

For Immediate Release:
May 29, 2026

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JUNE PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) brings its 135th concert season to a close in June with a wide-ranging lineup of performances by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and acclaimed guest artists at Symphony Center and in community venues. Many of these programs are part of Symphony Center's America 250: A Musical Journey, a celebration of the nation's resilience, creativity and musical traditions.

June's classical programming opens with the CSO and the legendary Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis in selections from his work *The Jungle* (Symphony No. 4) and a new co-commission, John Adams' *The Rock You Stand On* (June 4-6). Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet — the 2026/27 CSO Artist-in-Residence — joins conductor James Gaffigan for Bernstein's *The Age of Anxiety* (June 11-13), and Chicago native and Tony Award-nominee Harry Lennix narrates Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* on a program celebrating generations of American composers (June 18-21).

The 2025/26 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz series concludes with the annual return of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Wynton Marsalis (June 2), while Illinois native Conrad Tao closes the SCP Piano series with a program of Gershwin song arrangements alongside works by Debussy, Ravel and more (June 7).

The month also spotlights some of cinema's most beloved music with A Musical Tribute to John Williams & Steven Spielberg (June 23), followed by Williams' Oscar-winning score performed live to *Star Wars: A New Hope* as the CSO at the Movies series closes the season (June 25-27).

The CSO Chamber Music series concludes with a free community concert by the Lincoln String Quartet at South Shore Cultural Center (June 7) and a Symphony Center program with the renowned CSO Brass Quintet (June 16).

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago performs alongside members of the Ryan Opera Center — the Lyric Opera of Chicago’s renowned artist development program — in a concert led by guest conductor Erina Yashima (June 1). In the Civic season’s culminating event, members of the Civic Orchestra perform world premieres by participants of the Young Composers Initiative (June 12).

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

[Explore](#) a chronological list of June 2026 concert programs.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Alsop Conducts Adams, Copland & Marsalis ([June 4-6](#))

Jazz, blues and orchestral sounds converge in a rousing celebration of American music. Marin Alsop leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in John Adams’ new co-commission, *The Rock You Stand On*, and Copland’s beloved *Appalachian Spring*, which celebrates the American pioneer spirit and famously quotes the Shaker hymn *Simple Gifts*. The CSO then joins forces with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for selections from Wynton Marsalis’ Symphony No. 4, *The Jungle*, a vivid musical portrait of New York City — as well as a meditation on what being human means today. The work bursts with rhythmic energy, cinematic scale and vibrant interplays between jazz and symphonic music.

Gaffigan, Thibaudet & Bernstein ([June 11-13](#))

As part of the CSO’s tribute to 250 years of American history, Jean-Yves Thibaudet takes on the extravagant, jazz-infused piano solo in Leonard Bernstein’s *The Age of Anxiety*, based on W. H. Auden’s poem about the quest for faith and meaning. Sumptuous orchestral highlights from Gershwin and Weill musicals frame a stirring selection of spirituals performed with the Apostolic Church of God Sanctuary Choir.

Lincoln Portrait & Ellington Harlem ([June 18-21](#))

Aaron Copland’s timeless tribute to the nation’s 16th president anchors a powerful program spanning multiple generations of American composers. Chicago native and Tony Award-nominee Harry Lennix lends his commanding voice and presence to the piece as the narrator. Works by Ellington and former Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery reflect on the ideals of freedom and equality, Ives salutes his beloved New England, and Martinů honors Plymouth Rock, symbolizing the opportunities America offered him.

Featured Concerts

Chris Thile & the CSO ([June 8](#))

Adding his trademark whimsical storytelling, instrumental virtuosity and ever-present sense of humor to Symphony Center's America 250 tribute, Grammy Award-winning mandolinist Chris Thile returns for his second appearance of the season — this time with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. A founding member of Nickel Creek and Punch Brothers, the singer and composer performs *ATTENTION! A narrative song cycle for extroverted mandolinist and orchestra* alongside vivid works by Barber, Copland and Caroline Shaw.

A Musical Tribute to John Williams & Steven Spielberg ([June 23](#))

Celebrate the legendary collaboration between composer John Williams and filmmaker Steven Spielberg as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra brings to life some of cinema's most iconic music. From *Jurassic Park* and *Jaws* to *Indiana Jones* and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, the scores born of this 50-year creative partnership have captured imaginations around the world.

This performance is part of a fundraising event presented in partnership with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association and the [League of the CSOA](#). Proceeds benefit the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's artistic, educational and community engagement programs in Chicago and across the globe. More information, including event package options, is available at cso.org/corporatenight.

