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## **MARCH PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY**

CHICAGO — March 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. March CSO concert highlights include conductor Petr Popelka's CSO debut (March 1-2), soprano Ying Fang's CSO subscription debut and the world premiere of Lowell Liebermann's Second Flute Concerto, commissioned by the CSO and written for Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson, who is the featured soloist (March 21-24). The month also marks return podium appearances for Jakub Hruša (March 7-12 and March 14-16) and Susanna Mälkki (March 21-24) as well as the return of Gil Shaham (March 7-12) in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen and CSO Principal Oboe William Welter perform together in J.S. Bach's Concerto for Oboe and Violin on an all-Bach program (March 28-April 2).

On March 3, conductor Lidiya Yankovskaya returns to lead musicians from the CSO in a MusicNOW program curated by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and dedicated to composer-performers Curtis Stewart, Tania León and Tyshawn Sorey. The program features two world premieres and CSO MusicNOW commissioned works — *Resonance* by Stewart and *Concerto Grosso* by Montgomery. This event also includes preconcert performances with D-Composed, a Chicago-based Black chamber music collective, and a casual postconcert pizza party and meet-and-greet with the artists and composers.

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) programming includes several special concerts in March welcoming Cuban guitarist and singer Eliades Ochoa (March 8) and Max Raabe and the Palast Orchester (March 15). The SCP Piano series continues with Benjamin Grosvenor in a program that includes the U.S. premiere of the SCP co-commission of *Faustian Pact (Hommage à Liszt)* by Australian composer Brett Dean (March 10). The SCP Chamber Music series continues with Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Mitsuko Uchida (March 26). The 30th season of the SCP Jazz series continues with the return of 14-time Grammy Award winner Herbie Hancock to Symphony Center (March 30).

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago will present three concerts in March. On March 11 at Hinsdale Central High School, conductor Andrew Grams leads Civic in a celebration of Women's History Month with works composed by Florence Price, CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and Margaret Brouwer. On March 14, Civic Fellows will collaborate with the Chicago Refugee Coalition for an evening of musicmaking and storytelling — including spoken word and musical performances — celebrating the backgrounds, experiences and musical histories of the participants' lives. Civic musicians are also part of a Notes for Peace Celebration concert on March 19. Civic Fellows, families from Chicago community organization Purpose Over Pain, conductor Kyle Dickson, CSO Artist-in-Residence Hilary Hahn, guest artists from U.K.-based organization The Irene Taylor Trust, and Chicago-area vocalists come together for this evening of tribute to loved ones and community members lost to gun violence.

March's CSO Chamber Music series features the Meridian String Quartet, comprising CSO musicians Cornelius Chiu (violin), Kozue Funakoshi (violin), Youming Chen (viola) and Daniel Katz (cello) on March 19 at the Kehrein Center for the Arts (5628 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL).

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

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

## **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

### **Schubert & Beethoven ([March 1-2](#))**

Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, Petr Popelka makes his CSO debut with a program featuring Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides Overture*. The program also includes Schubert's Sixth Symphony and closes with Beethoven's Seventh Symphony.

### **Gil Shaham Plays Mendelssohn ([March 7-12](#))**

Returning to the Orchestra Hall stage after a special podium appearance in November 2023 with the Staatskapelle Berlin, renowned conductor Jakub Hrůša leads the CSO in

the first of his two subscription programs in March. Hrůša conducts Richard Strauss' tone poem *Death and Transfiguration* and Lutosławski's landmark Concerto for Orchestra from 1954 on a program that also features Grammy Award-winning violinist Gil Shaham as soloist in Mendelssohn's technically dazzling Violin Concerto.

**Also sprach Zarathustra** ([March 14-16](#))

Hrůša returns to the music of Strauss in his second CSO program, conducting *Also sprach Zarathustra*, whose iconic opening was popularized in the Stanley Kubrick film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Fellow Czech artist Josef Špaček makes his CSO debut in Martinů's Violin Concerto No. 1 on this program that closes with Bartók's pantomime ballet, *The Miraculous Mandarin*, a supernatural tale rendered in arresting orchestral colors.

