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JUNE PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

CHICAGO — June programming presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) at Symphony Center and in community venues features a wide variety of events, including the culminating Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) concerts led by Riccardo Muti before he concludes his tenure as music director after 13 seasons of artistic collaboration with the Orchestra. Highlights include the CSO's first performances of Lalo Schifrin's Tuba Concerto with Principal Tuba Gene Pokorny as soloist and Muti leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and soloists in Beethoven's *Missa solemnis*. Muti and the CSO return to Millennium Park on June 27 for a free Concert for Chicago featuring music of Florence Price and Tchaikovsky. Additional CSO subscription concerts feature David Afkham leading a program of works by Debussy, Ravel and Shostakovich and Jakub Hrůša conducting Mahler's Symphony No. 9.

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) June programming highlights include the finale of the SCP Jazz series with Grammy Award-winning saxophonist and composer Branford Marsalis, as well as the final Chicago appearance for the renowned Emerson String Quartet as they near the end of their last tour as an ensemble. Several free concert programs at Symphony Center cap the season, including a CSO Chamber Music series performance by the Lincoln Ensemble, a Civic Orchestra of Chicago concert led by conductor Thomas Wilkins and the third annual Negaunee Music Institute (NMI) Showcase, which features performances of two world premieres and celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Civic Orchestra's Fellowship program. Tickets and more information are available at cso.org.

[Explore](#) a chronological list of June 2023 concert programs.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concerts

Debussy *La mer* & Ravel *La valse* ([June 1-6](#))

Chief conductor and artistic director of the Spanish National Orchestra and Chorus David Afkham returns to Symphony Center for the first time since 2019 to lead the Orchestra in a program of French and Russian masterworks. Debussy's *La mer*, a shimmering depiction of the sea and its many moods, is paired with Ravel's *La valse*, in which a misty waltz morphs into a delirious portrait of a vanished age. Israeli-born violinist Vadim Gluzman, currently the Distinguished Artist-in-Residence at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, solos in Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1. Completing the program is Ravel's *Menuet antique*, originally written for solo piano and orchestrated by the composer in 1929.

Hrůša Conducts Mahler 9 ([June 8-10](#))

Czech-born chief conductor of the Bamberg Symphony and Music Director Designate of The Royal Opera, Covent Garden Jakub Hrůša makes an anticipated return to Symphony Center after acclaimed appearances in 2017 and 2021 to lead the CSO in Mahler's Ninth Symphony. The composer's final work, it contains the many hallmarks of Mahler's symphonies, from its grand scale to its creation of a musical landscape with a powerful range of emotions and traditional folk themes. Its ethereal finale was described by Mahler's protégé Bruno Walter as the composer's "farewell to the world."

Muti, Pokorny & Schubert 9 ([June 15-17](#))

Riccardo Muti opens his June CSO residency with a program featuring Schubert's majestic Symphony No. 9, the composer's final completed symphony. CSO Principal Tuba Gene Pokorny joins the Orchestra as soloist in the CSO's first performances of Lalo Schifrin's Tuba Concerto, which was written for Pokorny. The work is comprised of three movements and uses a musical language that moves between styles of the Baroque period, the 20th century, and American jazz. Johann Strauss Jr.'s Overture to *Indigo and the Forty Thieves*, an operetta based on the folk tale "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," opens the program.

Muti Conducts Beethoven *Missa solemnis* ([June 23-25](#))

In the concluding subscription concerts of the 2022/23 Season, Riccardo Muti leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in performances of Beethoven's *Missa solemnis*. A fervent meditation on faith and doubt, the composer's landmark choral orchestra work spans moments of ecstasy and angst, soaring beauty and near-operatic theatricality. A quartet of distinguished international artists joins Muti and the CSO for these performances, including soprano Erin Morley, mezzo-soprano Alisa Kolosova, tenor Giovanni Sala and bass-baritone Kyle Ketelsen. The Chicago Symphony Chorus

is prepared by guest chorus director and chorus master of the Metropolitan Opera Donald Palumbo.

