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RICCARDO MUTI AND THE CSO RETURN TO MILLENNIUM PARK FOR FREE CONCERT FOR CHICAGO ON JUNE 27

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces that Maestro Riccardo Muti will lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in a free Concert for Chicago on Tuesday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m. in Millennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion. The concert is presented in partnership with the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE). The program opens with the Andante moderato by Florence Price — the first Black woman composer to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra, when her Symphony No. 1 received its world premiere by the CSO in 1933 — and closes with Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. Muti became the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's 10th music director in 2010, opening a chapter of celebrated artistic partnership with the CSO in a free concert performed for a capacity audience of more than 25,000 in Millennium Park. Admission to the June 27 concert is free with more information available at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org).

Since becoming music director, Muti has been committed to bringing the Chicago Symphony Orchestra into the community with free concerts performed across the Chicago area in church sanctuaries and high school auditoriums and most notably in multiple free concerts in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park in downtown Chicago. These performances include the landmark 2010 concert, as well as return appearances in 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018 — a historic side-by-side concert, which featured musicians from the Civic Orchestra of Chicago performing alongside the musicians of the CSO to launch the Civic's centennial season — and most recently in 2022 to cap the first season of live performances following the break created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The community concerts are part of Muti's larger set of education and engagement activities that have been a signature component of his music directorship and have included interactive recital performances for at-risk youth in the

juvenile justice system, open rehearsals with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and for the Chicago Youth in Music Festival and free CSO open rehearsals at Symphony Center for senior, veteran and community groups.

Admission to the Concert for Chicago is free and advance reservations are not required. Patron information for concerts taking place in Millennium Park is available at millenniumpark.org.

The CSO's Zell Music Director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

The Concert for Chicago is generously sponsored by Citadel, Citadel Securities and Kenneth C. Griffin.

The Concert for Chicago is presented in partnership with the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

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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 announced at the start of last season 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 fifteen world premieres to date; the enthusiastic reception he and the CSO have received on national and international tours; and eleven 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. 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.

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. He was made an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. 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. The State of Israel has honored him with the Wolf Prize in the arts. In July 2018, President Petro Poroshenko presented Muti with the State Award of Ukraine during the Roads of Friendship concert at the Ravenna Festival in Italy following earlier performances in Kiev. 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*. In 2011, Muti was selected as the recipient of the coveted Birgit Nilsson Prize. 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. 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. The purpose of the Italian Opera Academy — which takes place in Italy, as well as in Japan since 2019 as part of a multi-year collaboration with the Tokyo Spring Festival — is to pass on Muti's expertise to young musicians and to foster a better understanding of the complex journey to the realization of an opera. 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. The label RMMUSIC is responsible for Riccardo Muti's recordings.

riccardomuti.com

riccardomutioperacademy.com

riccardomutimusic.com

Chicago Symphony Orchestra: 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 63 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. Recordings by the CSO have earned 64 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.

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.

Millennium Park: millenniumpark.org

Millennium Park is the #1 attraction in the Midwest and among the top ten most-visited sites in the United States. It is also the anchor of an urban cultural campus (Millennium Park Campus) that includes the Chicago Cultural Center, Maggie Daley Park and The Art Institute of Chicago. Millennium Park is located on Michigan Avenue, bordered by Randolph St. to the north, Columbus Dr. to the east and Monroe St. to the south. The Park is open 6am–11pm daily. For the latest news and events, visit millenniumpark.org, like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and Instagram, [@Millennium_Park](#).

Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE): Chicago.gov/DCASE

The City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) supports artists and cultural organizations, invests in the creative economy, and expands access and participation in the arts throughout Chicago's 77 neighborhoods. As a collaborative cultural presenter, arts funder, and advocate for creative workers, our programs and events serve Chicagoans and visitors of all ages and backgrounds, downtown and in diverse communities across our city — to strengthen and celebrate Chicago. DCASE produces some of the city's most iconic festivals, markets, events, and exhibitions at the Chicago Cultural Center, Millennium Park, and in communities across the city — serving a local and global audience of 25 million people. The Department offers cultural grants and resources, manages public art, supports TV and film production and other creative industries, and permits special events throughout Chicago. For details, visit Chicago.gov/DCASE and [stay connected via our newsletters and social media](#).