**Mahler 4** ([March 21-24](#); [March 22](#), CSO at Wheaton series)

Helsinki Philharmonic Chief Conductor Emeritus Susanna Mälkki conducts a program anchored by Gustav Mahler's Fourth Symphony, featuring Chinese soprano Ying Fang in her CSO subscription debut. The program opens with Wagner's Prelude to Act I of *Lohengrin*, followed by the world premiere of American composer Lowell Liebermann's Second Flute Concerto, commissioned by the CSO and written for Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson, who is the featured soloist.

The March 22 performance takes place at Edman Memorial Chapel at 401 E. Franklin St., Wheaton, IL, 60187.

**The Music of Bach** ([March 28-April 2](#))

CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen leads a program of Bach's works for chamber orchestra, including the Third *Brandenburg* Concerto, Violin Concerto in E Major and Orchestral Suite No. 1. Also included on the program are the CSO's first performances of C.P.E. Bach's Sinfonia in E-flat Major, and CSO Principal Oboe William Welter joins Chen as a soloist in J.S. Bach's Concerto for Oboe and Violin in C Minor.

**CSO MusicNOW**

**Jessie Montgomery & Curtis Stewart** ([March 3](#))

Chicago Opera Theater Music Director Lidiya Yankovskaya leads musicians from the CSO in a program dedicated to composer-performers: four-time Grammy Award-nominated violinist and composer Curtis Stewart; Cuban composer, conductor, educator and London Philharmonic Orchestra Composer-in-Residence Tania León; composer, multi-instrumentalist and MacArthur fellow Tyshawn Sorey; and Grammy Award winner and CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery.

The program is curated by Montgomery and features two CSO MusicNOW commissions and world premieres — *Resonance* by Stewart and Concerto Grosso by Montgomery. León's *Arenas D'Un Tiempo* ("Sands of Time") written for clarinet, cello and piano opens the program, followed by Stewart's *of Love* and *Embrace* and Sorey's *For Fred Lerdahl*.

Enjoy a special preconcert performance at 3:45 p.m. in Grainger Ballroom by D-Composed, a Chicago-based Black chamber music collective formed in 2017 and led by their mission to uplift and empower society through the power of Black composers.

Following the concert, join composers and artists for a casual afterparty and meet-and-greet.

### **Symphony Center Presents Special Concerts**

#### **Eliades Ochoa ([March 8](#))**

Eliades Ochoa, one of the stars and founders of Buena Vista Social Club, makes his Symphony Center debut in this special concert. Coined "The Cuban Johnny Cash" for his iconic cowboy hat and preference for dressing in black, Ochoa is recognized as one of the best guitarists and Cuban *soneros* of his generation. Ochoa will perform works from his most recent album, *Guajiro*, as well as Buena Vista Social Club favorites.

#### **Max Raabe & Palast Orchester ([March 15](#))**

Singer and bandleader Max Raabe founded the Palast Orchester in 1986 to pay tribute to the music and style of Germany's Weimar Era. With a repertoire that includes Kurt Weill, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter standards, the 12-piece band brings to life the madcap fun and sophistication of Jazz Age Berlin with a wry, contemporary edge, interpreting modern pop songs in the style of the 20s alongside a mixture of well-known and newly discovered 20s and 30s originals, interspersed with Max Raabe compositions.

### **Symphony Center Presents Piano**

#### **Benjamin Grosvenor ([March 10](#))**

Following his 2022 CSO debut, British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor returns to Symphony Center with two of Chopin's commanding solo pieces, Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 23 and Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Minor, Op. 35. Completing the program is Liszt's Sonata in B Minor paired with the U.S. premiere of the SCP co-commission of *Faustian Pact (Homage à Liszt)* by Australian composer and former Berlin Philharmonic violist Brett Dean.

## **Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music**

### **Mahler Chamber Orchestra & Mitsuko Uchida ([March 26](#))**

Grammy Award-winning pianist and *Musical America's* 2022 Artist of the Year Mitsuko Uchida leads the Mahler Chamber Orchestra (MCO) in two of Mozart's piano concertos. Programmed between Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 17 and No. 22 is German composer Jörg Widmann's Choralquartett for chamber orchestra — arranged by the composer himself; originally scored for flute, oboe, bassoon and celesta, and premiered by the MCO in 2020.

