



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
RICCARDO MUTI MUSIC DIRECTOR

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

For Immediate Release:
September 16, 2022

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

RICCARDO MUTI OPENS THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 132ND SEASON IN SEPTEMBER WITH THREE-WEEK CSO RESIDENCY

**Muti and the CSO Perform U.S. Premiere of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's
Solemn Prelude on Opening Program (September 22, 23 & 27)**

**Renowned Pianist Yefim Bronfman joins Muti and CSO for Performances of
Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 (September 22, 23 & 27) and
Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 at Symphony Ball Concert on September 24**

**Muti and CSO Perform Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony for the First Time Together on
Program with Mozart's Symphony No. 39 and
Rossini's Overture to *Il viaggio a Reims* (September 29-October 1)**

Muti and CSO Perform Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition* (October 6-8)

SEPTEMBER 22–OCTOBER 8, 2022

CHICAGO — Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago in September to begin his 13th season of artistic collaboration with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and to open the 2022/23 season, the Orchestra's 132nd and Muti's culminating season as music director. His three-week residency in September and October includes three subscription concert programs and the annual Symphony Ball Gala concert.

Renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman joins Muti and the CSO to perform Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 on a program that also features the U.S. premiere of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Solemn Prelude* and Tchaikovsky's Second Symphony, with the final performance of the program on September 27 marking Muti's 500th concert with the CSO since his debut in 1973 ([September 22, 23 & 27](#)). Muti, Bronfman and the CSO also perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 on [September 24](#) as part of the

Symphony Ball concert during the opening weekend of the new season. For the first time together, Muti and the CSO perform Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony on a program with Mozart's Symphony No. 39 and Rossini's Overture to *Il viaggio a Reims* ([September 29-October 1](#)). In the final week of the fall residency, Muti and the CSO perform Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition* ([October 6-8](#)). For program, ticket and patron information, visit cso.org.

Muti & Bronfman ([September 22, 23 & 27](#))

Muti's multi-week residency opens with a subscription concert program featuring renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman in performances of Brahms' First Piano Concerto. Dramatic power contrasts with moments of melancholy and tenderness in this concerto, Brahms' first major orchestral work, that evokes the deep emotional impact he felt in response to the death of composer Robert Schumann in 1856.

Bronfman is one of several artists, including violinist Julia Fischer, who appears with Muti and the CSO in February 2023, who have collaborated with Muti earlier in his tenure as music director and renew their artistic partnership in performances this season.

Bronfman's illustrious career spans more than four decades, and he has returned to perform regularly with the CSO since his debut in 1984 at the Ravinia Festival and has appeared on the Symphony Center Presents Piano and Chamber series more than 10 times. Bronfman previously performed Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2 with Muti and the CSO in January 2015 subscription concerts, as well as in concert at Carnegie Hall. He also joined Muti and the Orchestra to perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 in 2017 subscription concerts and Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 at the 2011 Symphony Ball concert. His recordings and performances continue to garner critical acclaim, including recent performances at the 2022 Verbier and Salzburg festivals.

The program opens with the U.S. premiere of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Solemn Prelude*, a masterful work that was recently rediscovered by the U.K.'s Three Choirs Festival, who originally commissioned and premiered it in 1899. The work was reintroduced at the Festival in a 2021 performance after their artistic team uncovered the original orchestral score in the British Library and worked with publisher Faber Music to create new orchestral parts. Coleridge-Taylor, a British composer of African descent, was known to CSO audiences early in his notable career. This was partly due an emphasis on innovative programming by the Orchestra's first music director Theodore Thomas. The conductor led performances of Coleridge-Taylor's popular aria from the *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* in 1900, and his Ballade – also a Three Choirs Festival commission – which Thomas and the CSO gave its U.S. premiere in 1903. The CSO recently performed Coleridge-Taylor's Ballade with Jakub Hruška in November 2021 subscription concerts and at Ravinia in August 2022 with conductor Peter

Oundjian.

The program concludes with Tchaikovsky's Second Symphony, which weaves several traditional Ukrainian folk themes into the score. The four-movement symphony is filled with melodic richness and invention, including a folksy yet lively scherzo and the majestic opening of the final movement that anticipates Mussorgsky's Promenade and The Great Gate of Kiev in *Pictures from an Exhibition*. Muti and the CSO previously performed Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2 in 2015 subscription concerts as part of a complete Tchaikovsky symphony cycle in the 2014/15 Season.

The concert on September 27 marks Muti's 500th performance with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since making his CSO podium debut at the Ravinia Festival in 1973 with a program that included Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition*, which is also part of Muti's third fall residency program (Oct. 6-8).

