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JANUARY PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN CHICAGO-AREA COMMUNITY VENUES

**New Year Opens with CSO Program Featuring Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*
and Ravel's *Boléro* (January 6-8) and the Return of Riccardo Muti
to Lead Three Weeks of CSO Concerts (January 13-29)**

**CSO for Kids: Once Upon a Symphony Programming Returns January 8 with
*Maybe Something Beautiful***

**Rossen Milanov Leads Civic Orchestra of Chicago in Program Featuring
Shostakovich Symphony No. 10 and *Something for the Dark* by Sarah Kirkland Snider
at South Shore Cultural Center and Symphony Center (January 16 & 18)**

**Symphony Center Presents Piano Series Features Recitals with
Igor Levit on January 16 and Jan Lisiecki on January 30**

**Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and Grammy Award Winner Branford Marsalis Perform
Music of Debussy and Ibert on Program Featuring Newly Commissioned Jazz Suite by
Courtney Bryan in Symphony Center Presents Special Concert on January 22**

CHICAGO — The 2021-22 season continues in the new year with a wide variety of January programming presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) at Symphony Center and in several Chicago-area community venues. Concerts begin [January 6-8](#) with German conductor André de Ridder leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in George Gershwin's iconic works, *Rhapsody in Blue* and an arrangement of *Porgy and Bess*, along with Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major. Israeli American pianist Inon Barnatan joins de Ridder and the CSO as soloist, and Ravel's most famous work, *Boléro*, closes the program.

Music Director Riccardo Muti returns in January following a critically acclaimed set of concerts, which opened the 2021-22 season and represented their first performances together since the pandemic began in 2020. Muti leads three weeks of CSO concerts opening with an all-Beethoven program on [January 13-15](#), which features Beethoven's Fifth and Eighth symphonies and begins with the *Coriolan*

Overture. The second program on [January 20 and 23](#) features Tchaikovsky's suites from two of the composer's most famous ballets, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*, and also includes music by Emil von Reznicek and Johann Strauss, Jr. Muti concludes his January 2022 residency with concerts [January 27-29](#) featuring several concertos by Vivaldi with CSO musicians as soloists and Handel's *Water Music*, Suite No. 1, in the CSO's first performances of the work since 2011. Muti and the CSO perform the all-Beethoven program in a free community concert at Morton East High School in Cicero (2423 S. Austin Blvd., Cicero) on [January 14](#) and the Baroque program in a free community concert at Apostolic Church of God (6320 S. Dorchester Ave., Chicago) in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood on [January 28](#). Reservations for free tickets to the January 14 and 28 community concerts are available at cso.org.

Programming produced by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO begins on [January 8](#) with the return of CSO for Kids: Once Upon a Symphony in two performances of a new production, *Maybe Something Beautiful*. Fellows of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago present a free chamber music concert at Symphony Center on [January 9](#). On [January 16](#) at the South Shore Cultural Center (7059 S. South Shore Dr., Chicago) and [January 18](#) at Symphony Center, guest conductor Rossen Milanov leads the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in a program titled "Resilience and Defiance" featuring Sarah Kirkland Snider's work *Something for the Dark* and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10.

Also on [January 16](#), the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series opens with a recital featuring Igor Levit performing works by Beethoven, Hersch, Wagner and Liszt. The SCP Piano series also welcomes pianist Jan Lisecki for an all-Chopin program on [January 30](#).

The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and Grammy Award-winning saxophonist Branford Marsalis are featured in a Symphony Center Presents Special Concert on [January 22](#). Marsalis joins the group in works by Debussy and Ibert, on a program that also includes a newly commissioned jazz suite based on themes from Bizet's *Carmen*, written by acclaimed composer Courtney Bryan.

Concerts at Symphony Center are presented without audience capacity restrictions and align with current public health guidelines and safety protocols. Ticket information is available at cso.org and additional patron information is available at cso.org/safeandsound.

A chronological list of January 2022 concert programs is available [here](#).

