The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is one of the most compelling and dynamic forces in the world of music.

The Orchestra has earned an unparalleled global reputation, inspiring audiences in sold-out concert halls in hundreds of cities in 31 countries on 5 continents.

THE ARTISTRY IS UNSURPASSED.
THE PERFORMANCES ARE INSPIRATIONAL.
THE ACCLAIM IS UNIVERSAL.

You are invited to become a part of this illustrious legacy by joining the International Friends of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1891 with the belief that a great orchestra can enhance society, and that great music has the power to inspire, uplift and transform.

The orchestra has toured since its first year of existence, first domestically and then internationally.

In 2019, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra marked its 61st international tour and has performed in hundreds of cities throughout the world.

In every sense, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is an international ambassador for the power of great music and the universality of live performance.
TODAY, THE ORCHESTRA IS DEEPENING ITS ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WORLD MORE THAN EVER BEFORE by connecting with the widest possible audience in the most profound ways.

Since the beginning of his tenure as music director in 2010, Maestro Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra have reached a global audience through tours, radio broadcasts and projects such as the CSO’s first worldwide live video webcast of Verdi’s Requiem in 2013. Since its posting on the CSO’s YouTube channel in 2015, a live performance of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony has been viewed more than 17 million times by people in over 190 countries.

The Orchestra’s innovative and wide-ranging education and engagement programs reach hundreds of thousands of people each year at home and during tours. Each season, the Orchestra reaches an audience of more than 20 million through recordings, radio broadcasts, webcasts, streaming videos, and live performances in Chicago and around the world.
Riccardo Muti, music director since 2010, stands at the peak of a celebrated career that has endured for more than 5 decades. Through his extraordinary musicianship and exceptional vision, Maestro Muti has led the CSO in creating the latest chapter of its unequaled artistic legacy.

Maestro Muti is passionate about the power of music to heal and inspire.

Riccardo Muti works to bring the music of the CSO to all people, and his leadership continues to bring Chicago’s great orchestra to ever-higher levels of achievement and renown.
Your membership in the International Friends of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra gives you unrivaled access to the music and musicians of the CSO, both in Chicago and on tour, through a range of personalized benefits.

Through your commitment to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as a member of its International Friends, you ensure that the CSO remains a preeminent musical ensemble,

as it creates compelling experiences that captivate and inspire audiences both at home and abroad.

We invite you to join the International Friends of the CSO, and help to share the Orchestra and the music you love with audiences around the world.

For information, please contact Bobbie Rafferty at raffertyb@cso.org or 001 312-294-3165.