CSO Chamber Music

Lincoln String Quartet at South Shore Cultural Center ([June 7](#))

With the beauty of South Shore Cultural Center as a backdrop, the Lincoln String Quartet offers a program that moves from charm to revelation. Haydn's string quartet sparkles with soloistic flair and witty interplay, while Beethoven's expansive work captivates with its lyrical beauty and emotional scope.

Tickets are free; reservations are required. This performance takes place at South Shore Cultural Center (7059 S. South Shore Dr., Chicago).

CSO Chamber Music: CSO Brass Quintet ([June 16](#))

As part of Symphony Center's tribute to America's 250th anniversary, the renowned CSO Brass Quintet presents a program highlighting the power and pageantry of brass music. From Ives' popular variations to ceremonial fanfares and iconic American melodies, this concert celebrates national spirit through bold colors, brilliant ensemble playing and the majestic resonance of the organ.

General admission seating. Early arrival is recommended — doors open approximately 45 minutes before the concert. This concert is pay what you wish, starting at \$5.

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis ([June 2](#))

The legendary Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and its trailblazing leader Wynton Marsalis return to Symphony Center, their home in Chicago. “Technically precise and emotionally charged,” the ensemble displays its “versatility and deep understanding of jazz traditions” (*The Wall Street Journal*), while working hard to preserve the genre for the present day — performing everything from new arrangements to masterworks by artists like Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk.

Symphony Center Presents Piano

Conrad Tao ([June 7](#))

In his 2023 CSO subscription debut, Conrad Tao gave a “dazzling, staggering” performance of Gershwin’s Piano Concerto in F, wrote the *Chicago Tribune*, in which Tao “carried his melodies masterfully.” As part of the CSO’s monthlong focus on American music, the Illinois native returns with a selection of Gershwin song arrangements interspersed with works by Debussy, Ravel, Rachmaninov, Schoenberg, Joplin and more.

CSO at the Movies

Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert ([June 25-27](#))

Embark on an epic adventure to a galaxy far, far away with *Star Wars: A New Hope!* Experience the iconic film like never before as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performs John Williams’ legendary Oscar-winning score live. From the triumphant opening fanfare to Princess Leia’s ethereal theme, relive the magic of this cinematic masterpiece on the big screen at Symphony Center.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Civic & Ryan Opera Center ([June 1](#))

Erina Yashima leads members of the Ryan Opera Center — the Lyric Opera of Chicago’s renowned artist development program — and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in an evening of opera arias, scenes and orchestral favorites.

General admission seating. This concert is pay what you wish, starting at \$15.

Young Composers Initiative Finale Concert ([June 12](#))

With leadership from former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery, the Young Composers Initiative engages youth from across the Chicago region and empowers them to create new pieces of chamber music. In this season's culminating event, musicians of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago perform world premieres by the composers selected to participate in the program.

Tickets are free; reservations are required and open May 29.

Food and Beverage

Explore Symphony Center's on-site dining options for a seamless preconcert experience. Preorder a Sound Bites meal to enjoy in the Rotunda at Symphony Center before the concert — or make a reservation to dine at the Thomas Club, offering a prix fixe menu featuring traditional American fare and a spectacular view of Lake Michigan. View menus and learn more at 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 available for select performances at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Visit cso.org/parking for more parking and transit options.

Patron Information

Contact Patron Services for personalized assistance online at cso.org/contact or by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000), Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

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

The 2025/26 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.

The Civic & Ryan Opera Center concert is generously sponsored by Nancy Dehmlow and Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation.

Funding for educational programs during the 2025/26 Season of SCP Jazz has been generously provided by Dan J. Epstein, Judith Guitelman and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation.

The performance is generously sponsored by an anonymous donor. Chicago Jazz, *DownBeat* Magazine and WDCB 90.9FM Jazz are Media Partners for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis concert.

The Alsop Conducts Adams, Copland & Marsalis concert is funded in part by The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc.

Newsradio 105.9 WBBM is a Media Partner for the Gaffigan, Thibaudet & Bernstein concerts.

The Young Composers Initiative is generously supported by Margo and Mike Oberman.

The Lincoln Portrait & Ellington Harlem concerts are generously sponsored by Zell Family Foundation.

Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert is part of the CSO at the Movies series, which is generously sponsored by Megan and Steve Shebik.

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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. 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 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became Music Director Emeritus for Life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Joyce DiDonato is the CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2025/26 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 domestically, and since 1892, has made 65 international tours, performing in 30 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 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 Negaunee Music Institute. The [Chicago Symphony Chorus](#), founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus. Donald Palumbo is the Director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919/20 Season, the [Civic Orchestra of Chicago](#) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. [Symphony Center Presents](#) features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The [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.