Symphony Ball ([September 24](#))

This annual celebration is part of the opening weekend of the new concert season and begins with red-carpet arrivals and a champagne toast for all concertgoers. The festive evening continues with Riccardo Muti and the CSO performing music by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, as well as Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 with internationally renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman as soloist and Tchaikovsky's symphonic poem *Francesca da Rimini*.

The fundraiser is presented in partnership by the CSOA and the Women's Board of the CSOA with all ticket proceeds benefiting the organization's artistic, educational and community engagement programs in Chicago and across the globe. Gala ticket packages include the concert at Symphony Center along with a post-concert reception and dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago and can be reserved online at cso.org/symphonyball.

Muti Conducts Mozart & Prokofiev ([September 29-October 1](#))

Muti's second program opens with Rossini's Overture to *Il viaggio a Reims* (Journey to Reims), which features many of the signature elements found in his popular overtures such as a grand opening, lyrical and playful sections for woodwinds and a thrilling finale. The program continues with Mozart's Symphony No. 39, one of the three final symphonies by the composer that demonstrate his mastery of classical form. The inventive work includes elegant, almost chamber-like writing for the ensemble and includes a minuet that suggests a traditional Austrian ländler, which gives way to sheer brilliance and light in the final movement.

Completing the program is Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony, which Muti and the CSO perform for the first time together in these concerts and that Muti recorded with the

Philadelphia Orchestra to critical acclaim. During his tenure as music director, Muti and the CSO have performed nine other Prokofiev works together, including a Suite from *Romeo and Juliet*, which was released in 2014 as a CSO Resound recording.

Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 was written in 1944 at the height of World War II, with the composer aspiring to glorify the human spirit at a time when people had faced countless challenges. The composer said the work was about "praising the free and happy man — his strength, his generosity, and the purity of his soul." Prokofiev went on to note "I cannot say I chose this theme. It was born in me and had to express itself." The symphony opens with dramatic intensity characteristic of Prokofiev's work at that time, followed by a lighter, more humorous scherzo before continuing with a brooding, yet lyrical adagio and a finale that signals a brighter future.

Seven CSO musicians who have retired from the Orchestra will be recognized with the Theodore Thomas medallion for distinguished service at upcoming concerts, including Paul Phillips (violin), Fox Fehling (violin), Joe Di Bello (bass), former Principal Harp Sarah Bullen, former Assistant Principal Oboe Michael Henoch, Dennis Michel (bassoon) and J. Lawrie Bloom (clarinet/bass clarinet). Riccardo Muti will present the award to CSO musicians at the September 29 and October 1 performances.

Muti Conducts Pictures from an Exhibition ([October 6-8](#))

Muti's fall residency concludes with a subscription concert program that includes Cesar Franck's symphonic poem *Le chausser maudit* (The Accursed Huntsman). The work is loosely based on the 18th century Romantic ballad *Der wilde Jäger* (The Wild Hunter) by German poet Gottfried August Bürger, which describes a Count who ignores the holy day of the Sabbath to go hunting and incurs a dreaded curse. Franck created a thrilling and evocative work that is filled with the sounds of hunting horns and includes four distinct scenes: The Peaceful Sunday Morning, The Hunt, The Curse, and The Demons' Chase.

The program closes with Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition*. After suffering the tragic and unexpected loss of his dear friend, the architect and painter Victor Hartmann, the Mussorgsky originally wrote the iconic 10-movement work for piano as a tribute to Hartmann. The composer drew inspiration for the work from the artist's vivid and imaginative paintings, many of which represent traditional Russian motifs. In the famous orchestration by Ravel, Mussorgsky's *Pictures* harnesses the full power and color of the orchestra in memorable sections including Promenade, Ballet of the Chicks in Their Shells, The Tuileries, The Old Castle and The Great Gate of Kiev.

Muti and the CSO have performed *Pictures from an Exhibition* multiple times together, including at his 1973 podium debut at the Ravinia Festival, in 2016 subscription concerts and on the 2017 European tour, which included performances at Hamburg's

Elbphilharmonie, Milan's Teatro alla Scala and Vienna's Musikverein.

The originally scheduled program for the October 6-8 subscription concerts featuring pianist Maurizio Pollini as soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 27 has been affected by the cancellation of his American tour in October. The program will retain the Franck and Mussorgsky works with the full revised program for these concerts to be announced.

New CSO Resound Recording – *Cavalleria rusticana*

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra will release the 11th recording with Music Director Riccardo Muti on its CSO Resound label — *Cavalleria rusticana* — for digital download and streaming through platforms including Apple Music, Amazon Music and Spotify, as well as [symphonystore.com](https://www.symphonystore.com), on September 16, 2022. *Cavalleria rusticana* also marks the first CSO Resound release to be available in Spatial Audio with Dolby Atmos® format. The CD release, which will be available at retailers worldwide in late 2022, is available now for pre-order at online retail outlets, including [symphonystore.com](https://www.symphonystore.com).

