



**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION**  
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## **RICCARDO MUTI RETURNS TO CHICAGO IN SEPTEMBER TO LAUNCH CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 2021/22 SEASON**

**Muti Leads the CSO in Three Weeks of Concerts Featuring Works by Saint-Georges, Price and Mazzoli, Symphonies of Beethoven and Tchaikovsky and Brahms' Violin Concerto with Leonidas Kavakos as Soloist**

**Additional 2021/22 Season Highlights for Muti and CSO Include Programs featuring Works by Montgomery, Glass and Verdi**

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces that Riccardo Muti will return to Chicago in September 2021 to launch his 12th season as Music Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) with a three-week residency (September 23–October 9). Featuring the CSO's first performances of works by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges; Florence Price and Missy Mazzoli, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky symphonies and a collaboration with violinist Leonidas Kavakos, Muti's season-opening programs with the Orchestra represent their first performances together in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center since February 2020.

Additional 2021/22 season highlights for Muti with the CSO include world premieres of works by current and incoming Mead Composers-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli and Jessie Montgomery, the CSO's first performances of Florence Price's Symphony No. 3 and Philip Glass' Symphony No. 11, as well as performances of Beethoven's Fourth and Sixth symphonies, and the Ninth Symphony featuring the Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by Chorus Director Duain Wolfe. Full CSO and Symphony Center Presents (SCP) programming for fall 2021 will be announced on July 13. Create Your Own series ticket packages of three or more programs, including the opening programs of the 2021/22 season, go on sale to the public beginning July 13 at 10:00 a.m. (CDT), with single tickets going on sale later this summer. More information is available at [cso.org](http://cso.org).

"I am delighted to rejoin my Chicago Symphony Orchestra family once again to share the sound of this great Orchestra with audiences in Chicago," said Riccardo Muti. "As it has for many years, the spiritual food of culture will bring us together, but this time with a special poignancy after being so long apart."

### **Muti Conducts Saint-Georges, Price & Beethoven 3 (September 23-25)**

The opening program of the 2021/22 season includes the CSO's first performances of the Overture to the 18th-century comic opera *L'Amant anonyme* (The Anonymous Lover) by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, who was born in Guadeloupe to a French father and Senegalese mother. An accomplished composer, conductor and violinist, Bologne lived in Paris and wrote small-ensemble and orchestral works during the Classical period, as well as several operas, including *L'Amant anonyme*, which is his only surviving opera score still performed today. The program continues with the CSO's first performance of the Andante moderato written by Black American composer Florence Price, whose Symphony No. 1 received its world premiere performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933. Price revisited a movement from her string quartet in G major to create this lyrical work for string orchestra. To complete this program, Muti and the Orchestra perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*), as one of several of the composer's symphonies to be featured in the 2021/22 season.

### **Muti, Kavakos & Beethoven 7 (September 30-October 2)**

Muti and the CSO welcome violinist Leonidas Kavakos to the Orchestra Hall stage to build on their critically acclaimed performances of Beethoven's Violin Concerto in 2019. In this program, Muti leads the CSO and Kavakos in the Brahms Violin Concerto in D Major, a landmark work of depth and melodic expression. The program closes with the energy and exuberance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.

### **Muti Conducts Mazzoli & Tchaikovsky Pathétique (October 7-9)**

Muti's final program in the fall 2021 residency opens with the CSO's first performances of Missy Mazzoli's 2006 orchestral work *These Worlds in Us*. Inspired by her father's military service and a poem honoring a military pilot's life, the work uses a colorful array of orchestral instruments, including an eclectic selection of percussion instruments. Works by 19th-century Russian composers Anatoly Liadov and Pyotr Tchaikovsky complete the program. Liadov's orchestral tone poem *The Enchanted Lake* suggests the peaceful scene of moonlit night and is followed by the dark and stormy atmosphere evoked in Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*).

### **Additional 2021/22 Season Programming Highlights for Riccardo Muti and the CSO**

World premiere performance of the CSO-commissioned work *Orpheus Undone* by current Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli (spring 2022)

World premiere performance of a CSO-commissioned work by incoming Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery (spring 2022)

The CSO's first performances of Florence Price's Symphony No. 3 (spring 2022)

The CSO's first performances of Philip Glass' Symphony No. 11 (winter 2022)

Performances of Beethoven's Fourth, Sixth and Ninth symphonies (winter/spring 2022)

Symphony Ball concert and gala planned for April 2, 2022

Season finale programs including Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*, performed in concert, and a free Concert for Chicago in Millennium Park (June 2022)

### Patron Information for Fall 2021

Full programming details for the fall 2021 season at Symphony Center will be announced on July 13. Beginning on that day, tickets will be available for purchase as part of Create Your Own subscription series packages of three or more concerts. Single tickets for fall 2021 programs will go on sale later in the summer. Curated series subscriptions, with the same assigned seat for each performance, will not be available for fall 2021 concerts. In October, concert programming for January through July 2022 will be announced, and curated series subscriptions will go on sale at that time.

