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NOVEMBER PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) continues its season with a diverse lineup of classical music, special presentations and renowned guest artists throughout November.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) schedule features the return of Music Director Emeritus for Life Riccardo Muti, who conducts Dvořák's *New World* Symphony and Hindemith's *Mathis der Maler*. Muti also leads the Orchestra in Brahms' Fourth Symphony and welcomes guitarist Pablo Sáinz-Villegas for Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*. Further highlights include Concertmaster Robert Chen leading performances of Vivaldi's iconic *The Four Seasons*, and Manfred Honeck conducting the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in a moving performances of Mozart's Requiem.

The Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series features Behzod Abduraimov performing works that include Brahms, Debussy and Stravinsky, as well as the Symphony Center debut of Hayato Sumino with his own compositions alongside pieces by Chopin and Bach. The SCP Jazz series continues with the Joshua Redman Quartet and vocalist Gabrielle Cavassa. The month concludes with the annual return of the Vienna Boys Choir for its holiday program, Christmas in Vienna.

The CSO at the Movies series begins with *How to Train Your Dragon in Concert* with a performance of the film's score by the CSO. Additionally, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago presents Holst's suite, *The Planets*, led by Thomas Wilkins. A free chamber program featuring the Guadagnini String Quartet will also be offered at Epiphany Center for the Arts on November 2.

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

[Explore](#) a chronological list of November 2025 concert programs.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Muti Conducts Strauss, Hindemith & Dvořák 9 ([October 30-November 4](#))

Music Director Emeritus for Life Riccardo Muti returns with an all-time orchestral favorite: Dvořák's *New World* Symphony. Its glorious melodies capture the folk songs and spirituals the composer heard in America, dosed with a heartfelt longing for his Czech homeland. Composed in 1939, Hindemith's majestic *Mathis der Maler* portrays an eminent Renaissance artist's struggles against political repression.

The [November 4](#) performance takes place at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

Muti & Sáinz-Villegas ([November 6-8](#))

Rodrigo's captivating portrait of the royal palace and gardens near Madrid features guitarist Pablo Sáinz-Villegas, who, in his 2019 CSO appearance, "immediately dusted away the clichés, thanks to the sheen of his tone and the nobility of his rhythms" (*Chicago Tribune*). Riccardo Muti conducts Brahms' Fourth Symphony, which blends warmth and poignant anguish with a tempest of a finale.

Chen Leads The Four Seasons ([November 13-15](#))

Warbling birds, trickling streams, summer storms, barking dogs, icy landscapes — Vivaldi pioneered the art of painting nature through music with his blazingly original *Four Seasons*. Concertmaster Robert Chen takes on these seminal concertos and leads Mahler's orchestral rendering of Beethoven's *Serioso* Quartet and Mozart's exquisitely crafted Divertimento in B-flat Major.

Honeck Conducts Mozart Requiem ([November 20-23](#))

Mozart's Requiem was his great send-off to the world — a work of plaintive, yet darkly radiant beauty, left unfinished on his deathbed in 1791. In Mozart's hands, the ancient mass for the dead becomes an expression of hope and transcendence.

In this dramatic and immersive performance, Manfred Honeck leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in the completed portions of Mozart's Requiem, envisioned as it may have been heard at the composer's own funeral. Chorus Director Donald Palumbo prepares the Chicago Symphony Chorus for this program. Interwoven with Gregorian chant and additional choral selections by Mozart, this Requiem captures "the awe, the majesty and the fright this mass is supposed to inspire" (*Bachtrack*). Works by Beethoven and Haydn open the program.

CSO Chamber Music

Guadagnini String Quartet at Epiphany Center for the Arts ([November 2](#))

In the intimate setting of Epiphany Center for the Arts, the Guadagnini String Quartet contrasts two striking works of the repertoire. Cherubini's rarely heard Quartet No. 1 opens the program — a work that defied the expectations of its era with bold rhythms and a distinctive voice — followed by Beethoven's Quartet in C Minor, a taut and emotionally charged piece.

This concert takes place at Epiphany Center for the Arts (201 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago).

