



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
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FEBRUARY PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

CHICAGO — February programming presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) at Symphony Center and in community venues features a wide array of events including Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) subscription concerts with Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti and renowned guest conductors and soloists, as well as programs in the CSO MusicNOW and CSO for Kids series and free concerts with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Symphony Center Presents offers a diverse set of February programs including appearances by Mavis Staples and special guest Celisse, German violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter and her Mutter Virtuosi, as well as a Valentine's Day concert featuring the Symphony Center debut of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets and more information are available at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org). Additional patron safety protocol information is available at [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.cso.org/safeandsound).

[Explore](#) a chronological list of February 2023 concert programs.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concerts

Shani Conducts Rachmaninov Symphonic Dances ([February 9-11](#))

Conductor Lahav Shani, music director of the Israel and Rotterdam philharmonics, makes his CSO debut conducting a program that celebrates the 150th anniversary of Sergei Rachmaninov's birth. Featured on the program are the composer's Symphonic Dances and his richly romantic Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini with Italian pianist Beatrice Rana as soloist in her CSO debut. Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1 in D Major (*Classical*) opens the program.

Mäkelä Conducts López Bellido and Mahler 5 ([February 16-18](#))

After a noteworthy CSO debut in 2022, Finnish conductor Klaus Mäkelä returns to Symphony Center, leading the Orchestra in Mahler's Symphony No. 5 on a program that also includes the U.S. premiere of the CSO co-commissioned work, *Aino* by Peruvian-American composer Jimmy López Bellido. López Bellido is known to Chicago audiences from his acclaimed opera *Bel Canto*, which was premiered by the Lyric Opera of Chicago in 2015. The program opens with Sibelius' *The Swan of Tuonela*.

Muti, Fischer & Tchaikovsky Manfred ([February 23-25](#))

Music Director Riccardo Muti returns in February for his first Chicago concerts of 2023 with the CSO, leading the Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony, inspired by Lord Byron's poem that follows a weary traveler who wanders the Alps and is bewitched by supernatural forces. German violinist Julia Fischer opens the program alongside Muti and the Orchestra for Schumann's poetic Violin Concerto.

Audiences are invited to attend a postconcert CD and book signing with Riccardo Muti immediately following the performance on Friday, February 24. The signing will take place in the first floor of the Symphony Center rotunda and is open to all ticketholders. The critically acclaimed CSO Resound recording of Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* and other CSO merchandise will be available for purchase in the Symphony Store throughout the day, as well as in the lobby after the performance.

Symphony Center Presents

Mavis Staples with special guest Celisse ([February 4](#))

Chicago's own legendary singer and multiple Grammy winner Mavis Staples returns to Symphony Center for one night only on February 4 with a program of soul, gospel, and her signature brand of R&B. Singer, songwriter, guitarist and spoken word artist Celisse opens the program.

Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music

Anne-Sophie Mutter & Mutter Virtuosi ([February 5](#))

German violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter returns to Symphony Center with her Mutter Virtuosi, an ensemble comprised largely of current and former Anne-Sophie Mutter Foundation scholarship recipients. Mutter and the Virtuosi perform a program of chamber works including Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, a violin concerto by Joseph Bologne featuring Mutter as the soloist, and Unsuk Chin's *Gran Cadenza*, a virtuoso duo for violins.

Symphony Center Presents Orchestras

Toronto Symphony Orchestra ([February 14](#))

Conductor and Music Director Gustavo Gimeno leads the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in its Symphony Center debut with a program perfect for Valentine's Day. Selections from Prokofiev's masterful *Romeo and Juliet*, about Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers, are paired with Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole*, featuring Spanish violinist María Dueñas as soloist. Opening the program is contemporary Canadian composer Samy Moussa's Symphony No. 2.

Enhance your Valentine's Day celebrations with dinner at [Forte](#). The restaurant will feature specials created for two, including a whole roasted branzino and an absinthe cocktail. Special decorations and photo opportunities will adorn the bar. Pre- and postconcert seatings are available by making reservations through [Tock](#).

Symphony Center Presents Piano

Marc-André Hamelin ([February 26](#))

Renowned Canadian pianist Marc-André Hamelin performs a pair of piano masterworks on his February program. First is Dukas' Piano Sonata, described by *The Guardian* as "one of the underappreciated masterpieces of the French piano repertoire," followed by Beethoven's olympian *Hammerklavier* Sonata.

CSO for Kids

Family Matinee: In Pursuit of Dreams ([February 11](#))

Conductor Tania Miller leads members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in a program that takes listeners on a journey of inspiration, dreams, and overcoming barriers. The program also features an appearance by violinist Kearston Gonzales, semi-finalist of the 2022 Sphinx Competition, performing Montgomery's Rhapsody No. 1.

Concertgoers can make an afternoon of their visit to Symphony Center [with this easy-to-use guide](#), including parking and dining details and fun post-concert activities.

