



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
RICCARDO MUTI MUSIC DIRECTOR

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559
TELEPHONE 312-294-3333
FACSIMILE 312-294-3329

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Press Contacts:
[Eileen Chambers](#)
312-294-3092

LINA GONZALEZ-GRANADOS TO CONTINUE AS SIR GEORG SOLTI CONDUCTING APPRENTICE THROUGH JUNE 2022

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) is pleased to announce that Lina Gonzalez-Granados will continue as the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice through June 2022. Gonzalez-Granados was initially selected in November 2019 by the jury of the CSOA's International Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprenticeship presided over by CSO Zell Music Director and Jury Chair Riccardo Muti. She became the fourth Solti Conducting Apprentice in February 2020 with the activities of the apprenticeship paused during the pandemic.

Gonzalez-Granados resumes the role at the start of the 2021/22 season with her activities to include several weeks during the season studying with and assisting Riccardo Muti in Chicago during his residencies with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The apprenticeship, which is an initiative of the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, also creates opportunities for Gonzalez-Granados to participate in education and community programs of the Institute, including guest conducting engagements with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

A native of Cali, Colombia, Gonzalez-Granados has distinguished herself nationally and internationally as a talented young conductor of symphonic and operatic repertoire. Her spirited interpretations of the orchestral repertoire, as well as her dedication to highlighting new and unknown works by Latin-American composers, have earned her international recognition, most recently as a 2021 Sphinx Medal of Excellence recipient, the winner of the ECHO Special Award (European Concert Hall Organization) at the 2020 inaugural La Maestra Competition in Paris and recipient of a Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award in 2020 and 2021.

Gonzalez-Granados is currently the Conducting Fellow at the Philadelphia Orchestra and previously served as a Conducting Fellow at the Seattle Symphony. She has made recent podium appearances with both orchestras as well as other major U.S. orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony and Rochester Philharmonic. She has also previously worked as a cover conductor for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Ravinia in the 2017 season and with Tulsa Opera, where she made history as the first Latina conductor to lead a major production in a U.S. opera house.

Upcoming appearances in the 2021/22 season include debuts with the National Symphony, Spanish National Orchestra, Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra, Arturo Toscanini Philharmonic, Polish National Radio Symphony and Symphonic Orchestra of Castilla and León, among others. She will also lead the production of Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at the Dallas Opera.

A dedicated advocate for the inclusion and development of new works for chamber and large orchestra, especially music from Latin-American composers, Gonzalez-Granados is also the founder and artistic director of Unitas Ensemble, a chamber orchestra that performs the works of Latinx composers and provides access to free community performances for underserved communities. Her work with Unitas has earned her numerous community awards, most recently a Spark Boston award from the City of Boston.

In addition to her training at the New England Conservatory and Boston University, Gonzalez-Granados has worked with mentors including Marin Alsop, Bernard Haitink, Bramwell Tovey, and Yannick Nézet- Séguin. More information is available at linagonzalezgranados.com.

About the CSOA's International Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprenticeship

The creation of the CSOA's International Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprenticeship was announced by Riccardo Muti in October 2009 as part of his larger vision for the CSOA when he became music director. This vision includes the opportunity to build on the CSO's great tradition of training young musicians through the creation of an apprenticeship that fosters the talents of promising young conductors and invests in the future of the art form. The program is named for Sir Georg Solti, who served as music director of the CSO from 1969 to 1991, not only because of his deep connection with the CSO, but also in honor of his commitment to connecting with young musicians.

Earlier in their respective careers, both Sir Georg Solti and Riccardo Muti refined their musicianship through their studies and work with singers in the opera house, and Muti remains passionate about the importance of a conductor's ability to rehearse with an artist at the piano. He regards keyboard and vocal-coaching skills as crucial in the creation of a complete musician: one who is able to stand before an orchestra with natural authority. The CSO's International Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprenticeship is an initiative of the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org and experience.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. 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 eight 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 (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) 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.