Concert for Chicago ([June 27](#))

In September 2010, Riccardo Muti opened his music directorship leading the CSO in a free Concert for Chicago in Millennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion, performed to a capacity audience. He leads his culminating concert as music director where he started, this time featuring a program with music by the American composer Florence Price and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. 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. Muti first conducted Price's Andante moderato as part of the 2021/22 season's opening concert and led the Orchestra's first performances of her Symphony No. 3 in May 2022. Muti, who has led a complete cycle of the Tchaikovsky symphonies during his CSO tenure, concludes the evening with Tchaikovsky's exhilarating Symphony No. 5. The concert is presented in partnership with the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE).

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

An Evening with Branford Marsalis ([June 2](#))

The 2022/23 SCP Jazz series closes with a performance by revered jazz saxophonist and Grammy Award-winner Branford Marsalis, who brings his virtuosic improvisations and stunning melodies to Symphony Center for one night only. For more than 40 years, Marsalis has expanded his vision as an instrumentalist, composer, bandleader and educator, crossing stylistic boundaries while maintaining an unwavering creative integrity and reaching "the highest echelon of jazz tenor saxophonists" (*Los Angeles Times*).

Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music

Emerson String Quartet & Emanuel Ax ([June 4](#))

The Emerson String Quartet performs at Symphony Center for the last time as part of their farewell tour before retiring from the concert stage in the fall of 2023. The Quartet is joined by longtime collaborator, pianist Emanuel Ax, for Dvořák's Piano Quintet No. 2. Also on the program are American composer George Walker's Lyric for Strings and Dmitri Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 12.

CSO at the Movies

***Star Wars: The Force Awakens* in Concert ([June 29 – July 1](#))**

Conductor and film composer David Newman leads the CSO in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, which features the iconic music of American composer John Williams. Released nearly four decades after the original film in 1977, *The Force Awakens* brought Star Wars and the magic of Williams' music to a new generation. Set 30 years after the defeat of Emperor Palpatine, this exciting seventh installment launches a new chapter in the Skywalker saga.

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CSO Chamber Music

Lincoln Ensemble at Symphony Center ([June 20](#))

The Lincoln Ensemble, comprised of CSO musicians including violinist Qing Hou, violist Lawrence Neuman, Principal Cello John Sharp and Principal Oboe William Welter, presents a program of deeply personal chamber works inspired by poetry, lullabies and loved ones. The program opens with Loeffler's *Deux rapsodies* for Oboe, Viola and Piano, which evokes the work of French symbolist poet Maurice Rollinat, with the poet's words imbued in the storminess of the piano and the flowing lines of the viola and oboe. Brahms' *Zwei Gesänge in A Major* unites two of his works — a lullaby written for his best friends' child and a song he later wrote to celebrate the couple's marriage. Schubert's radiant, late-romantic Piano Trio No. 1 in B-flat Major completes the program. Joining the ensemble for the performance are mezzo-soprano Vivien Shotwell and pianist Adam Neiman.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Mentorship and Friendship ([June 5](#))

Principal conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra Thomas Wilkins returns to Symphony Center for his second appearance this season after a successful set of March concerts with the CSO featuring Dvořák's *New World* Symphony. He leads the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in a program that features Edward Elgar's *Enigma* Variations and a set of variations from American composer Margaret Bonds. Her variations on an African-American spiritual offer a poignant meditation on the civil rights movement, composed after a visit to Montgomery, Alabama in 1963. Opening the program is Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's rhapsodic *Ballade*, commissioned after an endorsement from Elgar.

Negaunee Music Institute Showcase ([June 12](#))

This year's NMI Showcase, which celebrates 10 years of the innovative Civic Fellowship Program for early-career professional musicians, features extraordinary artists affiliated with the Negaunee Music Institute, including musicians from the CSO, Civic Orchestra, Percussion Scholarship Program, Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative (CMPI), Young Artists Competition and more. The event includes world premiere performances of Civic-commissioned works by composers Tyshawn Sorey and Zachary Good, performed by Civic alumni.

