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OCTOBER PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

CHICAGO — October programming presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) at Symphony Center and in community venues features a wide variety of events, including Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) concerts with renowned guest conductors and soloists. October CSO concert highlights include return podium appearances by Christoph Eschenbach (October 4-6), Marin Alsop (October 10-11), Nicholas Kraemer (October 17-19), Sir Donald Runnicles (October 24-26) and Music Director Emeritus for Life Riccardo Muti (October 31-November 3).

Several guest artists make their CSO debut, including pianists Lucas & Arthur Jussen (October 4-6) and singers Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen (countertenor), Josh Lovell (tenor) and Michael Sumuel (bass-baritone) (October 17-19). Artists returning as CSO soloists in October include pianist Lukáš Vondráček (October 10-11), soprano Amanda Forsythe (October 17-19) and pianist Mitsuko Uchida (October 31-November 3). CSO Principal Cello John Sharp and Principal Viola Teng Li are featured in Strauss' *Don Quixote* (October 24-26). October concert highlights also include the CSO's first performances of Lee III's *Chuphshah! Harriet's Drive to Canaan* (October 10-11) and selections from Handel's *Agrippina, Joseph, Solomon, Theodora* and *Alexander's Feast* (October 17-19).

The 2024/25 Season of CSO for Kids programming kicks off with the CSO co-commissioned *Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra*, by former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates (October 19).

The University of Chicago hosts this season's first CSO Chamber Music concert on October 27 featuring a CSO string quartet in a program titled "Music in Times of Crisis."

On October 22, internationally acclaimed violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter returns for a one-night-only event celebrating the music of Academy Award-winning composer John Williams — featuring the CSO's first performance of his Second Violin Concerto with Mutter as soloist and led by conductor Ken-David Masur.

The new Symphony Center Presents (SCP) season opens in October, beginning with a program featuring prolific viol player Jordi Savall that explores the richness of the early Baroque era (October 8). A double bill featuring the Charles Lloyd Quartet and a tribute to the legacy of Wayne Shorter with iconic jazz musicians Danilo Pérez, John Patitucci, Brian Blade and Mark Turner launches the 2024/25 SCP Jazz series (October 25), and acclaimed Oaxacan singer Lila Downs and the Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago celebrate Día de los Muertos (October 27).

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago opens its 2024/25 concert season in a program led by Civic Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur at Senn High School on October 27 and Symphony Center on October 28.

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

[Explore](#) a chronological list of October 2024 concert programs.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Eschenbach with Lucas & Arthur Jussen ([October 4-6](#))

Dutch brothers and Artists in Residence at the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Lucas and Arthur Jussen make their debut with the Orchestra and join Grammy Award-winning conductor and former Ravinia Festival music director Christoph Eschenbach for Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos. The program opens with Strauss' lyrical "Dreaming by the Fireside" from *Intermezzo*, the second in his triptych of marriage operas. Closing the program is Beethoven's *Pastoral* Symphony, which summons rippling streams, a raging thunderstorm and plenty of warmth.

Lucas and Arthur Jussen will participate in a CD signing after the concert on Sunday, October 6. The signing will take place in Grainger Ballroom, with merchandise available in the Symphony Store, the Ballroom and online in advance.

Alsop & Vondráček ([October 10-11](#))

Queen Elizabeth Competition Grand Prix winner Lukáš Vondráček joins the Orchestra and Ravinia Festival Chief Conductor Marin Alsop for Chopin's Second Piano Concerto.

Opening the program is the CSO's first performance of James Lee III's *Chuphshah! Harriet's Drive to Canaan*. Originally commissioned by Alsop for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, this captivating work is inspired by the story of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. Threatened by Stalin's regime, Shostakovich skillfully appeased Soviet officials with his Fifth Symphony, featuring triumphant Russian themes, but also subversive satire and daring irony.

Before the CSO's performance on October 10, join members of the CSO African American Network (AAN) for the inaugural event of the 2024/25 Season, an exclusive reception with composer James Lee III. The preconcert event features a performance of his evocative String Quartet No. 3 (*Untranslatable*) by musicians from the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. A free reception ticket is required for admission. Reserve concert and reception tickets at cso.org/aan.

