

For Immediate Release:
April 22, 2024

Press Contacts:
[Hannah Sundwall](#)
312-294-3083

[Eileen Chambers](#)
312-294-3092

MAY PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

CHICAGO — May 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. May CSO concert highlights include podium debut appearances for conductor Elim Chan (May 2-4) and conductor Kazuki Yamada, who leads the CSO's first performance of Takemitsu's *How slow the Wind* (May 16-21). Esteemed Estonian conductor Neeme Järvi leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in performances of Mahler's Symphony No. 2 (*Resurrection*), featuring soprano Mari Eriksmoen in her CSO debut and mezzo-soprano Karen Cargill in her CSO subscription debut (May 23-25). Conductor Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider returns to lead the CSO and perform as soloist in Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 2 (May 9-11), and Manfred Honeck leads the world premiere of Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery's CSO-commissioned concerto *Procession*, written for and performed by CSO Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh (May 30-June 1). The CSO also welcomes featured guest artists in May, including Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs (May 2-4) and *Gramophone* Music Award-winning pianist Martin Helmchen (May 16-21).

The Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series welcomes Grammy Award-winning pianist Evgeny Kissin (May 19), and the 30th season of the SCP Jazz series concludes on May 17 with an evening of duets with Grammy Award-winning legends Dianne Reeves (vocals), Chucho Valdés (piano) and Joe Lovano (saxophone).

The CSO at the Movies series continues in May with Steven Spielberg's 1977 Academy Award-nominated *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (May 3-5). The John Williams score features the return of conductor Richard Kaufman leading the CSO and Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by Associate Director Cheryl Frazes Hill.

Singer-songwriter and Grammy Award nominee Cody Fry joins the CSO and conductor Steven Reineke for a one-night-only concert on May 13.

On May 10, Fellows from the Civic Orchestra of Chicago collaborate with members from the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) and special guest Douglas Ewart for an exciting evening of contemporary chamber music at Epiphany Center for the Arts.

CSO for Kids programming continues with a playful water and sea-themed concert, *Sound Waves* (May 11), featuring conductor Tania Miller leading the CSO. *Once Upon a Symphony* returns with two performances of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* (May 18), produced and presented in partnership with Chicago Children's Theatre.

The CSO Chamber Music series returns to the Symphony Center on May 14 with a program featuring the CSO Brass Quintet.

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

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

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Sheherazade ([May 2-4](#))

Principal conductor of the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra Elim Chan makes her CSO debut leading a program featuring Weber's Overture to *Der Freischütz* (*The Marksman*) and Rimsky-Korsakov's sumptuous symphonic suite *Sheherazade*, inspired by the legendary heroine and tales of *One Thousand and One Nights*. To complete the program, Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs is the featured soloist in Barber's *Toccata festiva*, an exuberant showcase for organ containing echoes of J.S. Bach.

This CSO program offers several opportunities to enhance the concert experience, including a May 2 Classic Encounter multimedia discussion hosted by Chicago's Terri Hemmert with CSO bassoonist Miles Maner, which patrons may add to a ticket order after selecting seats for the concert. On Saturday May 4, patrons can request their own poetry commissions with Chicago's own poet-collective, Poems While You Wait, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Grainger Ballroom (open to all May 4 ticketholders with no additional ticket required).

Mozart & Stravinsky ([May 9-11](#))

Music director of the Orchestre National de Lyon and violinist Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider leads the CSO as soloist in Mozart's richly melodic Violin Concerto No. 2 and the first subscription concert performance of Kreisler's wistful *Liebesleid*. Trading violin bow for baton, Szeps-Znaider conducts Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* Suite, which shines a spotlight on the orchestra's principal players. Mozart's *Prague* Symphony concludes the program.

Helmchen Plays Beethoven ([May 16-20](#))

Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Kazuki Yamada makes his CSO debut and joins *Gramophone* Music Award-winning pianist Martin Helmchen in Beethoven's First Piano Concerto. With sounds evoking traditional Japanese instruments and dreamlike seascapes, the CSO's first performance of Takemitsu's *How slow the Wind* opens the program. César Franck's brooding Symphony in D Minor concludes the program.