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 \(cso.tv\)](#) video portal. Email signup is required to access free content. 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.

On June 1, online audiences can access a new themed playlist dedicated to the wind quintet repertoire performed by musicians of the CSO. The playlist includes an exciting slate of repertoire, including the Villa-Lobos *Quintette en forme de chôros*, Milhaud's *The Chimney of King René* and a wind quintet arrangement of Gershwin's *Three Preludes*, originally written for piano.

On July 1, online audiences can access a new playlist of music by American composers performed by CSO musicians in small ensembles. Works included are Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, former Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli's *Volume* for Percussion Duo, current Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery's *Strum* for String Quintet and conductor and composer Michael Tilson Thomas' *Street Song* for Symphonic Brass.

Food and Beverage

Levy Restaurants, in concert with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, is reimagining food and beverage for concertgoers, Chicagoans and visitors alike at Symphony Center. From concert bars serving thoughtful selections to sit-down dining experiences and unforgettable private events, the two world-class institutions are now working together to deliver an elevated concert experience.

Symphony Center's newest restaurant, Forte, created for audience members, locals and visitors, features contemporary Mediterranean cuisine and classic cocktails, draft beer, locally roasted Metric coffee and locally made Paulo gelato in a space that's

recently refreshed to pair with the historic building. For restaurant hours and information visit forterestaurant.com. Reservations can be made through [Tock](#).

For select performances, concertgoers can enhance their concert experience by dining at the Thomas Club with a prix fixe menu, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan. Visit cso.org/dining for more information.

Patron Information

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at cso.org or by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000), Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The walk-up Box Office at 220 S. Michigan Ave. is open Monday-Saturday 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances at Symphony Center and in neighborhood venues are free, but tickets are required unless otherwise noted. Seating is general admission, and there is a nonrefundable \$5 per ticket service fee for most performances that take place at Symphony Center. Tickets will become available two weeks prior to each concert.

Some streets around Grant Park and Symphony Center will be closed during the weeks leading up to the NASCAR street race weekend. Patrons coming to concerts June 23 – July 1 are encouraged to review transit options, leave extra time for travel, and plan to arrive early.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

Parking and Transit Options

Symphony Center and SpotHero, the nation's leading parking reservation app, have teamed up to help make parking easier. To reserve a parking spot, visit spothero.com or download the SpotHero app and search for "Symphony Center." Valet parking is available for most performances at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Exclusive subscriber parking rates are available through the Grant Park South Garage. Visit cso.org/parking for more parking and transit options.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter.

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

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Programs are sponsored by the Illinois Arts Council.

Downbeat Magazine, WDCB Jazz, and ChicagoJazz.com are media partners for the June 2 program.

Funding for educational programs during the 2022/23 SCP Jazz season has been generously provided by Dan J. Epstein, Judy Guitelman and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation.

The June 4 program is made possible with the generous sponsorship of Josef and Margot Lakonishok.

The June 5 program is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The 2022/23 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by The Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

The June 8-10 and June 15-17 concerts are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

The commission of Tyshawn Sorey's new work to be performed on the June 12 program was made possible by a generous grant from the Robert and Isabell Bass Foundation.

The appearance of Gene Pokorny in the June 15-17 program is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

The June 20 and June 29 – July 1 programs are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

The appearance of the Chicago Symphony Chorus on the June 23-25 program has been made possible by a generous gift from the Grainger Foundation.

The June 23-25 performances are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross, Josef and Margot Lakonishok, the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon, an anonymous donor, the Sargent Family Foundation, Betty W. Smykal, the Julian Family Foundation, Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz, and the Patrons Circle for *Missa solennis*.

The Concert for Chicago is presented in partnership with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE).

The June 29 – July 1 program is part of the CSO at the Movies series, which is generously sponsored by Megan and Steve Shebik.

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 Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have earned 64 Grammy Awards from the Recording Academy. Two Grammys were awarded in 2011 for Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti's first of eleven 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.