

**For Immediate Release:**  
March 23, 2026

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## **APRIL PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY**

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) presents a variety of programs in April, featuring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and renowned guest artists performing at Symphony Center and in community venues.

April programming features podium returns and guest artists making their Symphony Center debuts. Conductor Paavo Järvi brings Estonian composer Erkki-Sven Tüür's 2007 accordion concerto, *Prophecy*, to Orchestra Hall alongside soloist Ksenija Sidorova in her CSO debut (April 2-4). Conductor Jakub Hrůša returns for his second program of the 2025/26 Season, *Songs of Love and Farewell*, featuring works by Janáček, Rachmaninov, Strauss and Wagner; soprano Corinne Winters makes her CSO debut in Strauss' *Four Last Songs* (April 9-12).

For the first time since 2015, Evgeny Kissin joins the CSO as soloist in piano concertos by Mozart and Scriabin on a program conducted by Andrey Boreyko (April 16 & 18), and celebrated composer Joe Hisaishi leads the CSO in his suite from the film *Spirited Away*, plus his Second Symphony and *Castle in the Sky* (April 23-26). Karina Canellakis — winner of the 2016 Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award — makes a welcome return to Symphony Center, leading the CSO in Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 and Illinois native Conrad Tao as soloist in Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 3 (April 30-May 3).

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) concerts include jazz guitarist Pat Metheny (April 17) and pianist Yuja Wang, who showcases her versatility as both soloist and conductor, leading the Mahler Chamber Orchestra from the keyboard (April 29). CSO for Kids welcomes young audiences for matinees of *Once Upon a Symphony: The Bremen Town Musicians* (April 11 & 18), and a CSO Chamber Music program at the University of Chicago highlights women composers (April 19).

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago presents two free events highlighting its commitment to community engagement. Civic Orchestra Fellows again partner with the Chicago Refugee Coalition in a special concert sharing and celebrating cultural identities (April 22), before joining guest artists for the third annual Notes for Peace Reunion Concert, this year including CSO Artist-in-Residence Joyce DiDonato, demonstrate the healing power of music in support of families who have lost loved ones to gun violence (April 26).

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

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

## **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

### **Sibelius 2 & Tüür Accordion Concerto ([April 2-4](#))**

With its evocation of snowy northern landscapes and an unforgettable, triumphant finale, Sibelius' Second Symphony stands as an emblem of Finland's nationalist spirit. The program begins with Brahms' gloriously lyrical tribute to Haydn and *Prophecy*, a one-movement accordion concerto exploring the tradition of clairvoyance in various cultures by Estonian composer (and progressive rock veteran) Erkki-Sven Tüür.

### **Songs of Love and Farewell ([April 9-12](#))**

Why are we here, and what comes next? Throughout time, humans have wrestled with these questions, resulting in compositions like Richard Strauss' radiant swan song, Rachmaninov's haunting depiction of the journey of souls to the afterlife, Janáček's portrait of hope and solidarity in a Siberian prison camp and Wagner's spine-tingling meditation on eternal love.

### **Evgeny Kissin with the CSO ([April 16-18](#))**

In this rare orchestral outing, Evgeny Kissin, "a deeply intuitive and sensitive musician" (*The New York Times*), performs two strikingly different concertos. Mozart's Concerto No. 12 is an elegant, flowing piece unfolding with the same graceful ease and charm that made his early Viennese compositions the talk of the city. Scriabin's Piano Concerto, by contrast, is a work of refinement and introspection — delicately crafted to convey an inward, deeply personal expressive impulse. Conductor Andrey Boreyko leads the CSO in Rimsky-Korsakov's vibrant *Russian Easter Overture* and the Suite from *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*, featuring the dazzling *Flight of the Bumblebee*.

### **Hisaishi Conducts Hisaishi ([April 23-26](#))**

Dubbed "the John Williams of Japan" by *Pitchfork*, Joe Hisaishi is one of the most celebrated composers of our time. He is especially known for his acclaimed symphonic works as well as film scores — including *Princess Mononoke*, *Ponyo* and *My Neighbor*

*Totoro*. Hisaishi returns to conduct the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in a suite from Hayao Miyazaki's film *Spirited Away*, plus his Second Symphony and *Castle in the Sky*, featuring CSO Principal Trumpet Esteban Batallán.

### **Canellakis, Tao & Tchaikovsky 5** ([April 30-May 3](#))

"With desire and passion," Tchaikovsky writes on the score of his Fifth Symphony, and he's as good as his word: It's a work teeming with brilliant orchestral colors, stormy emotions and a fate motif that haunts each movement. Illinois native Conrad Tao is the soloist in Bartók's Third Piano Concerto, the composer's beguiling love letter to his wife and his native Hungary.