Mahler Resurrection ([May 23-25](#))

Gramophone Music Lifetime Achievement Award winning, Estonian-American conductor Neeme Järvi leads Mahler's Symphony No. 2 (*Resurrection*), exploring themes of death and afterlife using an expansive orchestra, offstage brass and percussion, chorus and vocal soloists. Mezzo-soprano Karen Cargill makes her CSO subscription debut and joins soprano Mari Eriksmoen in her CSO debut with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by guest chorus director James Bass.

Montgomery & Bruckner 7 ([May 30-June 1](#))

Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Manfred Honeck leads the CSO in two captivating works. The program begins with the world premiere of Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery's the CSO-commissioned percussion concerto *Procession*, written for Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh. Closing the program is Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, which takes inspiration from the music of Romantic-era composer Richard Wagner and combines elements of drama and rapturous intensity, with other influences including an Austrian country folk dance.

The June 1 performance of Montgomery & Bruckner 7 is a part of the 2023/24 Season of CSO MusicNOW and includes a special postconcert experience with the featured artists. More information is available at cso.org/musicnow.

CSO at the Movies

Close Encounters of the Third Kind in Concert ([May 3-5](#))

Principal Pops Conductor Laureate of Orange County's Pacific Symphony Richard Kaufman leads the CSO and Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by Associate Director Cheryl Frazes Hill, in John Williams' score to *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Nominated for eight Academy Awards including Best Original Score, Steven Spielberg's sci-fi masterpiece stars Richard Dreyfuss as an Indiana utility worker who experiences a close encounter with a UFO.

CSO for Kids

Sound Waves ([May 11](#))

Artistic Director and conductor of the National Academy Orchestra of Canada and of Brott Opera Tania Miller leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in a program that dives into the wonder and symbolism of water. The program features works such as Saint-Saëns' Aquarium from *The Carnival of the Animals*, Tchaikovsky's Waltz from *The Sleeping Beauty*, Smetana's The Moldau from *Má vlast*, Stravinsky's Suite from *The Firebird*, Tania Miller's own *Under Sea, Above Sky* and more. This program is recommended for children ages 5-12.

Family Matinee attendees are invited to participate in pre- and postconcert activities at Symphony Center from 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The free Orchestra Explorer Activities are located on floors 1-5 of the Symphony Center Rotunda and include a scavenger hunt, instrument petting zoo, tambourine craft and more.

Once Upon a Symphony: Goldilocks and the Three Bears ([May 18](#))

Once Upon a Symphony combines vibrant music played by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, storytelling and enchanting visuals for a playful concert experience, and is produced and presented in partnership with Chicago Children's Theatre. Delightful musical selections combine with the classic story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, playfully explores the wide and wonderful world of the forest through Goldilocks' eyes and some of the responsibilities that come along with growing older.

CSO Chamber Music

CSO Brass Quintet Plays Bach & More ([May 14](#))

The CSO Chamber Music series continues at Symphony Center with the CSO Brass Quintet, comprising of Esteban Batallán (Principal Trumpet), John Hagstrom (trumpet), David Griffin (horn), Michael Mulcahy (trombone) and Gene Pokorny (Principal Tuba). The ensemble presents a program of arrangements, including Adagio and Fugue in C Major from Bach's Toccata, Bruckner's Christus factus est, Mendelssohn's Centone No.

3 and Gershwin's Three Preludes, as well as quintet favorites like Reynold's March from Suite for Brass Quintet, Gengembre's *Souffle du ciel sur l'acier* and Kompanek's Killer Tango.

CSO Featured Concert

Cody Fry with the CSO ([May 13](#))

Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, composer, arranger and Chicago-area native Cody Fry brings his one-of-a-kind show that features the intimacy of the piano combined with the strength of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Steven Reineke. Fry's recent albums include *The End*, *Symphonic* and *Symphony Sessions*.

Symphony Center Presents Piano

Evgeny Kissin ([May 19](#))

Grammy Award-winning pianist Evgeny Kissin returns to Symphony Center for Beethoven's Sonata No. 27, Chopin's expressive Nocturne in F-Sharp Minor and Fantasy in F Minor and Brahms' lyrical Four Ballades, written in his youth at the beginning of his romantic infatuation with Clara Schumann. Prokofiev's exhilarating Sonata No. 2 in D Minor completes the program.

