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## **CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MAKES EUROPEAN TOUR WITH JAAP VAN ZWEDEN IN MAY 2025 WITH MAHLER SYMPHONIES 6 & 7**

**CSO and Jaap van Zweden Open European Tour with Two Concerts at the  
Mahler Festival 2025 in Amsterdam, Followed by Return Appearances in Hamburg  
and Dresden and Debut Appearances in Prague and Wrocław, Poland**

**May 14-23, 2025**

CHICAGO — The [Chicago Symphony Orchestra \(CSO\)](#) makes a five-city, eight-concert European tour with internationally acclaimed conductor [Jaap van Zweden](#) ([May 14-23](#)) that marks their first international tour together. Jaap van Zweden has conducted the CSO regularly since his 2008 debut with the Orchestra and has led critically hailed performances of music by Gustav Mahler during these engagements, including his first CSO appearance at the Ravinia Festival in a 2012 performance of Mahler's Sixth Symphony. Prior to the European tour, van Zweden will lead CSO performances of Mahler's Symphony No. 7 ([April 17-19](#)) and Symphony No. 6 ([May 8-9](#)) at Symphony Center in Chicago.

The CSO and Jaap van Zweden launch their European Tour at the Mahler Festival 2025 with performances of Mahler's Sixth and Seventh Symphonies at Amsterdam's renowned Concertgebouw on [May 14](#) and [15](#). The CSO is the only North American orchestra to perform at the prestigious festival that is being presented for only the third time since 1920 and the first time since 1995. It also marks the CSO's first return to the Concertgebouw since 2008 concerts with Principal Conductor Bernard Haitink that included a performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 6. The other international orchestras invited to perform Mahler's symphonies at the Mahler Festival 2025 are the Royal

Concertgebouw Orchestra under Chief Conductor Designate Klaus Mäkelä, the Berliner Philharmoniker under Principal Conductor Kirill Petrenko and guest conductor Daniel Barenboim, Tokyo's NHK Symphony Orchestra under Chief Conductor Fabio Luisi and the Budapest Festival Orchestra under its Founder and Chief Conductor Iván Fischer. Dutch public television and radio will offer live broadcasts in the Netherlands of the CSO's performances as part of their overall coverage of the Mahler Festival 2025, which will also share live broadcasts to the lawn of Amsterdam's famous Museumplein near the Concertgebouw as part of free community programming. Visit [mahlerfestival.nl](https://mahlerfestival.nl) for more information. The CSO's Mahler Festival 2025 programs are also scheduled for future release locally on WFMT 98.7FM and on the Orchestra's nationally syndicated radio broadcast series with details to be announced.

The CSO and Jaap van Zweden continue their European tour with return appearances for the Orchestra at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie on [May 17](#) and [18](#) and Dresden's Kulturpalast on [May 19](#), as well as debut appearances in Prague on [May 20](#) in Smetana Hall at the Prague Spring Festival, and on [May 22](#) and [23](#) at the National Forum of Music in Wrocław, Poland to conclude the tour.

Throughout the Chicago Symphony's history, the symphonies of Gustav Mahler have been a key component of the Orchestra's repertoire. Second music director Frederick Stock and the Orchestra first introduced the composer's music to Chicago audiences in 1907, performing the Fifth Symphony. Since then, there have been notable performances — in Chicago, at the Ravinia Festival, in Carnegie Hall, and on tour throughout Asia and Europe — as well as on numerous award-winning recordings. After hearing the Seventh Symphony at the first Mahler festival in Amsterdam in 1920, Stock led the CSO in the U.S. premiere on April 15, 1921. The Sixth was the last of the composer's symphonies to enter the Orchestra's repertoire, first led by guest conductor Antal Doráti in 1968.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra continues a long and distinguished tradition as cultural ambassadors. The ensemble regularly tours nationally, and since 1892, has made 64 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents, with their most recent being a critically hailed U.S. tour in January 2025 led by Riccardo Muti, the CSO's music director emeritus for life.

European tour concert and ticket information is available at [cso.org/europetour](https://cso.org/europetour).

All artists and programs are subject to change.

Support for the 2025 CSO European Tour is generously provided by the Zell Family Foundation, Julian Family Foundation and Margot and Josef Lakonishok.

Support for the 2025 CSO European Tour performances in Hamburg, Germany, is provided by Abbott.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
Mahler Festival 2025  
Concertgebouw  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 8:15 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Jaap van Zweden**, conductor

MAHLER    Symphony No. 6

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
Mahler Festival 2025  
Concertgebouw  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 8:15 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Jaap van Zweden**, conductor

MAHLER    Symphony No. 7

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
Elbphilharmonie  
Hamburg, Germany

Saturday, May 17, 2025, 8:00 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Jaap van Zweden**, conductor

MAHLER    Symphony No. 6

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
Elbphilharmonie  
Hamburg, Germany

Sunday, May 18, 2025, 8:00 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Jaap van Zweden**, conductor

MAHLER    Symphony No. 7

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
Dresden Music Festival  
Kulturpalast  
Dresden, Germany

Monday, May 19, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Jaap van Zweden**, conductor

MAHLER    Symphony No. 7

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
Prague Spring Festival

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 8:00 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Smetana Hall  
Prague, Czech Republic

**Jaap van Zweden**, conductor

MAHLER     Symphony No. 6

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
National Forum of Music  
Wrocław, Poland

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Jaap van Zweden**, conductor

MAHLER     Symphony No. 6

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
National Forum of Music  
Wrocław, Poland

Friday, May 23, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Jaap van Zweden**, conductor

MAHLER     Symphony No. 7

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## **Jaap van Zweden**

Jaap van Zweden is currently Music Director of the Seoul Philharmonic and Music Director-Designate of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. From the 2018/19 season through the 2023/24 season he served as the 26th Music Director of the New York Philharmonic, and he was the Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic for 12 seasons running from 2012 to 2024.