The Women's Board of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association looks forward to welcoming patrons back to Symphony Center for Symphony Ball on April 2, 2022. Gala tickets for this very special evening will include a CSO concert led by Riccardo Muti and a post-concert dinner and celebration at the Four Seasons. More information is available at [cso.org/symphonyball](https://cso.org/symphonyball).

More information about the concert experience at Symphony Center will continue to be updated at [cso.org/SafeAndSound](https://cso.org/SafeAndSound). For additional questions, contact Patron Services at [patronservices@cso.org](mailto:patronservices@cso.org) or 312-294-3000.

The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

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#### Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 24, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 25, 2021, 8:00 p.m.

#### Chicago Symphony Orchestra

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

SAINT-GEORGES Overture to *L'Amant anonyme*\*

PRICE Andante moderato\*

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*)

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#### Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, September 30, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 1, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 2, 2021, 8:00 p.m.

## Chicago Symphony Orchestra

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

**Leonidas Kavakos**, violin

BRAHMS Violin Concerto

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 7

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### Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, October 7, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 8, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 9, 8:00 p.m.

### Chicago Symphony Orchestra

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

MAZZOLI *These Worlds in Us\**

LIADOV *The Enchanted Lake*

TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*)

\*indicates CSO first performance.

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### Riccardo Muti

Born in Naples, Italy, Riccardo Muti is one of the preeminent conductors of our day. In 2010, when he became the tenth music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), he had more than 40 years of experience at the helm of Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (1968–1980), the Philharmonia Orchestra (1973–1982), the Philadelphia Orchestra (1980–1992), and Teatro alla Scala (1986–2005).

Muti studied piano under Vincenzo Vitale at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella in Naples and subsequently received a diploma in composition and conducting from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan. His principal teachers were Bruno Bettinelli and Antonino Votto, principal assistant to Arturo Toscanini at La Scala. After he won the Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition in Milan in 1967, Muti's career developed quickly.

Herbert von Karajan invited him to conduct at the Salzburg Festival in Austria in 1971, and Muti has maintained a close relationship with the summer festival—marking the fiftieth anniversary of his debut this summer—and with its great orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic. In addition, he has led the orchestra in its annual New Year's concert from the Golden Hall of the Musikverein on six occasions (1993, 1997, 2000, 2004, 2018, and 2021), a rare privilege accorded to very few conductors. Muti and the Vienna Philharmonic received the prestigious audience award, the Romy Prize, for their 2021 New Year's Concert in the TV Moment of the Year category. The event was broadcast in over 90 countries and followed by millions of radio and television viewers around the globe, making it the largest worldwide event in classical music. Muti has received the distinguished Golden Ring and the Otto Nicolai Gold Medal from the Philharmonic for his outstanding artistic contributions to the orchestra. He also is a recipient of a silver medal from the Salzburg Mozarteum and the Golden Johann Strauss Award by the Johann Strauss Society of Vienna. He is an honorary member of Vienna's Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, the Vienna Hofmusikkapelle, the Vienna Philharmonic, and the Vienna State Opera.

Muti has received innumerable international honors. He is a Cavaliere di Gran Croce of the Italian Republic, Officer of the French Legion of Honor, and a recipient of the German Verdienstkreuz. Queen Elizabeth II bestowed on him the title of honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire, Russian President Vladimir Putin awarded him the Order of Friendship, and Pope Benedict XVI made him a Knight of the Grand Cross First Class of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great—the highest papal honor. Muti also has received Israel's Wolf Prize in Music, Sweden's prestigious Birgit Nilsson Prize, Spain's Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts, Japan's Order of the Rising Sun Gold and Silver Star and Praemium

Imperiale, the gold medal from Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his promotion of Italian culture abroad as well as the prestigious Presidente della Repubblica award from the Italian government and the Viareggio Repaci Special Prize. He recently received the honorary citizenship of the city of Palermo for his commitment to spreading the values of peace and communion among peoples through the universal language of music as well as the Manna of San Nicola, the highest honor given by the city of Bari. In June, Muti received the distinguished De Sanctis Europa Prize, bestowed to figures of extreme importance in the European cultural, scientific, and literary fields. Muti holds more than 20 honorary degrees from universities around the world.

Passionate about teaching young musicians, Muti founded the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra in 2004 and the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in 2015. 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.

Riccardo Muti's vast catalog of recordings, numbering in the hundreds, ranges from the traditional symphonic and operatic repertoires to contemporary works. He also has written four books: *Verdi, l'italiano* and *Riccardo Muti, An Autobiography: First the Music, Then the Words*, both of which have been published in several languages; as well as *Infinity Between the Notes: My Journey Into Music*, published in May 2019 and available in Italian; and *Le sette parole di Cristo—Dialogo con Massimo Cacciari* (The Seven Last Words of Christ: a Dialogue with Massimo Cacciari), published in October 2020.

[riccardomutimusic.com](http://riccardomutimusic.com)

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](http://cso.org) and [experience.cso.org](http://experience.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 10<sup>th</sup> music director. Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-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 62 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](http://cso.org/radio). Recordings by the CSO have earned 63 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti's first of eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [cso.org/resound](http://cso.org/resound).

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) 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.