## **Symphony Center Presents Jazz**

### **Herbie Hancock ([March 30](#))**

Fourteen-time Grammy Award winner, NEA Jazz Master, pioneering keyboardist and Chicago native Herbie Hancock returns to the Orchestra Hall stage for the 14th time and continues his 26-year history with the series.

## **Civic Orchestra of Chicago**

### **Civic in the Community: Celebrating Women Composers ([March 11](#))**

In a multigenerational program of works celebrating Women's History Month, conductor Andrew Grams leads the Civic Orchestra in Florence Price's Symphony No. 1. The program will also feature CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery's *Coincident Dances* and Margaret Brouwer's *Remembrances*, a poignant orchestral elegy.

This event takes place at Hinsdale Central High School, 5500 S. Grant St., Hinsdale, IL 60521. Tickets are free, but reservations are required.

### **Civic Fellows and Chicago Refugee Coalition ([March 14](#))**

Join the Civic Fellows in collaboration with Chicago Refugee Coalition in Buntrock Hall for a program that connects the benefits of musicmaking and storytelling with the efforts of the Chicago Refugee Coalition, supporting refugee and migrant families across the Chicagoland area. Through interviews, and with the support of Sara Lee and Rex Horan from The Irene Taylor Trust, Fellows will curate a concert that celebrates the backgrounds, experiences and musical histories of the participants' lives. Fellows will announce a program from the stage, including spoken word and musical performances.

### **A Notes for Peace Celebration ([March 19](#))**

Presented by the Neguanee Music Institute (NMI), this event celebrates NMI's partnership with Purpose Over Pain and the ongoing impact of the Notes for Peace program, which supports families who have lost loved ones to gun violence in Chicago.

The concert, conducted by Kyle Dickson, will feature current musicians from and alumni of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago; musicians from the Irene Taylor Trust; vocalists Journey Allison, Leah Dexter, Meagan McNeal, Sarah Ponder, Sarah Vander Ploeg and Simbryt Whittington Dortch, as well as violinist and CSO Artist-in-Residence Hilary Hahn. This program will premiere the 100th song written over 13 Notes for Peace project sessions.

For this concert, general admission “pay what you wish” tickets are available, meaning patrons can decide to pay any amount between \$1 and \$100, or reserve a free ticket. VIP packages, which include reserved concert seating and a reception with Hilary Hahn and families from Purpose Over Pain, are also available. [Explore](#) VIP packages.

## **CSO Chamber Music**

### **Meridian String Quartet at Kehrein Center for the Arts ([March 19](#))**

The Meridian String Quartet, comprising CSO musicians Cornelius Chiu (violin), Kozue Funakoshi (violin), Youming Chen (viola) and Daniel Katz (cello), presents a pair of 20th-century chamber works by Hungarian composers Zoltán Kodály and Béla Bartók. Kodály was passionate about preserving his heritage, and his String Serenade for two violins and viola is typical of his style: a blend of folk inspirations and modern harmonies, wrapped in a classical trio form. Béla Bartók’s String Quartet No. 5 is a modern masterpiece, representing a mellowing of the composer’s style by reducing dissonant sounds and increasing rich harmonies.

This event takes place at the Kehrein Center for the Arts at 5628 W. Washington, Chicago, IL 60644. This event is free. Tickets are required, and reservations open on March 5.

## **Food and 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 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).

## **Patron Information**

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](http://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; 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 become available two weeks prior to each concert.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

## **Parking and 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](http://spothero.com) or download the SpotHero app and search for Symphony Center. Valet parking is available for most 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](http://cso.org/parking) for more parking and transit options.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

The March 1 and 2 Schubert & Beethoven performances are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The appearance of Gil Shaham is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

The appearance of Josef Špaček is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

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The March 19 A Notes for Peace Celebration concert is generously sponsored by Paul and Lisa Wiggin.

The March 28-April 2 The Music of Bach performances are generously sponsored by the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon.

Support for the CSO at Wheaton series is provided by Megan and Steve Shebik.

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.

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.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra programs are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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**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. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, was named Music Director Emeritus for Life beginning with 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](https://www.cso.org/civic-orchestra-of-chicago) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. [Symphony Center Presents](https://www.cso.org/symphony-center-presents) features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The [Negaunee Music Institute](https://www.cso.org/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.