUTI Conductor
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Santuzza, a peasant girl, **Anita Rachvelishvili**, Mezzo-soprano
Turiddu, a young peasant, **Piero Pretti**, Tenor
Alfio, a carter, **Luca Salsi**, Baritone
Lucia, Turiddu's mother, **Ronnita Miller**, Mezzo-soprano
Lola, Alfio's wife, **Sasha Cooke**, Mezzo-soprano
A woman, **Alessandra Visconti**

CHICAGO SYMPHONY CHORUS
DUAIN WOLFE Director

- 1 Prelude 2:39
 - 2 Siciliana: "O Lola ch'ai di latti la cammisa" Turiddu 2:01
 - 3 Prelude (continued) 3:26
 - 4 "Ah! Gli aranci olezzano sui verdi margini" Chorus 8:02
 - 5 "Dite, mamma Lucia" Santuzza, Lucia 4:48
 - 6 "Il cavallo scalpita" Alfio, Chorus 2:25
 - 7 "Beato voi, Compar Alfio" Lucia, Alfio, Santuzza 0:59
 - 8 "Regina coeli" Chorus 2:18
 - 9 "Inneggiamo, il Signor n on è morto" Santuzza, Chorus, Lucia 4:38
 - 10 "Voi lo sapete, o mamma" Santuzza, Lucia 6:05
 - 11 "Tu qui, Santuzza?" Turiddu, Santuzza 3:26
 - 12 "Fior di giaggiolo" Lola, Turiddu, Santuzza 3:13
 - 13 "Ah! lo vedi, che hai tu detto?" Turiddu, Santuzza 0:40
 - 14 "No, no, Turiddu" Santuzza, Turiddu 5:42
 - 15 "Oh! Il Signore vi manda" Santuzza, Alfio 5:27
 - 16 Intermezzo 4:19
 - 17 "A casa, a casa, amici" Chorus, Turiddu, Lola 2:53
 - 18 "Viva il vino spumeggiante" Turiddu, Chorus, Lola 2:48
 - 19 "A voi tutti salute!" Alfio, Chorus, Turiddu, Lola 4:54
 - 20 "Mamma, quel vino è generoso" Turiddu, Lucia, Santuzza, A woman 5:59
- Total : 1:16:54

Producer, Recording Engineer, Editing and
Mixing: Charlie Post
Mastering: Silas Brown, Legacy Sound

Photography: Todd Rosenberg
Cover Design: Eddie Limperis
Cover Art: *View of Palermo* (1875) by Francesco
Lojacono (oil on canvas, 78 x 156 cm, Inv. n.
261), Galleria d'Arte Moderna "Empedocle
Restivo" © and © 2022 Chicago Symphony
Orchestra. All rights reserved.

Unauthorized copying, reproduction, hiring,
lending, public performance, and broadcasting of
this record prohibited.

Recorded live in Orchestra Hall
at Symphony Center, Chicago
February 2020

Riccardo Muti

Riccardo Muti is one of the world's preeminent conductors. In 2010, he became the tenth music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. It was recently announced that he would extend his tenure through the 2022–23 season at the request of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. Muti's leadership has been distinguished by the strength of his artistic partnership with the Orchestra; his dedication to performing great works of the past and present, including thirteen world premieres to date; the enthusiastic reception he and the CSO have received on national and international tours; and eight recordings on the CSO Resound label, with three Grammy awards among them. In addition, his contributions to the cultural life of Chicago — with performances throughout its many neighborhoods and at Orchestra Hall — have made a lasting impact on the city.

Born in Naples, Riccardo Muti studied piano under Vincenzo Vitale at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella, graduating with distinction. He subsequently received a diploma in composition and conducting from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan under the guidance of Bruno Bettinelli and Antonino Votto.

He first came to the attention of critics and the public in 1967, when he won the Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition, by unanimous vote of the jury, in Milan. In 1968, he became principal conductor of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, a position he held until 1980. In 1971, Muti was invited by Herbert von Karajan to conduct at the Salzburg Festival, the first of many occasions, which led to a celebration of fifty years of artistic collaboration with the Austrian festival in 2020. During the 1970s, Muti was chief conductor of London's Philharmonia Orchestra (1972–1982), succeeding Otto Klemperer. From 1980 to 1992, he inherited the position of music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra from Eugene Ormandy.

From 1986 to 2005, he was music director of Teatro alla Scala, and during that time, he directed major projects such as the three Mozart/Da Ponte operas and Wagner's *Ring* cycle in addition to his exceptional contributions to the Verdi repertoire. His tenure as music director of Teatro alla Scala, the longest in its history, culminated in the triumphant reopening of the restored opera house on December 7, 2004, with Salieri's *Europa riconosciuta*.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Riccardo Muti has conducted the most important orchestras in the world: from the Berlin Philharmonic to the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and from the New

York Philharmonic to the Orchestre National de France; as well as the Vienna Philharmonic, an orchestra to which he is linked by particularly close and important ties, and with which he has appeared at the Salzburg Festival since 1971. When Muti was invited to lead the Vienna Philharmonic's 150th-anniversary concert, the orchestra presented him with the Golden Ring, a special sign of esteem and affection, awarded only to a few select conductors. In 2021, he conducted the Vienna Philharmonic in the New Year's Concert for the sixth time.

Muti has received numerous international honors over the course of his career. He is Cavaliere di Gran Croce of the Italian Republic and a recipient of the German Verdienstkreuz. He received the decoration of Officer of the Legion of Honor from French President Nicolas Sarkozy. He was made an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. The Salzburg Mozarteum awarded him its silver medal for his contribution to Mozart's music, and in Vienna, he was elected an honorary member of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, Vienna Hofmusikkapelle and Vienna State Opera. The State of Israel has honored him with the Wolf Prize in the arts. In July 2018, President Petro Poroshenko presented Muti with the State Award of Ukraine during the Roads of Friendship concert at the Ravenna Festival in Italy following earlier performances in Kiev. In October 2018, Muti received the prestigious Praemium Imperiale for Music of the Japan Arts Association in Tokyo.

In September 2010, Riccardo Muti became music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and was named 2010 Musician of the Year by *Musical America*. In 2011, Muti was selected as the recipient of the coveted Birgit Nilsson Prize. In 2011, he received the Opera News Award in New York City and Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts. That summer, he was named an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic and honorary director for life of the Rome Opera. In May 2012, he was awarded the highest papal honor: the Knight of the Grand Cross First Class of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Benedict XVI. In 2016, he was honored by the Japanese government with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. On August 15, 2021, Muti received the Great Golden Decoration of Honor for Services to the Republic of Austria, the highest possible civilian honor from the Austrian government.

Passionate about teaching young musicians, Muti founded the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra in 2004 and the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in 2015. The purpose of the Italian Opera Academy — which takes place in Italy, as well as in Japan since 2019 as part of a multi-year collaboration with the Tokyo Spring Festival — is to pass on Muti's expertise to young musicians and to foster a better understanding of the complex journey to the realization of an opera. 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. The label RMMUSIC is responsible for Riccardo Muti's recordings.

riccardomuti.com

riccardomutioperacademy.com

riccardomutimusic.com

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 eleven 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.