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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES FALL AND HOLIDAY 2021 PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces details of its Fall and Holiday 2021 programming at Symphony Center. Programs include Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) concerts with Music Director Riccardo Muti and distinguished guest conductors and artists including the CSO's Artist-in-Residence Hilary Hahn, Symphony Center Presents (SCP) concerts on the Jazz, Chamber Music and Piano series, the first CSO MusicNOW program curated by Jessie Montgomery, the newly appointed Mead Composer-in-Residence, Civic Orchestra of Chicago and CSO for Kids concerts, as well as holiday programming that opens with a CSO at the Movies presentation on Thanksgiving weekend. In accordance with current public health and safety guidelines, audience capacity will not be limited for these performances unless conditions and guidelines change. Beginning July 13, patrons may purchase ticket packages of three or more Fall or Holiday 2021 programs and single tickets for the Herbie Hancock concert that opens the SCP Jazz series on September 2, with single tickets for Fall and Holiday 2021 programs going on sale in August. Program information for the remainder of the 2021/22 season will be announced in October. Detailed program information can be found at cso.org with Safe and Sound guidelines for audiences at cso.org/safeandsound.

As previously announced, Riccardo Muti returns in September 2021 for three weeks of concerts to open the CSO's 2021/22 season at Symphony Center, the Orchestra's 131st season and Muti's 12th season as Music Director. In these programs, which represent the first performances for Muti and the CSO together since February 2020, Muti will conduct works by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges; Florence Price and Missy Mazzoli; symphonies of Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, and Brahms' Violin Concerto with Leonidas Kavakos as soloist. In 2022, additional program highlights for Muti and the CSO include performances of Beethoven's Fourth, Sixth and Ninth symphonies, as well as world premieres of CSO-commissioned works by former and current Mead Composers-in-Residence, Missy Mazzoli and Jessie Montgomery, and the first CSO performances of Florence Price's Symphony No. 3 and Philip Glass' Symphony No. 11. Muti's season finale programs with the CSO in June 2022 include Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*, performed in concert, and a free Concert for Chicago in Millennium Park.

Special focal points during Fall 2021 include world premieres of CSO-commissioned works by Magnus Lindberg and Gabriela Lena Frank, and programs that mark centenary moments connected to composers Sergei Prokofiev and Astor Piazzolla.

Prokofiev, whose music received several premieres by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, came to Chicago in 1921 to perform the premiere of his Piano Concerto No. 3 as soloist with the CSO and Music Director Frederick Stock. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of this historic performance, the CSO, conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas, will perform Piano Concerto No. 3 with Denis Matsuev as soloist in October. The centennial celebration also features Tilson Thomas leading October performances of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 1 with Alexander Gavrylyuk as soloist, and Daniil Trifonov performing Prokofiev's *Sarcasms*, Op. 17 as part of a Symphony Center Presents Piano recital in November.

This season also marks the centenary of Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992), the great Argentine bandoneón virtuoso and composer known for the transformation of the tango through his use of classical counterpoint and jazz. Two November programs celebrate this gifted composer's music: a CSO concert led by guest conductor Giancarlo Guerrero featuring Piazzolla's *Aconcagua* Concerto for Bandoneón and Orchestra, with soloist Daniel Binelli and a Symphony Center Presents program featuring Latin Grammy Award-winning Quinteto Astor Piazzolla, who will make its first appearance at Symphony Center.

Additional 2021 program highlights include solo appearances with the Orchestra for CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen and Principal Cello John Sharp, as well as the November 1 opening program of CSO MusicNOW, curated by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and featuring her compositions *Lunar Songs* and *Loisaida, My Love*, as well as works by Nathalie Joachim, Elijah Daniel Smith and Ted Hearne. Symphony Center Presents welcomes keyboard legend and NEA Jazz Master Herbie Hancock to open the SCP Jazz series on September 2, as well as pianist Lang Lang to perform Bach's *Goldberg Variations* and internationally acclaimed artists Leonidas Kavakos and Yuja Wang, who will join forces for an SCP chamber music recital featuring works of Bach, Busoni and Shostakovich. In December, the Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by Chorus Director Duain Wolfe, marks its official return to Symphony Center for the first time since February 2020 in performances with the CSO of Handel's *Messiah*, led by conductor Nicholas McGegan. Civic Orchestra Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur joins the Civic Orchestra for a program in December and guest conductor Thomas Wilkins marks a return to the podium in Civic Orchestra of Chicago and CSO for Kids concerts.

A chronological list of CSOA-presented Fall 2021 and Holiday programs is available [here](#).

