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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT AT MORTON EAST HIGH SCHOOL IN JANUARY

Acclaimed Conductor and Former CSO Solti Conducting Apprentice Lina González-Granados Leads Brahms' Second Symphony and Works by William Grant Still and Jessie Montgomery

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) returns to Morton East High School (2423 S. Austin Blvd., Cicero) for a free community concert on [Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.](#) Acclaimed Colombian-American conductor and former CSO Solti Conducting Apprentice Lina González-Granados leads the Orchestra in a program that opens with former Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery's work *Starburst*, followed by William Grant Still's *Mother and Child*. Brahms' Second Symphony closes the program.

This concert marks the CSO's third appearance in historic Chodl Auditorium following previous community concerts in 2013 and 2022 led by Riccardo Muti. This performance extends the tradition of free CSO community concerts that began in 2010 during Riccardo Muti's first season as music director and continues as part of community engagement programs organized by the [Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO](#).

About Lina González-Granados

After winning the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association's International [Sir Georg Solti](#) Conducting Competition in 2019, González-Granados was named the ensemble's fourth Solti Conducting Apprentice. She served as assistant to then-Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti from February 2020 through June 2023. In 2022, she became the first Latin-American woman to lead the CSO, stepping in for Muti on two occasions after he

withdrew due to illness. She also conducted the 2022 Chicago Youth in Music Festival Orchestra and has made podium appearances with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and on the CSO for Kids concert series. In the fall of 2022, she was appointed Resident Conductor by the LA Opera, a post she holds through June 2025. She has previously held positions as the inaugural conducting fellow of the Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as the conducting fellow of the Seattle Symphony.

About Chodl Auditorium

Chodl Auditorium was built in 1925 in the Beaux-Arts style to function as both a theater and gymnasium for what was then called Morton High School. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, and seats approximately 2,500 people.

Patron Information

The CSO community concert on January 8, 2025, is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. Reservations open December 6 and can be made online at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org), by phone at [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000) or in person at the Symphony Center Box Office at 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

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This program receives generous support from the Shebik Community Engagement Programs Fund.

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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 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 [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 the Negaunee Music Institute. The [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](#) 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.