Following the October 11 matinee, enjoy a special screening of *Harriet Tubman: Visions of Freedom* in Orchestra Hall. This hour-long documentary goes beyond the legend of the inspiring woman who repeatedly risked her own life and freedom to liberate others from slavery. Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award-winning actor Alfre Woodard narrates, and acclaimed actor Wendell Pierce provides the voice of Frederick Douglass. Admission is included with your concert ticket. Seating is general admission.

Screening courtesy of Maryland Public Television.

Mozart Coronation Mass ([October 17-19](#))

Principal Guest Conductor of Chicago's Music of the Baroque Nicholas Kraemer leads the Orchestra and Chicago Symphony Chorus for a program of works by Handel, Beethoven and Mozart. The program includes the CSO's first performances of selections from Handel's *Agrippina*, *Joseph*, *Solomon*, *Theodora* and *Alexander's Feast*. Beethoven's *Elegy* features the Chicago Symphony Chorus prepared by guest chorus director Benjamin Rivera, while soloists Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen (countertenor), Josh Lovell (tenor) and Michael Sumuel (bass-baritone) make their CSO debuts alongside Amanda Forsythe (soprano) in Mozart's *Coronation Mass*.

Don Quixote ([October 24-26](#))

Chief Conductor Designate of the Dresden Philharmonic Sir Donald Runnicles leads the CSO in a program of works inspired by great stories and literature. It includes Beethoven's Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus*, Humperdinck's Suite from the opera *Hansel and Gretel* and closes with Richard Strauss' symphonic interpretation of the great Spanish novel *Don Quixote*. The performance features Principal Cello John Sharp who musically portrays the knight errant with Principal Viola Teng Li portraying his loyal squire, Sancho Panza, as they encounter windmills, sorcerers and bleating

sheep. Li, who recently started her first season as the CSO's new principal violist, makes her CSO debut as a soloist in these performances.

The League of the CSOA is hosting their annual Fall in Love with Music event, featuring Principal Viola Teng Li and Principal Cello John Sharp on Friday, October 25. The reception begins at 3:15 p.m. and the program begins at 4:00 p.m. following the 1:30 p.m. matinee concert. More information and event tickets are available at cso.org.

Muti, Uchida, Emperor & Eroica ([October 31-November 3](#))

Music Director Emeritus for Life Riccardo Muti returns to lead the Orchestra in a program featuring two of Beethoven's most renowned works. Grammy Award-winning pianist and co-artistic director of the Marlboro Music School and Festival Mitsuko Uchida joins the Orchestra in Beethoven's majestic *Emperor* Concerto. The composer's groundbreaking *Eroica* Symphony closes the program, exploring themes of heroism, struggle and triumph.

CSO for Kids

Philharmonia Fantastique ([October 19](#))

Music Director of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Eric Jacobsen joins the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for a program featuring an animated film which follows the magical Sprite inside musical instruments and shows how they work together as an orchestra. *Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra*, co-commissioned by the CSO and created by former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates and an Oscar-winning creative team, this film with live music builds to a spectacular finale.

CSO Chamber Music

CSO Chamber Music at the University of Chicago ([October 27](#))

The CSO Chamber Music series opens at the University of Chicago with CSO musicians Rong-Yan Tang (violin), Ni Mei (violin), Danny Lai (viola) and Katinka Kleijn (cello) as they respond to Professor Steven Rings' prompt to explore "Music in Times of Crisis." This reflective chamber music program explores Samuel Barber's String Quartet in B Minor, Op. 11, with its seminal "Adagio", Dmitri Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 8 — dedicated to "the victims of fascism and the war" — and Bohuslav Jan Martinů's Three Madrigals, inspired by Mozart's String Duos and English madrigal tradition.

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

CSO Featured Concert

The Music of John Williams with Anne-Sophie Mutter ([October 22](#))

Four-time Grammy Award-winning violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter joins the Orchestra and Civic Orchestra Principal Conductor and Music Director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Ken-David Masur for an evening dedicated to the music of John Williams. The program includes the CSO's first performance of John Williams' Second Violin Concerto and selections from his iconic film scores, including *Hook*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and the *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars* sagas.

Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music

Jordi Savall — Monteverdi: A Baroque Revolution ([October 8](#))

The Tears and the Fire of the Muses

Renowned early music scholar and viol virtuoso Jordi Savall is joined by his legendary instrumental and vocal ensembles, as they present a program exploring the early Baroque era, highlighting the music of composers Monteverdi, Dowland, Holborne and Scheit.

