



**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION**  
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## **RICCARDO MUTI TO LEAD CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON NORTH AMERICAN TOUR AND ADDITIONAL U.S. APPEARANCES IN 2023**

**Muti and CSO Travel to Four U.S. States and Make Orchestra's First Appearance in  
Toronto since 1914 on North American Tour (January 22-February 2, 2023)**

**Additional U.S. Appearances Include Concerts in Kansas City and  
Three Florida Cities (February 26-March 4, 2023)**

**Programming Highlights Include Beethoven's Symphonies Nos. 7 & 8,  
Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5, Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony and  
Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition***

CHICAGO — Music Director Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) embark on a North American tour — the Orchestra's 63rd international tour — and additional U.S. appearances in 2023 as part of 2022/23 Season activities. Now in their 13th season of artistic collaboration, Muti and the CSO first toured together in the U.S. in 2011, and the 2023 touring activities represent their first tour together since February 2020.

The seven-city, eight-concert North American tour begins with the Orchestra's first appearance in Mesa, Arizona, on January 22 at the Mesa Arts Center and continues with stops in three California cities: Costa Mesa on January 24, presented by Philharmonic Society of Orange County; Santa Barbara on January 25, presented by Community Arts Music Association of Santa Barbara, Inc., and the CSO's first appearance in Stanford at Bing Concert Hall on January 26, presented by Stanford Live. Following the California concerts is the Orchestra's first appearance in Stillwater, Oklahoma, on January 28, presented by the McKnight Center for the Performing Arts at Oklahoma State University, and a return to Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa on January 29. The North American tour culminates at Koerner Hall, in Toronto, Ontario, with two concerts presented by The Royal Conservatory of Music on February 1 and 2, marking the CSO's first appearances in Toronto since 1914 and in Canada since 1976. The CSO's 2023 North American Tour programming includes two Beethoven symphonies (Nos. 7 & 8) performed during Muti's survey of the complete cycle of Beethoven symphonies in recent seasons, as well as Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5, Beethoven's *Coriolan* Overture, Liadov's *The Enchanted Lake* and Ravel's

orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition*.

Additional U.S. appearances for Muti and the CSO this season include a return to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City on February 26 in a program presented by the Harriman-Jewell Series and featuring violinist Julia Fischer as soloist in Schumann's Violin Concerto and Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony. That concert is followed by a Florida tour with stops in three cities: Orlando at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts (February 28; Sarasota at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center, presented by the Sarasota Concert Association (March 1), and Naples at Frances Pew Hayes Hall presented by Artis—Naples (March 2 & 4). Florida Tour programming features repertoire performed at previous stops on the CSO's 2023 North American Tour.

Organized with support from the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, multiple education and community engagement activities are planned in conjunction with the Orchestra's upcoming tours. Master classes and coaching sessions led by CSO musicians, performances by chamber ensembles of CSO musicians and open rehearsals with Music Director Riccardo Muti are among the planned activities during the CSO's stops in Stillwater, Toronto, Kansas City and Naples.

Riccardo Muti and the CSO continue a long and distinguished tradition as cultural ambassadors, having completed 18 tours together since the beginning of his tenure as music director in 2010. These have included multiple domestic tours such as those to the East and West coasts and several visits to Carnegie Hall, Kansas City and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and four European tours and two tours to Asia. Their most recent touring activities together included two concert programs at Carnegie Hall in November 2019, a European tour in January 2020 and a Florida tour in February 2020.

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra has been touring domestically and internationally since the beginning of its history. First traveling to Canada in 1892, the Orchestra has since embarked on 62 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

[View](#) a chronological listing of the CSO's 2023 North American Tour and U.S. appearances.

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

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's North American Tour is generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's appearances in Florida are generously sponsored by Judy and Verne Istock, Nancy A. Lauter and Alfred L. McDougal Charitable Fund, Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz, the Regenstein Foundation and the Zell Family Foundation.

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## **Riccardo Muti**

Riccardo Muti is one of the world's preeminent conductors. In 2010, he became the tenth music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. It was recently announced that he would extend his tenure through the 2022–23 season at the request of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. Muti's leadership has been distinguished by the strength of his artistic partnership with the Orchestra; his dedication to performing great works of the past and present, including thirteen world premieres to date; the enthusiastic reception he and the CSO have received on national and international tours; and eight recordings on the CSO Resound label, with three Grammy awards among them. In addition, his contributions to the cultural life of Chicago — with performances throughout its many neighborhoods and at Orchestra Hall — have made a lasting impact on the city.

