



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
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RICCARDO MUTI RETURNS TO CHICAGO IN MAY FOR THREE-WEEK RESIDENCY WITH THE CSO

Muti Leads World Premiere of *Transfigure to Grace* by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery on Program with Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2 and Wagner's Overture to *Tannhäuser* (May 11-16)

Muti Leads Program Featuring Mozart's *Gran Partita* and Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4 with Concertmaster Robert Chen as Soloist (May 18-23)

Muti Leads the CSO's First Performances of Kraft's Timpani Concerto No. 1 with Principal Timpani David Herbert in his CSO Solo Debut on Program with Works by Respighi and Mozart (May 25-27)

MAY 11-27, 2023

CHICAGO — Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago in May for a three-week residency as part of his 13th season of artistic collaboration with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) as music director. He leads three subscription concert programs that feature the world premiere of the CSO-commissioned work *Transfigure to Grace* by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery ([May 11-16](#)), concerto appearances by Concertmaster Robert Chen ([May 18-23](#)) and Principal Timpani David Herbert in his CSO solo debut ([May 25-27](#)) and a return to the music of Ottorino Respighi, including performances of *Pines of Rome*, which Muti conducted in his first concert as music director of the CSO in 2010. As part of his ongoing commitment to the training of the next generation of musicians, Muti leads a free, open rehearsal with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago on [May 22](#) with a focus on selections from Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition*. He also leads open rehearsals for invited senior, veteran and community groups (May 11) and donors (May 25). A postconcert CD and book signing with Muti is also planned immediately following the May 25 concert. For program, ticket and patron information, visit [cso.org](#).

Muti, Montgomery & Rachmaninov 2 ([May 11-16](#))

Muti begins his multi-week spring residency with a program that features new music by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery, who is in the second of her three-year appointment with the CSO and was named *Musical America's* 2023 Composer of the Year. Montgomery's second commissioned work for the CSO, *Transfigure to Grace*, receives its world premiere on this program. The new work further explores ideas and themes from *Passage*, a 2019 ballet that offers a moving reflection on the fortitude of the human spirit and was created in recognition of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of enslaved Africans to Virginia in 1619. Drawing on this moment in history, the work suggests properties of water, from surging power to rippling currents. With moments of raw emotion, reflection and transformation, *Transfigure to Grace* is an orchestral suite with the French horn introducing the individual episodes within the piece. Montgomery says, "It is meant to evoke an unfinished chapter in our journey toward equality and grace of humankind."

The program opens with the overture to Wagner's opera *Tannhäuser* and concludes with Sergei Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2 as part of a season-long exploration of the composer's works 150 years after his birth.

Jessie Montgomery has served as the Mead Composer-in-Residence of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since her appointment by Muti in 2021. An acclaimed composer, violinist and educator, Montgomery's works are performed frequently around the world by leading musicians and ensembles. As Mead Composer-in-Residence, Montgomery curates repertoire and explores new multidisciplinary collaborations for MusicNOW, the CSO's contemporary music series, now in its 25th season. In addition to curating MusicNOW, she is commissioned for several chamber pieces set to premiere on the series. Montgomery is also commissioned to write three new orchestral works for the CSO, of which *Hymn to Everyone* was the first, premiering in 2022, and *Transfigure to Grace* is the second. Montgomery's third commissioned work for the CSO is a new Percussion Concerto written for Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh that is set to premiere in the 2023/24 Season. Montgomery holds degrees from the Juilliard School and New York University and is currently a doctoral candidate in music composition at Princeton University. She is also a professor of violin and composition at The New School.

Muti, Chen & Mozart Gran Partita ([May 18-23](#))

Muti's second May program features music from the late 18th century by the Italian composer Domenico Cimarosa and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The program includes Mozart's masterwork for wind ensemble, the Serenade No. 10 in B-flat Major, K. 370a (*Gran Partita*), which is scored for 12 wind instruments and string bass. CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen joins Muti and the Orchestra as soloist to perform Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4, one of five violin concertos Mozart wrote in 1775 at the age of 19.

Thought by some scholars to have been written for the renowned Italian violinist Antonio Brunetti, the concerto's slow movement suggests an opera aria, filled with sheer lyricism and beauty before reaching a finale that incorporates elements of a lively rustic dance. The program opens with Italian composer Domenico Cimarosa's Overture *Il matrimonio segreto*, his opera based on the 1766 play *The Clandestine Marriage*.