The CSO Resound release of *Cavalleria rusticana* by 19th-century Italian composer Pietro Mascagni captures one of the most famous examples of verismo opera in the repertoire. The vivid musical drama retains all the urgency and impact of this seminal work in a concert performance recorded live in Orchestra Hall in February 2020. It features Riccardo Muti leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, chorus director), and soloists including mezzo-soprano Anita Rachvelishvili as Santuzza; tenor Piero Pretti, in a CSO debut, as Turiddu; baritone Luca Salsi as Alfio; mezzo-soprano Ronnita Miller as Lucia, Alfio's mother; and mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke as Lola, Alfio's wife.

Riccardo Muti – Summer 2022 Concerts and Activities

After concluding his 2021/22 Season appearances with the CSO in critically heralded performances of Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* and in a free community concert for 12,000 people in Millennium Park's Pritzker Pavilion in June, Muti embarked on a summer of music-making across Europe.

He first traveled with his Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra for performances of the 25th edition of the Roads of Friendship, a project of the Ravenna Festival, this year offering July concerts at holy sites in two cities — Lourdes, France and Loreto, Italy. The two concerts were dedicated to the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, the city of Mary, and the victims of all wars. Artists from the chorus of the National Opera Theater of Ukraine "Taras Shevchenko," who had performed in the 2018 Roads of Friendship concerts in Kyiv, joined Muti, the Cherubini Orchestra and distinguished soloists in this year's concerts for Vivaldi's *Magnificat*. Following the Roads of Friendship concerts, Muti and the Cherubini Orchestra launched a five-concert tour that began at Slovenia's Ljubljana

Festival. On July 25, between concerts in Bari and Ravello, Muti received the 2022 Premio Segreti d'Autore (Author's Secrets Award) in honor of his commitment to young musicians.

In August, Muti returned for his annual concerts with the Vienna Philharmonic at the Salzburg Festival – a tradition that has continued uninterrupted for more than 50 years – performing Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony, Liszt's *From the Cradle to the Grave* and Boito's Prologue in Heaven from *Mefistofele*.

On August 30, on the island of Capri, Muti was honored with the 27th Faraglioni Prize for his lifelong contributions to arts and culture. The award, a silver sculpture set upon a blue marble base that depicts the three famous coastal rock formations on the island's southern coast, was presented to Muti by the Mayor of Capri Marino Lembo at a gala event in the theater of the Grand Hotel Quisisana.

Patron Information

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org), by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000) (Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) or by emailing patronservices@cso.org.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) is committed to creating a comfortable, enjoyable and safe environment for its musicians, patrons and staff. To ensure everyone's visit to Symphony Center is safe and sound, the CSOA will continue to modify guidelines and the concert experience, based on the latest public health recommendations and in consultation with leading health experts.

Patrons are encouraged to visit [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.cso.org/safeandsound) for audience protocol instructions and the most recent information.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

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

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

The performances on September 22, 23 and 27 are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

Northern Trust is the presenting sponsor of Symphony Ball.

The performances on September 29, 30 and October 1 are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The performances on October 6, 7 and 8 are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Programs are sponsored by the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

###

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, September 22, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, September 23, 2022, 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 27, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Riccardo Muti, conductor
Yefim Bronfman, piano

COLERIDGE-
TAYLOR *Solemn Prelude***
 [United States Premiere]
BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 1
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 2

Tickets: \$45-\$250

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, September 24, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Symphony Ball
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor
Yefim Bronfman, piano

COLERIDGE-
TAYLOR *Solemn Prelude***
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 22
TCHAIKOVSKY *Francesca da Rimini*

Tickets: \$46-\$275

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, September 29, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 30, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 1, 2022, 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra**Riccardo Muti**, conductorROSSINI *Overture to Il viaggio a Reims*MOZART *Symphony No. 39*PROKOFIEV *Symphony No. 5*

Tickets: \$45-\$275

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, October 6, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 7, 2022, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 8, 2022, 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra**Riccardo Muti**, conductor**Program to include:**FRANCK *Le chasseur maudit*

MUSSORGSKY,

ORCH. RAVEL *Pictures from an Exhibition*

Tickets: \$49-\$250

* DENOTES ARTISTS MAKING THEIR CSO DEBUT

** DENOTES CSO FIRST PERFORMANCE

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

riccardomutioperacademy.com

riccardomutimusic.com

Chicago Symphony Orchestra: 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 eleven 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 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.