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OCTOBER PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra October Concerts Feature Guest Conductors
Jaap van Zweden, James Gaffigan and Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider**

**Special Concerts and Events at Symphony Center include Anoushka Shankar on
October 13, Open House Chicago on October 14 and “The President’s Own”
U.S. Marine Band on October 21**

Civic Orchestra of Chicago Launches its 2023/24 Season October 23

**Symphony Center Presents Chamber Series Opens October 22 with Piano Trio
Program featuring Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Lisa Batiashvili and Gautier Capuçon**

**Grammy Award-Winning Vocalist Samara Joy Opens 30th Season of Symphony
Center Presents Jazz Series on October 27**

CHICAGO — October programming presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) at Symphony Center features a wide variety of events, including Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) subscription concerts with renowned guest conductors including Jaap van Zweden, James Gaffigan and Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider. Symphony Center special concerts and events include an October 13 concert featuring sitarist Anoushka Shankar, Open House Chicago on October 14 and the return of "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band. The SCP Chamber Music series opens on October 22 with a piano trio program featuring pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, violinist Lisa Batiashvili and cellist Gautier Capuçon. The Civic Orchestra of Chicago opens its 2023/24 concert season on October 23. Grammy Award-winning vocalist Samara Joy

makes her Symphony Center debut and opens the 30th season of the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz series on October 27. An ensemble of CSO musicians will also be featured in the first concert of the UChicago Presents series on October 8 performing chamber music by Stravinsky, Dvořák and Tchaikovsky.

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

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

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Jaap van Zweden Conducts Beethoven 5 ([October 12-15](#))

Distinguished guest conductor and Music Director of the New York Philharmonic Jaap van Zweden returns to the CSO to conduct Beethoven's iconic Fifth Symphony, one of the most distinctive expressions of struggle and triumph in orchestral music. Critically hailed German baritone Christian Gerhaher joins van Zweden and the CSO to perform songs from Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (The Youth's Magic Horn). Opening the program is composer Nina Shekhar's shimmering *Lumina*, which explores the contrast of light and dark and takes inspiration from elements of Hindustani classical music.

Gershwin & Bernstein ([October 19-24](#))

James Gaffigan, the newly appointed General Music Director of the Komische Oper Berlin and principal guest conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra returns to leads the Orchestra in a program of colorful and diverse works. Opening with Barber's Overture to *The School for Scandal*, the program also features the Symphonic Dances from Bernstein's *West Side Story* and the thrilling orchestral showpiece *Sensemaya* by 20th-century Mexican composer Silvestre Revueltas. Gaffigan and the CSO also welcome renowned pianist-composer and Illinois native Conrad Tao, who makes his CSO subscription debut on the program playing Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F, an exuberant melding of jazz, blues and classical styles.

On October 24, the CSO Latino Alliance launches its 2023/24 Season of events with an evening of networking, refreshments, and a preconcert presentation exploring the evening's program and the larger context of performing arts in Mexico. CSO Latino Alliance founding member Dr. Jesús Del Toro will discuss music by Mexican composer Silvestre Revueltas and Chicago's own Sonos de México Ensemble will share a short musical performance to complement the presentation. Specially priced tickets for individual Latino Alliance concert dates are available at [cso.org/LatinoAlliance](https://www.cso.org/LatinoAlliance).

Mahler 1 ([October 26-28](#))

Conductor Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider, who is the music director of the France's National Orchestra of Lyon, leads the CSO in a program anchored by a performance of

Mahler's First Symphony, which unfolds with the elemental sounds of nature and reaches a heroic finale. The program opens with the symphony's original second movement, *Blumine*, a rarely performed work known for its lyrical trumpet theme. Completing the program is Bloch's stirring *Schelomo* featuring acclaimed cellist Jian Wang as soloist in his CSO subscription debut.

Symphony Center Presents

Anoushka Shankar ([October 13](#))

Sitar virtuoso Anoushka Shankar — the first Indian woman and youngest-ever Grammy nominee in the world music category — brings her quintet to Symphony Center. She is deeply rooted in Indian classical music and has blazed a singular path that encompasses inventive arrangements, sensitive virtuosity and a neoclassical approach to new compositions and traditional selections.

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band ([October 21](#))

Since its 17th director John Philip Sousa was first granted permission to tour the country by President Benjamin Harrison in 1891, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band has delivered a White House experience from Washington, D.C., to the far-reaching corners of our nation. This historic band heads to Symphony Center for a free afternoon of varied repertoire, including new works for wind ensemble, traditional concert band literature, challenging orchestral transcriptions and the patriotic marches that made it famous.

Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Lisa Batiashvili & Gautier Capuçon ([October 22](#))

Three superstar virtuosos, including world-renowned pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, violin virtuoso Lisa Batiashvili and French cellist Gautier Capuçon, team up to open the SCP Chamber Music series performing piano trios spanning three centuries. The program features Haydn's Piano Trio in E Major, Ravel's Piano Trio that takes inspiration from colorful Basque traditions and folk rhythms and the rich melodies of Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 2.

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

Samara Joy ([October 27](#))

As the winner of Best New Artist and Best Jazz Vocal Album at the 2023 Grammy Awards, Samara Joy makes her case to become the next jazz singing sensation, following in the tradition of such jazz greats as Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan. She makes her SCP Jazz debut at this concert that marks the opening of the 30th season of this nationally-recognized concert series.

CSO Chamber Music

CSO Chamber Music at the University of Chicago ([October 8](#))

The CSO Chamber Music series opens at the University of Chicago with CSO string musicians Ron-Yan Tang, Cornelius Chiu, Youming Chen, Diane Mues, Calum Cook and Krystian Chiu who take on Stravinsky's Concertino, which was written while the composer lived in a French fishing village. The program will also include Dvořák's String Quartet No. 14, featuring a lively syncopation related to a traditional Czech stomping dance, and Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence* with distinctly Russian folk-like melodies.

This event takes place at University of Chicago, Mandel Hall, 1131 E. 57th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Symphonic Dances ([October 23](#))

The Civic Orchestra opens its season with three works rooted in American soil, anchored by Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances. Written during the composer's exile in the U.S., the suite combines memories of old Russia with a jazzy, new-world exuberance. Commissioned by the CSO, former Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek's 2017 *All These Lighted Things* expresses what she calls "a sense of overwhelming happiness and joy." John Adams' kinetic *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* evokes an exhilarating ride in a sports car.

Special Event – Open House Chicago ([October 14](#))

Symphony Center joins the citywide celebration of great architectural spaces and welcomes visitors to explore this bucket list Chicago destination that is home to historic Orchestra Hall and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. This free event takes place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and features live performances by friends of the Negaunee Music Institute, festive refreshments for purchase by Forte and an onstage selfie opportunity in Orchestra Hall. More information about Open House Chicago is available at architecture.org.

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](https://www.cso.org/dining).

Patron Information

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.

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.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

The October 12-15 performances are generously sponsored by the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon.

WBEZ Chicago and India Tribune are media partners for the Anoushka Shankar concert on October 13.

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

Generous support for the October 21 performance is provided by the Schmidt Family Fund.

The 2023/24 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

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

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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.