He has conducted orchestras on three continents, appearing as guest with, in Europe, the Orchestre de Paris, Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, the Staatskapelle Berlin, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, the Tonhalle-Orchestra Zurich and London Symphony Orchestra, and, in the United States, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony and other distinguished ensembles.

Maestro van Zweden begins his 2024/25 season in Amsterdam with four performances with the Hong Kong Philharmonic in the Concertgebouw, and a concert performance of *Der fliegende Holländer* with the Netherlands Radio Orchestra, where he holds the title of Honorary Chief Conductor. He will also be part of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra's celebration of Anton Bruckner's Bicentenary, conducting the composer's 4th Symphony. Later he will lead the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France in the orchestra's annual presentation of Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

This season will also see a deepening of van Zweden's relationship with the Chicago Symphony, with whom he will conduct Mahler's 6th and 7th Symphonies in Chicago and then on a European tour with stops in cities such as Amsterdam, Hamburg and Prague, among others. Elsewhere in the USA he will conduct the Cincinnati Symphony for the first time, and he will return to the Dallas Symphony, where he served as Music Director from 2008 to 2018. Alongside his work in Seoul and with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, van Zweden's presence as leading light in the Asian classical music scene will be underscored this season by appearances with orchestras in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Maestro van Zweden's tenure as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic was distinguished by such highlights as the reopening of the transformed David Geffen Hall, as well as World, US, and New York Premieres of 31 new works. Among them are pieces commissioned through Project 19 — which

marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution with new works by 19 women composers, among them Tania León's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Stride*. Over the course of van Zweden's time in New York, he conducted repertoire ranging from Beethoven and Bruckner to premieres by Marcos Balter, Etienne Charles, Caroline Shaw and Carlos Simon, in addition to the works by Wolfe and Adams.

Jaap van Zweden's New York Philharmonic recordings include the World Premiere of David Lang's *prisoner of the state* (2020), and Wolfe's Grammy-nominated *Fire in my mouth* (2019), both released on the Decca Gold label. He conducted the Hong Kong Philharmonic in first-ever performances in Hong Kong of Wagner's Ring Cycle, released on the Naxos label. His acclaimed performances of *Lohengrin*, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and *Parsifal* — the last of which earned him the prestigious Edison Award for Best Opera Recording in 2012 — are available on CD and DVD.

Born in Amsterdam, Jaap van Zweden, at age 19, was appointed the youngest-ever concertmaster of Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and began his conducting career almost 20 years later, in 1996. In April 2023, van Zweden received the Concertgebouw Prize, for exceptional contributions to that organization's artistic profile. He remains Conductor Emeritus of the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra and Honorary Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, where he was Chief Conductor (2005–13); he also served as Chief Conductor of the Royal Flanders Orchestra (2008–11). Under his leadership, the Hong Kong Philharmonic was named Gramophone's Orchestra of the Year in 2019. He was named *Musical America's* 2012 Conductor of the Year and was the subject of an October 2018 CBS 60 Minutes profile on the occasion of his arrival at the New York Philharmonic.

In 1997 Jaap van Zweden and his wife, Aaltje, established the Papageno Foundation to support families of children with autism. The Foundation has grown into a multifaceted organization that focuses on the development of children and young adults with autism. The Foundation provides in-home music therapy through a national network of qualified music therapists in the Netherlands; opened the Papageno House in 2015 (with Her Majesty Queen Maxima in attendance) for young adults with autism to live, work, and participate in the community; created a research center at the Papageno House for early diagnosis and treatment of autism and for analyzing the effects of music therapy on autism; develops funding opportunities to support autism programs; and, more recently, launched the app TEAMPapageno, which allows children with autism to communicate with each other through music composition.

### **About the Mahler Festival 2025**

From May 9-18, 2025, the Royal Concertgebouw will host the third Mahler Festival in its history. As a grand tribute to the composer, orchestras from around the world will come together in Amsterdam 105 years after the first Mahler Festival in 1920. During the Mahler Festival 2025, all of Gustav Mahler's symphonies and songs will be performed over 10 days in the Main Hall and Recital Hall of The Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. The symphonies will be performed in order: from number 1 to number 10. This makes the Festival — in the Main Hall — a unique chronological journey through Mahler's life and symphonic work. The symphonies are performed by various world-famous orchestras and conductors. In the Recital Hall, Mahler's complete song repertoire will be heard. Festival press information is available [here](#).

### **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](http://cso.org/radio). Launched in 2007, [CSO 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.