Robert Chen has been concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 1999. Since his appointment, he has performed as a soloist with the CSO and with conductors including Riccardo Muti, Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez and Bernard Haitink. In addition to his role as CSO concertmaster, Chen enjoys an acclaimed solo career that includes performances with major orchestras around the world in collaborations with such conductors as Myung-Whun Chung, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Manfred Honeck, among others. An avid chamber musician, Chen has toured extensively with Musicians from Marlboro and is also a founding member of the Johannes Quartet. He received both bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School, where he was a student of Dorothy DeLay and Masao Kawasaki.

Muti, Herbert & Pines of Rome ([May 25-27](#))

Muti concludes his May residency with a varied program that opens with Mozart's Divertimento in F Major, K. 138. Part of a set of works for string orchestra, it was written when the composer was only 16 and is filled with the elegant brilliance and beauty found in much of his music. Two of Italian composer Ottorino Respighi's vibrant orchestral tapestries are also part of the program. In the *Ancient Airs and Dances* Suite No. 1, Respighi takes inspiration from Renaissance lute music and refers to the *villanella*, a form of Neapolitan song, in several of the movements. The composer's *Pines of Rome* is a four-part work that transports the listener to settings across the city, from children at play in the Villa Borghese gardens to the catacombs, Janiculum Hill and a path along Rome's ancient Appian Way.

A focal point of the program is the CSO's first performance of percussionist and composer William Kraft's Timpani Concerto No. 1 featuring Principal Timpani David Herbert in his solo debut with the Orchestra. Kraft (1923-2022) was born in Chicago and moved to California at an early age. He went on to have a notable career as a percussionist, composer and educator, having served as the principal timpani, composer-in-residence and an associate conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Kraft's innovative Timpani Concerto No. 1 from 1983 ushered in an era of exploration and celebration of solo works for percussion and orchestra. The three-movement work, written for a set of five timpani, begins with the soloist using felt-covered fingers to create a soft entry that ultimately builds to an energetic conversation with the orchestra. The concerto continues with a slow movement that Kraft wrote in tribute to his mother, and which creates an atmosphere of meditation with the timpani employing rolls and glissandi to parallel the gentle currents and textures running through the ensemble. The

third movement marked “Fleeting,” is playful rondo with the timpani emerging at full power with colorful flourishes to finish the work.

David Herbert has served as principal timpani of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since his appointment by Music Director Riccardo Muti in 2013. Prior to joining the CSO, he was principal timpani of the San Francisco Symphony. Herbert made his professional solo debut with the St. Louis Symphony in 1991. Since then, he has appeared as a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, Shanghai Symphony, Sun Valley Summer Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra and the New World Symphony. A sought-after educator and chamber musician, Herbert currently serves as Adjunct Professor of Music at DePaul University and appears annually at the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan as PMF America International Guest Artist. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the St. Louis Conservatory of Music and a master’s degree from the Juilliard School.

Audiences are invited to attend a postconcert CD and book signing with Riccardo Muti immediately following the performance on Thursday, May 25. The signing will take place in Grainger Ballroom and is open to all ticketholders. Merchandise will be available for purchase in the Symphony Store, in the Ballroom and online in advance of the event.

Open Rehearsal ([May 22](#))

As part of his ongoing commitment to training the new generation of musicians, Muti leads the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in an open rehearsal of Ravel’s orchestration of Mussorgsky’s *Pictures from an Exhibition*. Since becoming music director in 2010, Muti has led multiple open rehearsals with the Civic Orchestra, and a historic side-by-side concert with Civic and CSO musicians in 2018 in Millennium Park.

Patron Information

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at 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.

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.

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

The performances May 11-16 are generously sponsored by an anonymous donor.

The performances on May 25-27 are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, May 11, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 12, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 13, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

WAGNER Overture to *Tannhäuser*

MONTGOMERY *Transfigure to Grace*
[World Premiere, CSO Commission]**

RACHMANINOV Symphony No. 2 in E Minor, Op. 27

Tickets: \$35-\$399

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 19, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 20, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

Robert Chen, violin

CIMAROSA Overture to *Il matrimonio segreto*

MOZART Violin Concerto No. 4 in D Major, K. 218

MOZART Serenade No. 10 in B-flat Major, K. 370a (*Gran Partita*)

Tickets: \$35-\$399

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Open Rehearsal

Monday, May 22, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Riccardo Muti, conductor

MUSSORGSKY *Pictures from an Exhibition*

Free and open to the public; tickets are required.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, May 25, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 26, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 27, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

David Herbert*, timpani

MOZART *Divertimento in F Major, K. 138*

KRAFT *Timpani Concerto No. 1***

RESPIGHI *Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite I*

RESPIGHI *Pines of Rome*

Tickets: \$65-\$399

* 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 eleven 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 63 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 Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have earned 64 Grammy Awards from the Recording Academy. Two Grammys were awarded 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.