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JANUARY PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

CHICAGO — January programming presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) at Symphony Center and in community venues features a wide variety of events. In its first concert of the new year, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) returns to historic Chodl Auditorium at Morton East High School on January 8 for a free community concert led by acclaimed conductor and former CSO Solti Conducting Apprentice Lina González-Granados. At the end of the month, renowned Latvian organist Iveta Apkalna makes her CSO debut in a program led by composer and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen that features the CSO's first performances of his *Sinfonia concertante* for Organ and Orchestra, which was written for Apkalna (January 30-February 4).

Additional highlights include programs across a variety of CSO concert series. CSO at the Movies continues with the four-time Academy Award-winning martial arts film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, starring Chow Yun-Fat and Michelle Yeoh (January 10-11). Music and storytelling for the youngest audiences returns with *Once Upon a Symphony: The Little Red Hen* (January 11).

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) brings ONE PIECE Music Symphony, clips from the popular anime television series, to Symphony Center for two performances (January 18). The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis returns for two concerts — the first program showcases arrangements for big band and small ensembles honoring bebop traditions (January 24), while the second evening pays tribute to cool school jazz and hard bop (January 25). SCP Piano welcomes celebrated pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet in a program featuring both volumes of Debussy's Preludes (January 19).

Additional January programming in the community includes the return of Civic Fellows to the Epiphany Center for the Arts for an evening of contemporary works with musicians from Chicago-based Black chamber music collective D-Composed (January 12). The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, led by Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur, returns to the South Shore Cultural Center (January 19) and Orchestra Hall (January 20) for a program featuring works by Valerie Coleman, former Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and Rachmaninov.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra embarks on a six-city, eight-concert U.S. tour with Music Director Emeritus for Life Riccardo Muti from January 14-24, 2025. More information is available at cso.org/ustour.

Tickets and more information are available at cso.org.

[Explore](#) a chronological list of January 2025 concert programs.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

González-Granados & the CSO ([January 8](#))

The CSO returns to Morton East High School (2423 S. Austin Blvd., Cicero) for a free community concert led by acclaimed Colombian-American conductor and former CSO Solti Conducting Apprentice Lina González-Granados. The program opens with former Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery's work *Starburst*, followed by Williams Grant Still's *Mother and Child*. Brahms' Second Symphony closes the program.

Bartók Concerto for Orchestra ([January 30-February 4](#))

The extraordinary organist of the Klais organ at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Germany, Iveta Apkalna makes her CSO debut in the Orchestra's first performances of Sinfonia concertante for Organ and Orchestra, composed and conducted by San Francisco Symphony Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen. The program is framed by Richard Strauss' tone poem *Don Juan* and Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra — two signature works of the CSO.

CSO at the Movies

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon - the Film with Orchestra ([January 10-11](#))

Sarah Hicks, principal conductor of Live at Orchestra Hall for the Minnesota Orchestra, leads the CSO in Tan Dun's Academy Award-winning original score for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* featuring pipa player Yang Wei and CSO Principal Cello John Sharp. Featuring captivating scenery and gripping martial arts sequences, this story of adventure and romance directed by Ang Lee follows a 19th-century warrior (Chow Yun-Fat) who gives his sword to his secret love (Michelle Yeoh) for safekeeping.

CSO for Kids

Once Upon a Symphony: The Little Red Hen ([January 11](#))

Produced and presented in partnership with Chicago Children's Theatre, Once Upon a Symphony combines vibrant music played by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with storytelling and enchanting visuals for a playful concert experience. Delightful musical selections combine with the story of a cow, horse and pig who all turn down the Little Red Hen's requests for help planting wheat, grinding flour and baking bread — and are disappointed when the hen eats the delicious bread all by herself.

Symphony Center Presents

ONE PIECE Music Symphony ([January 18](#))

Experience the most memorable moments of the popular TV series "One Piece," projected on screen in Orchestra Hall with music performed by Symphony Orchestra 220. It is time for an epic array of music full of action and emotion! Immerse yourself in the magic of a full orchestra as it performs ONE PIECE's iconic music live on stage, while the greatest moments from the anime come to life on screen in perfect sync. Relive the thrilling adventures of the Straw Hat Crew, all set to the vibrant sounds of the series' most memorable music!