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

Charles Lloyd Quartet / Pérez, Patitucci & Blade with Turner ([October 25](#))

Acclaimed saxophonist Mark Turner joins Danilo Pérez (piano), John Patitucci (bass) and Brian Blade (drums), the three remaining members of Wayne Shorter's Grammy Award-winning quartet, in a program that highlights two of jazz's pioneering saxophonists and composers. NEA Jazz Master and recipient of the Ordre de Chevalier des Arts et Lettres Charles Lloyd (saxophone and flute) brings a lifetime of genre blending and experimentation alongside Aaron Park (piano), Larry Grenadier (bass) and Eric Harland (drums).

Symphony Center Presents

Lila Downs: Día de los Muertos ([October 27](#))

Grammy Award-winning, Mexican-American singer Lila Downs and folklórico dancers from the Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago celebrate Día de los Muertos, Mexico's Day of the Dead, with a program featuring vibrant visual projections and songs in Spanish and English, as well as indigenous languages from her native Oaxaca.

Enhance your evening with a preconcert performance by Mariachi Águilas de Benito Juárez directed by Michael Espinosa from 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. in the Rotunda. The performance is free and open to all ticketholders.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Civic at Senn High School: Masur Conducts Ortiz & Schumann ([October 27](#))

The Civic Orchestra performs a community concert at Senn High School (5900 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago) led by Civic Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur. The program will also be performed at Symphony Center on Monday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Masur Conducts Ortiz & Schumann ([October 28](#))

Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur leads the Civic Orchestra in a program of musical depictions of Germany's Rhine Valley. The fairytale-like world of forested hillsides, medieval castles and the Rhine River provides the backdrop for Humperdinck's arrangement of Siegfried's Rhine Journey from Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*. Mexican composer Gabriela Ortiz pays tribute to Clara Schumann through a titular work celebrating her genius, tenacity and influence on her husband Robert. The couple's explorations through the Rhine Valley inspired Schumann's *Rhenish* Symphony, which features country dances and evokes the area's majestic cathedral.

Special Event at Symphony Center

Open House Chicago ([October 20](#))

Symphony Center joins the citywide celebration of great architectural spaces and welcomes visitors to explore this bucket list Chicago destination that is home to historic Orchestra Hall and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. This free event takes place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and features drop-in children's activities in Buntrock Hall, live musical performances, a selfie station on stage in Orchestra Hall and more. More information about Open House Chicago is available at architecture.org.

Food and Beverage

The Thomas Club, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan, offers a prix fixe menu featuring traditional American fare for a seamless preconcert dining experience. View menus, make reservations, and learn more about dining at the Thomas Club 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 located at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance, and is available for select performances. 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. The walk-up Box Office at 220 S. Michigan Ave. is open Monday-Saturday 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.

The appearance of Lucas and Arthur Jussen is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

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

The Alsop & Vondráček performances are generously sponsored by David and Marsha Woodhouse.

Philharmonia Fantastique is generously sponsored by The League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association: Anonymous, Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation, Margo and Mike Oberman, Merle L. Jacob, Kathy Nordmeyer, David Varnerin, Mimi Duginger, Mark Mosley and Sarah J. Good, John A. Burrell, Allisa Gam, Janice Young, Sonya Doumanian, Dr. and Mrs. Tapas K. Das Gupta, Claretta Meier, Sharon and Sid Mitchell and Anonymous.

Philharmonia Fantastique was commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra through the Helen Zell Commissioning Program.

The appearance of the Chicago Symphony Chorus has been made possible by a generous gift from The Grainger Foundation.

The Muti, Uchida, Emperor & Eroica performances are generously sponsored by the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon.

The 2024/25 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

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Funding for educational programs during the 2024/25 Season of SCP Jazz has been generously provided by Dan J. Epstein, Judith Guitelman and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation.

The Symphony Center Presents Jazz series is supported by Chicago Jazz, DownBeat Magazine, WDCB and WBEZ Chicago.

The CSO Classical Thursday Series is supported by Newsradio 105.9 WBBM.

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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 distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became Music Director Emeritus for Life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Daniil Trifonov is the CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2024/25 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 nationally, and since 1892, has made 64 international tours, performing in 29 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 the Negaunee

Music Institute. The [Chicago Symphony Chorus](#), founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919/20 Season, the [Civic Orchestra of Chicago](#) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. [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.