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concerts

Rhapsody in Blue & Boléro (January 6-8)

In a vibrant program of classical music inspired by the jazz revolution of the 20th century, German conductor André de Ridder pairs two of George Gershwin's iconic works, *Rhapsody in Blue* and an arrangement of *Porgy and Bess*, with Ravel's jazz-inflected Piano Concerto in G Major. Israeli American pianist Inon Barnatan joins de Ridder and the CSO as soloist. The mesmerizing *Boléro*, arguably Ravel's most famous work, brings the program to a rousing close.

Muti Conducts Beethoven 5 & 8 (January 13-15)

As part of Muti's ongoing survey of the complete Beethoven symphonies with the CSO, this program features the Fifth and Eighth symphonies and opens with the *Coriolan* Overture. In addition to the performances on January 13 and 15 at Symphony Center, Muti and the Orchestra also share this all-Beethoven program in a free community concert on January 14 in historic Chodl Auditorium at Morton East High School, where they previously performed in 2013.

Muti Conducts Sleeping Beauty & Swan Lake (January 20 & 23)

Muti and the CSO perform Tchaikovsky's suites from two of his most beloved ballet scores — *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*—on a program that opens with the sparkling overture to the 19th-century comic opera *Donna Diana* by Reznicek and a festive finale appropriate to welcome the new year with a performance of Johann Strauss, Jr.'s *Emperor Waltz*.

Muti Conducts Vivaldi & Handel Water Music (January 27-29)

Muti's final program in the January 2022 residency opens with Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins in B Minor with Concertmaster Robert Chen, Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong and Assistant Concertmasters David Taylor and Yuan-Qing Yu as soloists, followed by Vivaldi's Flute Concerto in G Minor (*La Notte*) with Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson as soloist. The set of concertos concludes with Vivaldi's Concerto in C Major (*Per la solennità di San Lorenzo*), scored for two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, bassoon, two violins and string orchestra. Completing the program is one of Handel's most familiar masterworks, *Water Music*, Suite No. 1, in the CSO's first performances of the work since 2011. In addition to the performances on January 27 and 29 at Symphony Center, Muti and the Orchestra also share a program featuring two of the Vivaldi concertos and Handel's *Water Music*, Suite No. 1, in a free community concert on January 28 at Apostolic Church of God, where they previously performed in 2011 and 2016.

CSO for Kids: Once Upon a Symphony

Maybe Something Beautiful (January 8)

Based on the award-winning book by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, and illustrated by Rafael López, *Maybe Something Beautiful* proves that even the smallest artists can accomplish something big. The story explores the colorful world of a young girl, Mira, and how art can transform a neighborhood. The 45-minute multimedia and interactive concert presentation is designed for 3- to 5-year-olds and their families and weaves together live music featuring CSO musicians, vivid storytelling, sets, costumes and images created by the Chicago Children's Theatre to create a unique and magical experience.

This program was originally created by the Negaunee Music Institute in collaboration with Chicago Children's Theatre and introduced in the CSO for Kids digital series in 2021 on CSOtv. The two performances offered on January 8 feature bilingual narration in English and Spanish, adapted and performed by Jasmin Cardenas. English and Spanish editions of the books are published by Clarion Books, an imprint of HarperCollins. The program will be repeated on Saturday, February 12, and on Monday, February 14 for school groups.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Civic Chamber Music Concert (January 9)

Fellows from the Civic Orchestra of Chicago come together in the new year to perform a free chamber music concert in Buntrock Hall at Symphony Center. The varied program showcases contemporary chamber music works including Thompson's *In Response to the Madness*, Alberga's *Shining Gate of Morpheus*, Sheehan's *R.A.M.*, Fanslow's *Riding the Huxley* and Temple's *Party At The Last Resort*.

Resilience and Defiance (January 16 & 18)

Premiered in 1953 after the death of Joseph Stalin, Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony bursts with menacing march rhythms, chilling whispers and triumphal defiance. The music is often heard as a reckoning with the brutalities of Stalinism but also as the composer's sigh of relief. Music Director of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Princeton Symphony Orchestra Rossen Milanov is on the

podium for this program that also includes Sarah Kirkland Snider's *Something for the Dark*, a bold and colorful meditation on resilience.