Born in Naples, Riccardo Muti studied piano under Vincenzo Vitale at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella, graduating with distinction. He subsequently received a diploma in composition and conducting from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan under the guidance of Bruno Bettinelli and Antonino Votto.

He first came to the attention of critics and the public in 1967, when he won the Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition, by unanimous vote of the jury, in Milan. In 1968, he became principal conductor of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, a position he held until 1980. In 1971, Muti was invited by Herbert von Karajan to conduct at the Salzburg Festival, the first of many occasions, which led to a celebration of fifty years of artistic collaboration with the Austrian festival in 2020. During the 1970s, Muti was chief conductor of London's Philharmonia Orchestra (1972–1982), succeeding Otto Klemperer. From 1980 to 1992, he inherited the position of music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra from Eugene Ormandy.

From 1986 to 2005, he was music director of Teatro alla Scala, and during that time, he directed major projects such as the three Mozart/Da Ponte operas and Wagner's *Ring* cycle in addition to his exceptional contributions to the Verdi repertoire. His tenure as music director of Teatro alla Scala, the longest in its history, culminated in the triumphant reopening of the restored opera house on December 7, 2004, with Salieri's *Europa riconosciuta*.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Riccardo Muti has conducted the most important orchestras in the world: from the Berlin Philharmonic to the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and from the New York Philharmonic to the Orchestre National de France; as well as the Vienna Philharmonic, an orchestra to which he is linked by particularly close and important ties, and with which he has appeared at the Salzburg Festival since 1971. When Muti was invited to lead the Vienna Philharmonic's 150th-anniversary concert, the orchestra presented him with the Golden Ring, a special sign of esteem and affection, awarded only to a few select conductors. In 2021, he conducted the Vienna Philharmonic in the New Year's Concert for the sixth time.

Muti has received numerous international honors over the course of his career. He is Cavaliere di Gran Croce of the Italian Republic and a recipient of the German Verdienstkreuz. He received the decoration of Officer of the Legion of Honor from French President Nicolas Sarkozy. He was made an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. The Salzburg Mozarteum awarded him its silver medal for his contribution to Mozart's music, and in Vienna, he was elected an honorary member of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, Vienna Hofmusikkapelle and Vienna State Opera. The State of Israel has honored him with the Wolf Prize in the arts. In July 2018, President Petro Poroshenko presented Muti with the State Award of Ukraine during the Roads of Friendship concert at the Ravenna Festival in Italy following earlier performances in Kiev. In October 2018, Muti received the prestigious Praemium Imperiale for Music of the Japan Arts Association in Tokyo.

In September 2010, Riccardo Muti became music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and was named 2010 Musician of the Year by *Musical America*. In 2011, Muti was selected as the recipient of the coveted Birgit Nilsson Prize. In 2011, he received the Opera News Award in New York City and Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts. That summer, he was named an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic and honorary director for life of the Rome Opera. In May 2012, he was awarded the highest papal honor: the Knight of the Grand Cross First Class of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Benedict XVI. In 2016, he was honored by the Japanese government with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. On August 15, 2021, Muti received the Great Golden Decoration of Honor for Services to the Republic of Austria, the highest possible civilian honor from the Austrian government.

Passionate about teaching young musicians, Muti founded the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra in 2004 and the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in 2015. The purpose of the Italian Opera Academy — which takes place in Italy, as well as in Japan since 2019 as part of a multi-year collaboration with the Tokyo Spring Festival — is to pass on Muti's expertise to young musicians and to foster a better understanding of the complex journey to the realization of an opera. Through *Le vie dell'Amicizia* (The Roads of Friendship), a project of the Ravenna Festival in

Italy, he has conducted in many of the world's most troubled areas in order to bring attention to civic and social issues. The label RMMUSIC is responsible for Riccardo Muti's recordings.

[riccardomuti.com](http://riccardomuti.com)

[riccardomutioperacademy.com](http://riccardomutioperacademy.com)

[riccardomutimusic.com](http://riccardomutimusic.com)

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](http://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](http://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 eleven releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [cso.org/resound](http://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.