### **CSO Chamber Music**

#### **CSO Chamber Music at the University of Chicago** ([April 19](#))

CSO musicians explore the art of remix in a program highlighting women composers, featuring Annie Gosfield's *Daughters of the Industrial Revolution* — a fusion of factory sounds and live instruments — and Louise Farrenc's romantic Piano Trio No. 4 in E Minor.

This concert takes place at the Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago (915 E. 60th St., Chicago).

### **CSO for Kids**

#### **Once Upon a Symphony: The Bremen Town Musicians** ([April 11 & 18](#))

When four farm animals are no longer needed, they set off for the town of Bremen, dreaming of becoming musicians. On the way, they discover a house full of robbers! The friends quickly join forces to scare away the thieves, uncovering hidden courage they never knew they had.

Once Upon a Symphony is designed to introduce children ages 3 to 5 to the world of classical music and the musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Ignite your child's imagination with vivid storytelling and small ensemble performances, as well as sets, costumes and images created by the Chicago Children's Theatre.

### **Symphony Center Presents**

#### **Pat Metheny Side-Eye III+** ([April 17](#))

With 20 Grammy wins, Pat Metheny has the second-most Grammy wins out of all jazz artists to date, revered for expanding the palette of the guitar and reshaping the genre for the modern era. Created to elevate young musicians and offer the mentorship he

once received, his Side-Eye project features Chris Fishman (piano and keyboards), Jermaine Paul (bass), Joe Dyson (drums) and Leonard Patton (percussion and vocals).

## **Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music**

### **Yuja Wang & the Mahler Chamber Orchestra ([April 29](#))**

Superstar pianist Yuja Wang showcases her extraordinary versatility as both soloist and conductor, leading the Mahler Chamber Orchestra from the keyboard. The program features Chopin's radiant Piano Concerto No. 1, as well as Prokofiev's bold Second Piano Concerto and his *Classical* Symphony, a vibrant homage to Haydn. A rare opportunity to witness one of today's most captivating musicians in a dual role, this concert promises an unforgettable evening of virtuosity and artistry.

## **Civic Orchestra of Chicago**

### **Civic Fellows & Chicago Refugee Coalition ([April 22](#))**

The Civic Orchestra Fellows and participants from the Chicago Refugee Coalition perform in a special concert that shares and celebrates cultural identities through music and storytelling.

This concert takes place in Buntrock Hall at Symphony Center. Tickets are free; reservations are required and open April 8.

### **Notes for Peace Reunion ([April 26](#))**

Launched in March 2018 in partnership with Purpose Over Pain, the Notes for Peace project empowers parents who have lost children to gun violence to create original songs of tribute. Join Civic Orchestra of Chicago Fellows and the families of Purpose Over Pain, together with guest artists from the U.K.-based organization Irene Taylor Trust, Chicago-area vocalists and CSO Artist-in-Residence Joyce DiDonato, for an inspiring evening that demonstrates the healing power of music.

This free event takes place in the Sanctuary at Epiphany Center for the Arts (201 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago); reservations are required and open April 8.

## **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](https://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/transit](https://www.cso.org/transit) 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.

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 Fellows & Chicago Refugee Coalition concert is generously sponsored by Theodore and Elisabeth Wachs.

Support for Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association programming for children and families is provided by BMO, ComEd, John Hart & Carol Prins, Kinder Morgan, PNC Bank, Megan & Steve Shebik, Linda & Michael Simon and the Walter and Caroline Sueske Charitable Trust.

The appearance of Paavo Järvi is made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The Sibelius 2 & Tüür Accordion Concerto concerts are generously sponsored by United Airlines.

The Songs of Love and Farewell concerts are generously sponsored by United Airlines and Sage Foundation.

Evgeny Kissin's performances with the CSO are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation, William R. Jentes, Sargent Family Foundation, Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz, LeAnn Pedersen Pope and Clyde F. McGregor, Anonymous, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Sheffield, Jr., Mr. Philip Lumpkin, Caroline Foulke Wettersten, Marci Klein, Mr. & Mrs. John D. Bramsen, Mariko Kaneda Niwa.

The Hisaishi Conducts Hisaishi concerts are generously sponsored by Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz.

The appearance of Yuja Wang is made possible with support from the Women's Board Guest Artist Endowment Fund.

The Canellakis, Tao & Tchaikovsky 5 performances are sponsored by the Bonnie Ann Barber Endowment Fund, which recognizes the importance of the CSO to Chicago and aims to preserve and support the CSO's legacy for future generations.

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