



**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION**  
**RICCARDO MUTI** MUSIC DIRECTOR

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**RICCARDO MUTI RETURNS IN MARCH AND APRIL TO LEAD  
MISSY MAZZOLI WORLD PREMIERE, WORKS BY MAHLER,  
BRUCKNER, BRITTEN, STRAUSS AND SCHUMANN IN  
TWO WEEKS OF SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Muti Leads the CSO in World Premiere of Missy Mazzoli's *Orpheus Undone*, on Program with Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder* featuring Mezzo-Soprano Elīna Garanča in her CSO Debut and Bruckner's Symphony No. 2 (March 31, April 1 & 5)**

**Norwegian Pianist Leif Ove Andsnes Joins Muti and the CSO for Britten's Piano Concerto, Along with Richard Strauss' "Dreaming by the Fireside" from *Intermezzo* and Schumann's Symphony No. 4 (April 7, 8, 9 & 12)**

**Special Events Include Spring Edition of Symphony Ball on April 2 and Chicago Youth in Music Festival Open Rehearsal on April 11**

**MARCH 31–APRIL 12, 2022**

CHICAGO — Music Director Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago in March and April to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in works by Mazzoli, Mahler, Bruckner, Britten, Strauss and Schumann during two weeks of subscription concerts and activities. Muti leads the world premiere of *Orpheus Undone* by Missy Mazzoli, the CSO's former Mead Composer-in-Residence and "one of the more consistently inventive, surprising composers now working in New York" (*The New York Times*).

Also on the program are two late-Romantic works: Bruckner's Second Symphony and Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder*, sung by mezzo-soprano Elīna Garanča, whose voice "is one in a million, allying grace and power to a commanding authority" (*The Independent*) ([March 31-April 5](#)). A spring edition of Symphony Ball takes place [April 2](#) and features

Muti leading the CSO and Garanča in Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder*, as well as opera overtures by Mozart and Rossini and Liszt's thrilling orchestral showpiece *Les préludes*.

Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes brings his "effortless command and penetrating clarity" (*The New York Times*) to Britten's Piano Concerto, a glittering score composed just before World War II that Andsnes has performed multiple times at the BBC Proms and plays with several orchestras this spring in the U.S. and Norway. Muti and the CSO frame the program with Richard Strauss' "Dreaming by the Fireside," one of the orchestral interludes from his comic opera *Intermezzo*, and Schumann's Fourth Symphony ([April 7-12](#)).

As part of his ongoing commitment to training the next generation of musicians, Muti will also conduct the final event of the 2022 Chicago Youth in Music Festival, a rehearsal on [Monday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m.](#) featuring Liszt's *Les préludes* that is free and open to the public, with reservations required.

For program, ticket and patron information, visit [cso.org](#).

### **Muti Conducts Mazzoli & Mahler with Elīna Garanča** ([March 31-April 5](#))

Riccardo Muti opens his two-week residency with a program combining the CSO-commissioned world premiere of Grammy-nominated composer Missy Mazzoli's *Orpheus Undone* with works of Mahler and Bruckner. Praised for her "apocalyptic imagination" (*The New Yorker*), Mazzoli, the CSO's Mead Composer-in-Residence from 2018 to 2021, originally had her work scheduled to premiere in April of 2020 before being preempted by the pandemic. She explains:

"*Orpheus Undone* is an exploration of two brief moments in the Orpheus myth — the moment that Eurydice dies, and the moment that Orpheus decides to follow his lover into the underworld. Constructed of two connected movements, 'Behold the Machine, O Death' and 'We of Violence, We Endure,' this work explores the baffling and surreal stretching of time in moments of trauma or agony. The movement titles come from Rilke's *Sonnets to Orpheus*, and this work uses small fragments of material from my 2019 ballet *Orpheus Alive*."

The program continues with Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder*, a set of five songs set to poems by Friedrich Rückert, that are thematically similar but were published at different times and not originally intended as a cycle. The poems form a catalog of quintessentially Romantic subjects, from the solitary poet who withdraws from the world, to the glory of nature and the journey of the soul portrayed in one of the most atmospheric of the five songs, "Um Mitternacht" (At Midnight).

