



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
RICCARDO MUTI MUSIC DIRECTOR

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

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Press Contacts:
[Hannah Sundwall](#)
312-294-3083

[Eileen Chambers](#)
312-294-3092

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER

CHICAGO — September programming presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) at Symphony Center officially opens the 2023/24 Season, which marks the 133rd Season for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). Riccardo Muti, who officially steps into his role as Music Director Emeritus for Life in September, will lead the CSO in two weeks of concerts that include two subscription concert programs, as well as the annual Symphony Ball concert on September 23 featuring a performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with renowned soloist Leonidas Kavakos. Muti's September programs with the CSO feature a wide array of repertoire including Stravinsky's Suite from *The Firebird*, Brahms' Symphony No. 2, Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 (*Italian*) and the world premiere of *The Triumph of the Octagon*, a CSO-commissioned work by American composer Philip Glass.

In addition to concerts at Symphony Center, an ensemble of CSO musicians will also participate in the free performances featuring arts groups from across the city during the third annual [Chicago Live! event at Navy Pier](#) on September 23 and 24.

Tickets and more information for concerts at Symphony Center are available at [cso.org](#).

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

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concerts

Muti Conducts *The Firebird* ([September 21-26](#))

Riccardo Muti opens the 2023/24 Season with a program featuring music that captures the beauty and power of nature, including Liadov's shimmering musical depiction of a

moonlit night, *The Enchanted Lake*; Stravinsky's Suite from *The Firebird*, and Brahms' Symphony No. 2, which the composer wrote after spending a summer near Austria's Lake Wörth.

Symphony Ball: Muti and Kavakos ([September 23](#))

This annual celebration is a festive part of the CSO's opening weekend and begins with red carpet arrivals and a champagne toast for all concertgoers. The evening continues with Muti and the CSO performing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with internationally renowned Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakos as soloist. A former Gramophone Artist of the Year, Kavakos is revered for his virtuosity and appears regularly in the world's great concert halls as a soloist and chamber musician. Muti, recognized as today's leading interpreter of Italian opera, will also lead the CSO in instrumental selections from well-known operas including Giordano's *Fedora*, Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, closing the program with Verdi's Overture to *Giovanna d'Arco* (Joan of Arc). This fundraising benefit is presented by the Women's Board of the CSOA along with CSOA Board Trustee Roderick Branch, with all ticket proceeds benefiting the organization's artistic, educational and community engagement programs in Chicago and across the globe.

Gala ticket packages include a postconcert reception and dinner at The Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, and concert tickets, including a festive prosecco toast, can be reserved online at cso.org/symphonyball.

Muti, Glass and Mendelssohn Italian ([September 28-30](#))

In his second subscription program, Muti will lead the CSO on a musical journey inspired by the culture, history and landscapes of Italy, conducting Strauss' evocative symphonic poem *Aus Italien* and Mendelssohn's *Italian* Symphony, written after the composer traveled to Italy. The program opens with the world premiere of a CSO-commissioned work by American composer Philip Glass: *The Triumph of the Octagon*. Glass, whose lifelong fascination with mathematics and patterns has continued to inform his music, responds to the creative power of the eight-sided shape, which is found in the design of the 13th-century citadel Castel del Monte, located in Muti's native Italy.

Special Event – Chicago Live! At Navy Pier ([September 23-24](#))

An ensemble of musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra will perform Sunday, September 24, at 2:15 p.m. at Navy Pier as part of the Chicago Live! celebration to kick off the city's fall arts season. The program is free and open to the public. More information about the program and event is available [here](#).

Food and Beverage

From lobby bars serving enticing selections of refreshments to sit-down dining experiences and options for unforgettable private events, there are a variety of opportunities to elevate your concert experience. Symphony Center's restaurant, Forte, features contemporary Mediterranean cuisine and classic cocktails, draft beer, locally roasted coffee and gelato. The Thomas Club, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan, opens on select dates for dining. View menus, make reservations, and learn more about dining at the Thomas Club or Forte restaurant at cso.org/dining.

Patron Information

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket orders by web chat at cso.org or by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000), Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. 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 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 for more parking and transit options.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

The September 21, 22 and 26 performances are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter for the September 21-26 and September 28-30 performances.

Northern Trust is the Presenting Sponsor of Symphony Ball.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Programs are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

The Triumph of the Octagon is commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra through the Helen Zell Commissioning Program.

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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. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, was recently named Music Director Emeritus for Life beginning with the 2023/24 Season. Jessie Montgomery is Mead Composer-in-Residence, and Hilary Hahn is CSO Artist-in-Residence.

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 63 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 64 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.