Symphony Center Presents Piano

Igor Levit (January 16)

German pianist and online phenomenon Igor Levit became known for his many live-streamed house concerts during the pandemic. For this Chicago recital, he plays piano arrangements of Six Chorale Preludes by Brahms and the Prelude to *Tristan and Isolde* by Wagner, as well as the dynamic Liszt Sonata in B Minor. The program also includes Variations on a Folk Song, by acclaimed jazz pianist and composer Fred Hersch, who Levit commissioned to write the new work and has called "an absolute idol and a friend."

Jan Lisiecki (January 30)

Polish-Canadian pianist Jan Lisiecki makes his SCP Piano recital debut in an all-Chopin program that intertwines the complete Etudes, Op. 10, and selected Nocturnes. Lisiecki's artistry has been hailed by the *New York Times* as "pristine, lyrical and intelligent." In 2013 at the age of 18, Lisiecki became both the youngest-ever recipient of Gramophone's Young Artist Award and the Leonard Bernstein Award.

Symphony Center Presents Special Concert

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with Branford Marsalis (January 22)

Performing without a conductor, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra uses collaborative leadership to form the group's musical interpretations. Its eclectic program of French, Italian and Spanish selections features renowned saxophonist and composer Branford Marsalis as soloist in Debussy's *Rhapsody* and Ibert's *Concertino da camera*. The program also includes Rossini's Overture to *The Barber of Seville* and Turina's *La oración del torero*, as well as a new work by critically acclaimed pianist and composer Courtney Bryan. Commissioned by the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Bryan's *Carmen*, Jazz Suite on Themes by Bizet completes the program. Bryan, who hails from New Orleans, recently drew attention from *The New York Times* and *Chicago Tribune* for the world premiere of her Requiem, a Chicago Symphony Orchestra MusicNOW commission, performed by the vocal ensemble Quince and musicians from the CSO in 2021 on [CSOtv](#).

Coming to CSOtv

Audiences in Chicago and worldwide can connect with the extraordinary artistry of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with free access to a wide variety of content available through the CSOtv video portal. Content includes the critically acclaimed CSO Sessions series, as well as the CSO for Kids and Civic Orchestra of Chicago series, archival concert performances and more. In a fitting start to herald the new year, CSO Sessions Episode 25: Fanfare will premiere on January 1, 2022. This episode features the CSO brass and percussion sections performing the historic program, which reopened Symphony Center for live concerts on May 27, 2021. Copland's iconic *Fanfare for the Common Man* and Barber's 20th-century interpretation of a Bach chorale are paired with works influenced by jazz and film by Tilson Thomas, Bernstein and Schuller in this program conducted by CSO trombone Michael Mulcahy.

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.

Patrons will be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test upon arrival at all performances. Options for proof of vaccination include presentation of a vaccination card or by the use of the mobile app [My Bindle](#), which is accepted at Symphony Center and other Chicago-area performing arts venues. Alternatively, proof of a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the performance date or antigen test within 6 hours of the performance must be shown upon arrival. Anyone currently unable to get a vaccination is required to present proof of a negative test.

Concerts are presented with intermission, unless otherwise noted. Preconcert conversations have resumed before CSO performances. Visit [cso.org](#) for more information. Patrons are encouraged to visit [cso.org/safeandsound](#) for audience protocol instructions and the most recent information.

Round-trip shuttle service is now available for an additional fee of \$25 per person for patrons traveling to Symphony Center from the North Shore. The North Shore Shuttle will be offered for CSO Friday matinee performances, with more information available [here](#). Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](#), by calling [312-294-3000](#) (Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.) or by emailing patronservices@cso.org.

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.

The performances on January 6-8 with guest conductor André de Ridder are made possible by the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

The January 14 and 28 performances are generously sponsored by an anonymous donor. The performances also receive generous support from the Shebik Community Engagement Programs Fund.

The January 23 performance is generously sponsored by Betty W. Smykal.

The 2021/22 Civic Orchestra of Chicago season is generously sponsored by The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.

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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 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](https://www.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](https://www.cso.org/resound).

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) 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.