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

Duets: Dianne Reeves, Chucho Valdés & Joe Lovano ([May 17](#))

With thirteen Grammy Awards between them, join NEA Jazz Master vocalist Dianne Reeves, Afro-Cuban pianist Chucho Valdés and saxophonist Joe Lovano for an evening of duets at Symphony Center.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Civic at Epiphany Center for the Arts: Civic Fellows Chamber Concert ([May 10](#))

Join Civic Fellows in collaboration with members of International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) and special guest and multi-instrumentalist Douglas Ewart in an evening of enthralling contemporary chamber music curated by the performers. Works include Pauline Oliveros' *Rock Piece*, in which performers make music with rocks and move around the performance area; SiHyun Uhm's evocative *Dancing in the Rainforest* (flute, clarinet, cello); Elizabeth Raum's *Four Elements* (violin, trombone); Mario Diaz de León's adventurous *Trembling Time II* (violin, viola, cello), and Ewart's *Concentric*.

This event takes place at Epiphany Center for the Arts, 201 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL.

Food & Beverage

From lobby bars serving enticing selections of refreshments to sit-down dining experiences and options for unforgettable private events, there are a variety of opportunities to elevate your concert experience. Symphony Center's restaurant, Forte, features contemporary Mediterranean-influenced cuisine and classic cocktails, draft beer, locally roasted coffee and gelato.

The Thomas Club, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan, opens on select dates for dining. View menus, make reservations, and learn more about dining at the Thomas Club or Forte restaurant at [cso.org/dining](https://www.cso.org/dining).

Parking & Transit Options

Symphony Center and SpotHero, the nation's leading parking reservation app, have teamed up to help make parking easier. To reserve a parking spot, visit [spothero.com](https://www.spothero.com) or download the SpotHero app and search for Symphony Center. Valet parking is available for select performances at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Exclusive subscriber parking rates are available through the Grant Park South Garage. Visit [cso.org/parking](https://www.cso.org/parking) for more parking and transit options.

Patron Information

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org) 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.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances at Symphony Center and in neighborhood venues are free, but tickets are required unless otherwise noted. Seating is general admission, and there is a nonrefundable \$5 per ticket service fee for most performances that take place at Symphony Center. Tickets will become available two weeks prior to each concert.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

The CSO at the Movies series is generously sponsored by Megan and Steve Shebik.

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

The May 9-11 Mozart & Stravinsky concerts are generously sponsored by an anonymous donor.

The appearance of Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider is made possible in part by The Raymond and Eloise Niwa Endowment Fund.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association Youth Programming is sponsored by Allstate.

BMO Harris is the CSO for Kids/CPS Partnerships Corporate Sponsor.

The May 16-21 Helmchen Plays Beethoven concerts are generously sponsored by an anonymous donor.

Concert support for the Friday, May 17 matinee is generously provided by the Frank Family Fund in loving memory of Elaine and Zollie Frank.

The May 19 Evgeny Kissin performance is generously sponsored by Martha C. Nussbaum.

These performances are made possible through the generous support of the Nelson D. Cornelius Endowed Concert Fund, the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon, the Sargent Family Foundation, and the Patrons Circle for Mahler Resurrection.

The Montgomery & Bruckner 7 May 30-June 1 performances are generously sponsored by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation.

Major support for the Montgomery & Bruckner 7 June 1 MusicNOW performance is generously provided by the Zell Family Foundation, Sargent Family Foundation, Sally Mead Hands Foundation, Julian Family Foundation and The Aaron Copland Fund for Music.

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

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

Support for Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association programming for children and families is provided by Abbott Fund, John D. and Leslie Henner Burns, John Hart and Carol Prins, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Kinder Morgan, The Negaunee Foundation, PNC,

Courtney Shea, Megan and Steve Shebik, Michael and Linda Simon, the Walter and Caroline Sueske Charitable Trust and an anonymous family foundation.

Funding for educational programs during the 2023/24 Season of SCP Jazz has been generously provided by Dan J. Epstein, Judith Guitelman and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation. The CSOA thanks the Epstein Family Foundation for ten consecutive years of generous, innovative support for the SCP Jazz Education program.

The 2023/24 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

Major support for the Civic Orchestra of Chicago also provided by Robert and Joanne Crown Income Charitable Fund; Leslie Fund, Inc.; Judy and Scott McCue; Barbara and Barre Seid Foundation; The George L. Shields Foundation, Inc.; The Maval Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

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

#

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. Jessie Montgomery is Mead Composer-in-Residence and Hilary Hahn is CSO Artist-in-Residence.

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](https://www.cso.org/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.