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**Press Contact:**

[Hannah Sundwall](#)

[312-294-3083](#)

## **ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO AND YO-YO MA PERFORM IN FREE, PUBLIC CONCERT AT MILLENNIUM PARK ON AUGUST 26, 2025**

CHICAGO — Internationally renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma returns to Chicago's Millennium Park with vocalist Angélique Kidjo for *Sarabande Africaine*, a free, public concert at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion on [Tuesday, August 26 at 6:30 p.m.](#) The program, presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) and the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), is a collaboration that brings together two inquisitive musical voices to examine historical and cultural links. Their performance invites a fresh look at the categories that often define our understanding of music.

Five-time Grammy Award winner Angélique Kidjo is one of the greatest artists in international music today, a creative force with 16 albums to her name. *Time* magazine called her "Africa's premier diva" and named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world for 2021. The BBC included her in its list of the continent's 50 most iconic figures, and in 2011 *The Guardian* listed her as one of its Top 100 Most Inspiring Women in the World. *Forbes* magazine ranked Kidjo as the first woman in its list of the Most Powerful Celebrities in Africa. She received the prestigious 2015 Crystal Award given by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland; the 2016 Amnesty International Ambassador of Conscience Award, and the 2018 German Sustainability Award.

Yo-Yo Ma's multifaceted career is testament to his belief in culture's power to generate trust and understanding. Whether performing new or familiar works for cello, bringing communities together to explore culture's role in society, or engaging in unexpected musical forms, Ma strives to foster connections that stimulate the imagination and reinforce our humanity. Ma has recorded more than 120 albums, is the winner of 19 Grammy Awards, and has performed for nine American presidents, most recently on the

occasion of President Biden's inauguration. He has received numerous awards, including the National Medal of the Arts, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Birgit Nilsson Prize. He has been a United Nations Messenger of Peace since 2006 and was recognized as one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2020. This performance marks his second visit to Millennium Park, following a memorable concert of the Bach cello suites to a capacity crowd in June 2019.

Admission to the CSOA's presentation of *Sarabande Africaine* with Angélique Kidjo and Yo-Yo Ma at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park is free and open to the public. For those who wish to enhance their evening, reservations for VIP experiences for supporters of this event will be available at [cso.org](https://cso.org) beginning on July 15. The VIP experience includes a number of reserved seats in the pavilion seating bowl and is the only way to guarantee admission to this special concert.

Contact Patron Services for personalized assistance online at [cso.org/contact](https://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.

This performance is presented in partnership with the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE).

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** [cso.org](https://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://cso.org/radio). Launched in 2007, [CSO Resound](https://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.

**Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events: [Chicago.gov/DCASE](http://Chicago.gov/DCASE)**

The City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) supports artists and cultural organizations, invests in the creative economy, and expands access and participation in the arts throughout Chicago's 77 neighborhoods. As a collaborative cultural presenter, arts funder, and advocate for creative workers, our programs and events serve Chicagoans and visitors of all ages and backgrounds, downtown and in diverse communities across our city — to strengthen and celebrate Chicago. DCASE produces some of the city's most iconic festivals, markets, events, and exhibitions at the Chicago Cultural Center, Millennium Park, and in communities across the city — serving a local and global audience of 25 million people. The Department offers cultural grants and resources, manages public art, supports TV and film production and other creative industries, and permits special events throughout Chicago. For details, visit [Chicago.gov/DCASE](http://Chicago.gov/DCASE) and [stay connected via our newsletters and social media](#).

**Millennium Park: [MillenniumPark.org](http://MillenniumPark.org)**

Millennium Park is the #1 attraction in the Midwest and among the top 10 most-visited sites in the U.S. It is also the anchor of an urban cultural campus (Millennium Park Campus) that includes the Chicago Cultural Center, Maggie Daley Park and The Art Institute of Chicago. Millennium Park is located on Michigan Avenue, bordered by Randolph St. to the north, Columbus Dr. to the east and Monroe St. to the south. The Park is open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Plan your visit at [MillenniumPark.org](http://MillenniumPark.org); follow us on [Facebook](#) (@MillenniumParkChicago), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) (@Millennium\_Park); and join the conversation on social media using #MillenniumPark.