CSO for Kids

Which Instrument Should I Play? ([November 15](#))

Five-time Grammy-nominated children's-music songwriter Justin Roberts joins conductor Andrew Grams and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for an engaging investigation of the timbres and techniques that make each instrument both unique and a vital part of the orchestra.

CSO at the Movies

How to Train Your Dragon in Concert ([November 28-30](#))

A young Viking named Hiccup defies tradition when he befriends a ferocious dragon he calls Toothless, and together, these unlikely heroes must fight against all odds to save both their worlds. Featuring John Powell's Oscar-nominated score performed live to picture by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Dreamworks' *How to Train Your Dragon* is a thrilling experience for all ages.

How To Train Your Dragon © 2010 DreamWorks Animation LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Symphony Center Presents

Vienna Boys Choir: Christmas in Vienna ([November 29](#))

For six centuries, the child musicians of the Vienna Boys Choir have been enthralling the world with their lively singing style and purity of tone. With members hailing from dozens of countries, the chorus today gives more than 300 concerts a year. Christmas in Vienna showcases these gifted musicians in Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, popular songs and holiday favorites.

Symphony Center Presents Piano

Behzod Abduraimov ([November 2](#))

“With prodigious technique and rhapsodic flair” (*The New York Times*), pianist Behzod Abduraimov returns to Symphony Center, bringing his singular artistry to the music of Brahms, Liszt, Debussy and Stravinsky — from the vivid theatricality of Stravinsky’s *Petrushka* to the beauty of Debussy’s *Suite Bergamasque* featuring the timeless *Clair de Lune*. Blending moments of quiet intimacy with passages of thrilling power, Abduraimov is an expressive storyteller at the piano.

Hayato Sumino ([November 16](#))

More than a pianist, Hayato Sumino is a phenomenon. The Japanese musician has earned tens of millions of views for his captivating interpretations of classical masterworks and original compositions. A semi-finalist at the 18th International Chopin Piano Competition, he has reignited interest in the iconic composer. In his highly anticipated Symphony Center debut, Sumino performs works by Chopin, Bach and Ravel, alongside his own evocative pieces, including *New Birth* and *Recollection*.

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

Joshua Redman Quartet with special guest Gabrielle Cavassa ([November 7](#))

Joshua Redman, one of the most respected jazz saxophonists of his generation, “plays with imagination and empathy” (*The Guardian*). His performances are celebrated for their seamless blend of technical mastery, fierce improvisation and ability to move audiences. Hear Redman and his quartet play music from the group’s new Blue Note album *Words Fall Short*, with vocalist Gabrielle Cavassa joining for selections from his last record, *where are we*.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Civic Plays The Planets ([November 17](#))

Thomas Wilkins guides listeners on a cosmic journey through *The Planets*, Holst’s interstellar suite spanning the ferocity of Mars to the ethereal stillness of Neptune. Drawing inspiration from the Orion Nebula and a Jewish harvest festival, James Lee III’s piece shows why he’s “a master colorist,” whose score is “dazzlingly vivid and teems with detail” (*Gramophone*).

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

Muti Conducts Strauss, Hindemith & Dvořák 9 is made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Excellence.

The appearance of Behzod Abduraimov is made possible in part by The Raymond and Eloise Niwa Endowment Fund.

Muti & Sáinz-Villegas is made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Excellence.

The appearance of Pablo Sáinz -Villegas is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

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.

Chicago Jazz, DownBeat Magazine and WDCB 90.9FM Jazz are Media Partners for the Joshua Redman Quartet with special guest Gabrielle Cavassa program.

Chen Leads The Four Seasons is generously sponsored by the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon.

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 Negaunee Music Institute is endowed in perpetuity through a gift from the Negaunee Foundation.

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 appearance of the Chicago Symphony Chorus for Honeck Conducts Mozart Requiem has been made possible by a generous gift from The Grainger Foundation.

Newsradio 105.9 WBBM is a Media Partner for the performances of Honeck Conducts Mozart Requiem.

How to Train Your Dragon 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](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](#) 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.