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis ([January 25](#))

In the second of their two-concert Chicago residency, world-renowned trumpeter, bandleader, composer and advocate for American culture Wynton Marsalis leads the renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, returning to its self-proclaimed second home at Symphony Center for an evening of works that pay tribute to cool school jazz and hard bop legends Miles Davis, Art Blakey, Max Roach and more.

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis ([January 24](#))

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and bandleader Wynton Marsalis pay tribute to the origins of bebop in a program of works ranging from big band to small ensemble arrangements, honoring legends like Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk and Mary Lou Williams. This is the first of their two-concert Chicago residency that also includes jazz education activities in Chicago Public Schools.

Symphony Center Presents Piano

Jean-Yves Thibaudet ([January 19](#))

Grammy Award-winning French pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet performs Debussy's complete 24 preludes — spanning two volumes — in a single performance, highlighting a cornerstone of French keyboard repertoire.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Civic Fellows Chamber Music at Epiphany Center for the Arts ([January 12](#))

Civic Fellows and musicians from the Chicago-based Black chamber music collective D-Composed perform an evening of contemporary chamber music curated by the performers at Epiphany Center for the Arts (201 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago). This program is part of the Epiphany Center for the Arts' Golden Hour series, which includes half-priced bottles of wine and other preconcert specialties.

Tickets are free; reservations are encouraged.

Civic at South Shore Cultural Center: Coleman, Montgomery & Rachmaninov 2 ([January 19](#))

The Civic Orchestra performs a community concert at South Shore Cultural Center (7059 S. South Shore Dr., Chicago) led by Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur. The program will also be performed at Symphony Center on Monday, January 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are free; reservations are required and open January 3.

Coleman, Montgomery & Rachmaninov 2 ([January 20](#))

Civic Orchestra of Chicago Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur leads the orchestra in program of works emerging from periods of powerful introspection. Composed in response to conversations about race in America and the Black experience, Valerie Coleman's *Fanfare for Uncommon Times* opens the program, followed by former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery's *Transfigure to Grace*, a stirring

meditation on humanity's continuing journey toward equality. Rachmaninov's masterful Second Symphony — written after a deep crisis of confidence — closes the concert.

Tickets for this concert are pay what you wish, starting at \$5, and become available January 3.

Food and Beverage

The Thomas Club, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan, offers a prix fixe menu featuring traditional American fare for a seamless preconcert dining experience. View menus, make reservations, and learn more about dining at the Thomas Club at [cso.org/dining](https://www.cso.org/dining).

Parking and Transit Options

Exclusive parking rates are available through Millennium Garages, the Preferred Parking Partner for Symphony Center. The closest parking garage is the Grant Park South Garage, located at 325 S. Michigan Ave. Valet parking is located at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance, and is available for select performances. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Visit [cso.org/parking](https://www.cso.org/parking) for more parking and transit options.

Patron Information

Contact Patron Services for personalized assistance online at [cso.org/contact](https://www.cso.org/contact) 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.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.

The CSO at the Movies series is generously sponsored by Megan and Steve Shebik.

Funding for educational programs during the 2024/25 Season of SCP Jazz has been generously provided by Dan J. Epstein, Judith Guitelman and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis performance on January 25 is generously sponsored by an anonymous donor.

The 2024/25 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

Major support for the Civic Orchestra of Chicago also provided by Robert and Joanne Crown Income Charitable Fund; Nancy Dehmlow; Leslie Fund, Inc.; Judy and Scott McCue; Leo and Catherine Miserendino; Barbara and Barre Seid Foundation; The George L. Shields Foundation, Inc.; the Maval Foundation, and Paul and Lisa Wiggin.

The appearance of Esa-Pekka Salonen is made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [csso.org](https://www.csso.org)

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the world's great orchestras. In April 2024, Klaus Mäkelä was named the Orchestra's 11th music director, and he will begin an initial five-year tenure as Zell Music Director with the 2027/28 Season. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became Music Director Emeritus for Life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Daniil Trifonov is the CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2024/25 Season.

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 64 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 [csso.org/radio](https://www.csso.org/radio). Launched in 2007, [CSO Resound](https://www.csso.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 65 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.csso.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.csso.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.csso.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.csso.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.