Once Upon a Symphony: Stone Soup ([February 25](#))

Once Upon a Symphony programs combine vibrant music played by CSO musicians, storytelling, and enchanting visuals for a playful concert experience, and are produced in partnership with Chicago Children's Theatre. In this performance, members of the CSO and storyteller Shawn Pfautsch bring to life the story of Stone Soup, as a hungry traveler meets up with townsfolk to brew a delicious recipe.

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Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Parisian Perspectives ([February 12-13](#))

Making its 16th annual appearance at the historic South Shore Cultural Center on [February 12, at 2:00 p.m.](#), the Civic Orchestra and its Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur will share a program of French music that will also be performed at Symphony Center on [Monday, February 13, at 8:00 p.m.](#) Tickets are free with reservations required. Reservations open on January 27.

Ken-David Masur leads a French-themed program featuring Maurice Ravel's *Le tombeau de Couperin*, Lili Boulanger's *Sad Evening* and César Franck's Symphony in D Minor. Premiered in Belle-Époque Paris, Franck's Symphony in D Minor was a pioneering fusion of French brilliance and Germanic grandeur. In *Le tombeau de Couperin*, Ravel memorialized friends who died in World War I while paying tribute to the French music of centuries past, while Lili Boulanger composed the exquisite and melancholy *Sad Evening* shortly before her own death at age 24.

CSO MusicNOW

Inspiring Voices with Casarrubios & Golijov ([February 20](#))

The CSO MusicNOW series continues with a concert celebrating the connection between cellist and composer Andrea Casarrubios and one of her important musical influences, former Mead Composer-in-Residence Osvaldo Golijov. Casarrubios will perform two of her own pieces, including the world premiere of her piece *Afilador*, a CSO MusicNOW commission. The program features two of Golijov's works, including *Tenebrae*, which contrasts the Argentinian-Israeli composer's experiences of war with the innocence and optimism of childhood. Also on the program is Betty Olivero's *Bashra'v*, which takes its inspiration from tunes originating in the Arab-Jewish musical tradition.

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 signup 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.

On February 1, online audiences can access a new themed playlist, “Black Composers Breaking into the Canon.” The playlist, curated for Black History Month, features CSO performances of works by Black composers. Highlights include the Saint-Georges Violin Sonata in A Major No. 3, performed by violinists Matous and Simon Michal, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s clarinet quintet, featuring CSO Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson with a quartet of CSO string players, and works by current CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery.

New playlists will be introduced monthly on CSOtv throughout the 2022/23 Season.

Food and Beverage

Levy Restaurants, in concert with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, is reimagining food and beverage for concertgoers, Chicagoans and visitors alike at Symphony Center. From concert bars serving thoughtful selections to sit-down dining experiences and unforgettable private events, the two world-class institutions are now working together to deliver an elevated concert experience.

Symphony Center’s newest restaurant, Forte, created for audience members, locals and visitors, is open Tuesday-Saturday, 4 p.m. – 12 a.m. with expanded hours on days with matinee concerts. Forte’s menu features contemporary Mediterranean cuisine and classic cocktails, draft beer, locally roasted Metric coffee and locally made Paulo gelato in a space that’s recently refreshed to pair with the historic building. Reservations can be made through [Tock](#).

For select performances, concertgoers can enhance their concert experience by dining at the Thomas Club, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan. Reservations can be made through [Tock](#).

Forte is participating in [Chicago Restaurant Week](#), which runs from January 20 through February 5. The specially priced \$59 per person menu features a mezze, rosemary focaccia for the table and a choice of fish or the popular pappardelle. In addition to the special Valentine’s Day menu being offered from February 9-14, daily Happy Hour specials have also been introduced and are available from 4-7 p.m., Tuesday-Friday. More information is available at forterestaurant.com.

Patron Information

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at cso.org 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.

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 are encouraged to visit [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.cso.org/safeandsound) for audience protocol instructions and the most recent information.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances at Symphony Center and in neighborhood venues are free, but tickets are required unless otherwise noted. Seating is general admission, and there is a nonrefundable \$5 per ticket service fee for most performances that take place at Symphony Center. Tickets will become available two weeks prior to each concert.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

Parking and Transit Options

Symphony Center and SpotHero, the nation's leading parking reservation app, have teamed up to help make parking easier. To reserve a parking spot, visit [spothero.com](https://www.spothero.com) or download the SpotHero app and search for "Symphony Center." Valet parking is available for most performances at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Exclusive subscriber parking rates are available through the Grant Park South Garage. Visit [cso.org/parking](https://www.cso.org/parking) for more parking and transit options.

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.

93XRT is the media partner for the February 4 performance.

The February 4 performance is made possible with the generous support of William R. Jentes.

The February 9-11 performances are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

The Once Upon a Symphony concerts on February 25 are produced and presented in partnership with Chicago Children's Theatre.

The February 12-13 programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The 2022/23 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by The Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

Aino is commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra through the generous support of the Helen Zell Commissioning Program.

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

The performances on February 23-25 are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

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

Allstate Insurance Company is the Youth Education Program Sponsor.

Support of School Concerts is provided, in part, by Kinder Morgan.

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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 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](https://www.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](https://www.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.