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SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS JAZZ SERIES ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR 2023/24 SEASON

SCP Jazz Series Marks 30th Season of Programming

Grammy Award-Winner Samara Joy Makes Symphony Center Debut

Chicago Native Herbie Hancock Returns to Symphony Center on March 30

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis Returns for Chicago Residency including Concerts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces the 2023/24 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz series programming. Established in 1994, the eight-concert series celebrates its 30th season, continuing its commitment to presenting some of today’s living legends and rising stars of jazz. Highlights of the 2023/24 SCP Jazz series include the Symphony Center debut of Grammy Award-winner Samara Joy to open the season and the return of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis for a four-concert residency that features both an SCP Jazz series concert and side-by-side performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The series also welcomes NEA Jazz Master Herbie Hancock and drummer and 2022 *Chicago Tribune* “Chicagoan of the Year for Jazz” Makaya McCraven back to the series. [Explore](#) the 2023/24 SCP Jazz series program listings for more information.

“Since its first concert in 1994, the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series has been an important part of our programming by welcoming both legendary and trailblazing jazz musicians to the Orchestra Hall stage to share their artistry with our dedicated audience

in Chicago,” said James Fahey, Senior Director of Programming for Symphony Center Presents. “For this milestone season, we are pleased to again present today’s leading jazz musicians in order to allow us all to discover the very best in jazz today.”

The 2023/24 Season of the SCP Jazz series opens on [Friday, October 27, at 8:00 p.m.](#) with the Symphony Center debut of the 2023 Grammy Award-winner for Best New Artist and Best Jazz Vocal Album, Samara Joy. Joy brings fresh purpose to jazz with her distinct style, charm and vocal dexterity. Her voice is deeply emotive and rich, with some comparing her to iconic jazz vocalists Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan.

On [Friday, November 17, at 8:00 p.m.](#), Grammy Award-winning jazz pianist Brad Mehldau and his trio return to Symphony Center for a night of original music. The trio, featuring Larry Grenadier on bass and Jeff Ballard on drums, have a nearly 20-year history, touring the world and recording six highly acclaimed albums together. The trio’s signature live performance experience offers audiences a chance to go deep into the essence of jazz improv exploration, alongside references to classical romanticism and pop music.

Drummer and one of the *Chicago Tribune’s* Chicagoans of the Year (2022) Makaya McCraven returns to Symphony Center and the SCP Jazz series on [Friday, January 19, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.](#) McCraven brings a musical vision blending past, present and future into poly-textural arrangements of post-genre, jazz-rooted, 21st-century folk music. The program will showcase McCraven’s melodic and engaging music, inviting audiences to discover why he has been aptly called a “cultural synthesizer.”

The eight-time Grammy Award-winning bassist, bandleader and host of NPR’s *Jazz Night in America* Christian McBride brings his monumental musical tribute *The Movement Revisited* to Symphony Center on [Friday, February 2, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.](#) The program is a tribute inspired by the work of 1960s civil rights movement leaders and champions Rosa Park, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr. and Muhammad Ali, as well as Barack Obama. The large-ensemble tribute features McBride on bass, a gospel choir, narrators, the Chicago Jazz Orchestra and J.D. Steele as musical director.

The 2023/24 Season continues with legendary jazz bassist and three-time Grammy Award-winner Ron Carter leading his Foursight Quartet on [Friday, February 16, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.](#) in its Symphony Center debut. Over a 60-year career, Carter has recorded with many of the jazz greats, with more than 2,000 recordings in his catalog. He is joined by Renee Rosnes (piano), Jimmy Greene (tenor saxophone) and Payton Crossley (drums). This concert also features The Blue Note Quintet, led by six-time Grammy-nominated pianist Gerald Clayton, and honors the 85th anniversary of Blue Note Records. The ensemble includes Immanuel Wilkins (alto saxophone), Joel Ross (vibes), Matt Brewer (bass) and Kendrick Scott (drums).

The 30th season of the SCP Jazz series reaches a high point with Chicago native Herbie Hancock on [Saturday, March 30, at 8:00 p.m.](#) With a 26-year history on the series, Hancock brings his free-ranging and transformative performances back to Symphony Center. Hancock has an illustrious career spanning five decades and 14 Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year in 2008 for *River: The Joni Letters*.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, led by its dynamic bandleader and trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, returns to Symphony Center for a four-day residency beginning with an SCP Jazz series concert on [Wednesday, April 24, at 8:00 p.m.](#) Arguably one of today's greatest jazz bands, the 15-member Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra consists of the finest soloists, ensemble players and arrangers today. The program features the works of Duke Ellington, commemorating the 125th anniversary of his birth in 2024. The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis then continues its residency in three performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Giancarlo Guerrero ([April 25-27, 2024](#)).

The 2023/24 SCP Jazz series concludes on [Friday, May 17, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.](#) with a program featuring vocalist and NEA Jazz Master Dianne Reeves, iconic Afro-Cuban jazz pianist Chucho Valdés and saxophonist Joe Lovano. These three legendary artists have won a combined 13 Grammy Awards and will join forces for an unforgettable evening at Symphony Center.

Beyond the eight concerts in the 2023/24 SCP Jazz series, several Symphony Center Presents special concerts have already been announced. Additionally, on [Friday, March 8, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.](#), Eliades Ochoa makes his Symphony Center debut for a SCP special concert. Ochoa is one of the stars and founders of the Buena Vista Social Club and is recognized as one of the best guitarists and Cuban *soneros* of his generation. Ochoa recently announced a new album called (*Guajiro*), due for release on May 26. The album features many of his own compositions and is the most intimate and personal Ochoa has ever recorded.

Patron Information

Subscriptions are now on sale for the 2023/24 Season of Symphony Center Presents Jazz. Curated series subscription packages and Create Your Own series of three or more concerts are available.

Curated subscribers initially save up to 30 percent off standard ticket prices and save 15 percent off additional tickets ordered throughout the season. Additional subscriber benefits include priority seating, flexible ticket exchange privileges, access to reduced parking rates and offers at the Symphony Store.

Subscriptions may be ordered online, by phone, by mail or in person at the Symphony Center Box Office. Convenient payment plan options are available for purchases made by credit card. Individual concert tickets for 2023/24 Season programs go on sale to the public in August.

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.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.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

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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 63 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 Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have earned 64 Grammy Awards from the Recording Academy. Two Grammys were awarded 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.