Latvian mezzo-soprano Elīna Garanča makes her CSO debut in these performances. Garanča's recordings have received Grammy nominations and won two ECHO Klassik awards, and she appears regularly at the Metropolitan Opera, Wiener Staatsoper, ROH Covent Garden, Salzburg Festival, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Bayerisches Staatsoper Munich, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Carnegie Hall and Wigmore Hall.

Bruckner's Second Symphony completes the program and represents the CSO's first return to the work since critically acclaimed 2009 performances led by Muti when he was Music Director Designate. Hallmarks of Bruckner's musical style, including the steady progression and dramatic build to brilliant pillars of sound, were firmly established in this early symphony.

### **Muti, Andsnes & Britten Piano Concerto** ([April 7-12](#))

For Muti's second program of the residency, he and the Orchestra are joined by celebrated Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, whose inimitable rendition of Britten's Piano Concerto was found by *The New York Times* to be "a revelation." Muti and Andsnes last collaborated on the CSO's 2019 season-opening performances, when the conductor was celebrating the beginning of his 10th season as music director. The *Chicago Sun-Times*, noted that Muti and Andsnes were "seamlessly in sync with each other" for their performance of Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor, and called the soloist "one of the most eloquent and incisive keyboardists of our time." The program also includes Richard Strauss' "Dreaming by the Fireside," the second orchestral interlude from his opera *Intermezzo*, and Schumann's Fourth Symphony, a work written to flow in four unbroken movements, forming a seamless dramatic whole that ends its journey on a triumphant note.

## **Special Events**

### **Symphony Ball** ([April 2](#))

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Symphony Ball tradition returns this year with a spring 2022 edition. This spectacular evening opens with Riccardo Muti leading the CSO in a concert program featuring opera overtures by Mozart (*The Marriage of Figaro*) and Rossini (*William Tell*), the thrilling orchestral tone poem *Les préludes* by Liszt and Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder* with internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano Elīna Garanča as soloist. The evening continues with post-concert gala dinner and dancing at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago. For more information or to make reservations call 312-294-3185 or visit [cso.org/symphonyball](https://cso.org/symphonyball).

### **Chicago Youth in Music Festival Open Rehearsal** ([April 11](#))

Muti also takes the podium in April to conduct an open rehearsal featuring Liszt's *Les préludes* that marks the final event of the 2022 Chicago Youth in Music Festival, which takes place April 9-11 in Chicago. Extraordinary young musicians from across the

country will have the opportunity to sit side by side with musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra and Chicago Sinfonietta at the event. The Chicago Youth in Music Festival Orchestra brings together musicians from backgrounds underrepresented in classical music, drawn from school orchestras, bands, community youth ensembles and music schools in 10 cities nationwide.

The Chicago Youth in Music Festival and National Pathways Summit is presented by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO in partnership with the Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative and the National Instrumentalist Mentoring and Advancement Network.

### **Patron Information | Safe and Sound at Symphony Center**

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.

Currently, patrons 5 years of age and older are required to provide proof of full vaccination, and those 16 years of age or older also need to provide a valid photo ID. All patrons must wear a face mask throughout their visit to Symphony Center.

Proof of vaccination can be demonstrated by showing a valid photo ID along with a vaccination card, a photo of the vaccination card, a digital record or mobile app, or printed record from a vaccination provider. Patrons may also register their proof of vaccination with the mobile app [My Bindle](#), which is accepted at Symphony Center and other Chicago-area performing arts venues.

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

All artists and programs are subject to change.

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.

The April 1 and 5 performances receive generous support from the Nelson D. Cornelius Endowed Concert Fund.

The world premiere of Missy Mazzoli's *Orpheus Undone* is commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra through the Helen Zell Commissioning Program.

Northern Trust is the presenting sponsor of Symphony Ball.

