The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is one of the most compelling and dynamic forces in the world of music. The Orchestra has earned an unparalleled national reputation, inspiring audiences in sold-out concert halls in hundreds of cities across the country.

THE ARTISTRY IS UNSURPASSED.

THE PERFORMANCES ARE INSPIRATIONAL.

THE ACCLAIM IS UNIVERSAL.

You are invited to become a part of this illustrious legacy by joining the National Friends of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1891 with the belief that a great orchestra can enhance society, and that great music has the power to inspire, uplift and transform.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra has been touring domestically since 1891 and internationally since 1892. In 2019, the Orchestra marked its 61st international tour and has performed in hundreds of cities throughout the world.

In every sense, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is an ambassador for the power of great music and the universality of live performance.
Since the beginning of his tenure as music director in 2010, Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra have reached a national audience through tours, radio broadcasts and projects such as the CSO’s first worldwide live video webcast of Verdi’s Requiem in 2013. Since its posting on the CSO’s YouTube channel in 2015, a live performance of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony has been viewed more than 17 million times by people in the US and over 190 countries.

The Orchestra’s innovative and wide-ranging education and engagement programs reach hundreds of thousands of people each year at home and during tours. Each season, the Orchestra reaches an audience of more than 20 million through recordings, radio broadcasts, webcasts, streaming videos, and live performances in Chicago, across the country, and around the world.
Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti stands at the peak of a celebrated career that has endured for more than 5 decades. Through his extraordinary musicianship and exceptional vision, Maestro Muti has led the CSO in creating the latest chapter of its unequaled artistic legacy.

MAESTRO MUTI IS PASSIONATE ABOUT THE POWER OF MUSIC TO HEAL AND INSPIRE.

Riccardo Muti works to bring the music of the CSO to all people, and his leadership continues to bring Chicago’s great orchestra to ever-higher levels of achievement and renown.
Your membership in the National Friends of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra gives you unrivaled access to the music and musicians of the CSO, both in Chicago and on tour, through a range of personalized benefits.

Through your commitment to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as a member of its National Friends, you ensure that the CSO remains a preeminent musical ensemble, as it creates compelling experiences that captivate and inspire audiences both at home and across the nation.

We invite you to join the National Friends of the CSO, and help share the Orchestra and the music you love.

For information, please contact Bobbie Rafferty at raffertyb@cso.org or 312-294-3165.