The April 7-12 performances are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The 2022 Chicago Youth in Music Festival is generously sponsored by Megan and Steve Shebik and Michael and Linda Simon.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Thursday, March 31, 2022, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, April 1, 2022, 1:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

**Elīna Garanča**, mezzo-soprano

MAZZOLI *Orpheus Undone* (world premiere;  
CSO commission)

MAHLER *Rückert-Lieder*

BRUCKNER *Symphony No. 2*

Tickets: \$32-\$275

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Symphony Ball**

Saturday, April 2, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

**Elīna Garanča**, mezzo-soprano

MOZART *Overture to The Marriage of Figaro*

MAHLER *Rückert-Lieder*

LISZT *Les préludes*, Symphonic Poem No. 3

ROSSINI                      Overture to *William Tell*

Tickets: \$38-\$222

Symphony Ball gala ticket package information and reservations are available at [cso.org/symphonyball](https://www.cso.org/symphonyball) or by calling 312-294-3185.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Thursday, April 7, 2022, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, April 8, 2022, 1:30 p.m.  
Saturday, April 9, 2022, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

**Leif Ove Andsnes**, piano

R. STRAUSS                      “Dreaming by the Fireside” from  
*Intermezzo*

BRITTEN                      Piano Concerto

SCHUMANN                      Symphony No. 4

Tickets: \$35-\$250

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**Chicago Youth in Music Festival  
Open Rehearsal**

Monday, April 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

**Youth in Music Festival Orchestra**

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

LISZT                      *Les préludes*, Symphonic Poem No. 3

Free and open to the public with reservations required.

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**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. Alongside the classics, he brought many rarely performed and neglected works to light, including pieces from the Neapolitan school, as well as operas by Gluck, Cherubini, and Spontini. Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* earned Muti the prestigious Abbiati Prize. 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, having previously led the concert in 1993, 1997, 2000, 2004, and 2018. The 2018 recording went double platinum, and the 2021 concert received the prestigious audience award, the Romy Prize in the TV Moment of the Year category.

In April 2003, the French national radio channel, France Musique, broadcast a "Journée Riccardo Muti," consisting of fourteen hours of his operatic and symphonic recordings made with all the orchestras he has conducted throughout his career. On December 14 of the same year, he conducted the long-awaited opening concert of the newly renovated La Fenice opera house in Venice. Radio France broadcast another "Riccardo Muti Day" on May 17, 2018, when he led a concert at the Auditorium de la Maison de la Radio. Muti's recording activities, already notable by the 1970s and distinguished since by many awards, range from symphonic music and opera to contemporary compositions. The label RMMusic is responsible for Riccardo Muti's recordings.

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 in a private ceremony held at the Élysée Palace. He was made an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in Britain. 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. 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*. At the 53rd annual *Grammy Awards* ceremony in 2011, his live performance of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus was awarded Grammy awards for Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance. In 2011, Muti was selected as the recipient of the coveted Birgit Nilsson Prize, presented in a ceremony at the Royal Opera in Stockholm in the presence of King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia. 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.



Muti has received more than twenty honorary degrees from the most important universities of the world. During the past year, Muti received the honorary citizenship of the city of Palermo for his commitment to spreading the values of peace and communion among peoples through the universal language of music, as well as the Manna of San Nicola, the highest honor given by the city of Bari. In June, Muti received the distinguished De Sanctis Europa Prize, bestowed on figures of extreme importance in the European cultural, scientific, and literary fields. In July, the Conservatory of Naples San Pietro a Majella presented Muti with the Guido Dorso Prize, acknowledging Muti as a distinguished “Ambassador of the South” for his great artistic and cultural commitment, and for his particular attention to the new generations of musicians. In July, immediately following celebrations of his eightieth birthday, Muti conducted performances in Rome at the Quirinale Palace at the first-ever G20 Cultural Ministers’ Meeting, a summit that formally added the cultural sector to the G20 process, recognizing its crucial role in daily life and in the health of the global economy. 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. 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.

[riccardomutimusic.com](http://riccardomutimusic.com)

#### **Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](http://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](http://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 eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [cso.org/resound](http://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.