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Programs with Riccardo Muti

In the opening program of the 2021/22 season, Riccardo Muti leads 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, as well as the Andante moderato written by American composer Florence Price, whose Symphony No. 1 received its world premiere performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933. Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*) completes the program. (September 23, 24 and 25)

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 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. (September 30, October 1 and 2)

Muti's final program in his 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. 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 a moonlit night and is followed by the dark and stormy atmosphere evoked in Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*). (October 7, 8 and 9)

Additional Chicago Symphony Orchestra Programs

Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider leads a program that invites audiences to discover Romantic-era composer Augusta Holmès, who broke gender barriers in 19th-century Paris, studying with César Franck and writing symphonic works on a heroic scale. The sumptuous *La Nuit et l'Amour* (Night and Love) provides a welcome introduction to her remarkable talents. The program also features Principal Cello John Sharp as soloist in Saint-Saëns' richly melodic concerto and Schumann's Second Symphony. (October 14, 15, 16 and 17)

Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 1 features the Ukrainian piano powerhouse Alexander Gavrylyuk as soloist in the first of two October programs led by Michael Tilson Thomas. Also on the program is Grieg's *The Last Spring*, a poignant reflection on seasonal change, and Brahms' First Serenade, which alternates between moments of melancholy and sunlit joy. (October 21, 22 and 23)

One hundred years ago, the CSO gave the world premiere of Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto with the composer as soloist. Pianist Denis Matsuev joins the Orchestra and conductor Michael Tilson Thomas to celebrate this milestone with a performance of Prokofiev's exuberant, poetic and lively score. The program also includes *Patterns*, an inventive five-movement work by William Grant Still, the first African American composer to have a symphony performed by a major orchestra. Tilson Thomas and the CSO conclude the program with a return to the music of Brahms in a performance of the composer's Serenade No. 2. (October 28, 29 and 30)

Marek Janowski conducts Mozart's Symphony No. 41 (*Jupiter*), a masterwork of unrestrained joy, preceded by Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides Overture*, evoking a trip to Scotland's rugged west coast. CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen is soloist in Bruch's First Violin Concerto. (November 4, 5 and 6)

Jakub Hrůša conducts Dvořák's joyful portrait of his Czech homeland in the composer's Sixth Symphony. Soprano Joëlle Harvey makes her CSO debut in Barber's nostalgic recollection of small-town America, *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*. Opening the program is Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's 1898 breakthrough score, the rhapsodic Ballade in A minor. (November 11, 12 and 13)

Astor Piazzolla, born a century ago, revolutionized the Argentine tango with urbane sophistication. Piazzolla's *Aconcagua*, a bandoneón concerto named for an Andean mountain, is alternately pensive and streetwise in spirit. Conductor Giancarlo Guerrero leads the CSO and soloist Daniel Binelli in this performance that also includes Buxtehude's Chaconne, vibrantly orchestrated by Mexican composer Carlos Chávez, and Beethoven's First Symphony. (November 18, 19, 20 and 21)

Finnish conductor Hannu Lintu returns to the podium to lead the world premiere of a CSO co-commissioned work, *Serenades*, by renowned Finnish composer Magnus Lindberg. Violinist Ray Chen, who made his critically acclaimed CSO subscription debut in 2019, returns to perform Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole*. Brahms' Fourth Symphony completes the program. (December 2, 3 and 4)

Violinist Hilary Hahn, the CSO's newly appointed Artist-in-Residence, joins the CSO and conductor Andrés Orozco-Estrada for a performance of Dvořák's Violin Concerto, a work given its U.S. premiere by the Orchestra in 1891. The program also includes Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony and the world premiere of *Hailli-Serenata*, a CSO-commissioned work by Gabriela Lena Frank, who explores her multicultural heritage (Peruvian/Chinese, Lithuanian/Jewish) through her music. (December 9, 10 and 11)

The Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by Chorus Director Duain Wolfe, joins the CSO for its first performances in Orchestra Hall since February 2020 in Handel's landmark oratorio *Messiah*. Baroque specialist Nicholas McGegan leads the assembled musical forces, including soloists Yulia Van Doren (soprano), Reginald Mobley (countertenor), Ben Bliss (tenor) and Dashon Burton (bass-baritone). (December 16, 17, 18 and 19)

In a vibrant program of classical music inspired by the jazz revolution of the 20th century, German conductor André de Ridder pairs two of George Gershwin's iconic works, *Rhapsody in Blue* and an arrangement of *Porgy and Bess*, with Ravel's jazz-inflected Piano Concerto in G Major. Israeli American pianist Inon Barnatan joins de Ridder and the CSO as soloist. The mesmerizing *Boléro*, arguably Ravel's most famous work, brings the program to a rousing close. (January 6, 7 and 8, 2022)

CSO MusicNOW

The CSO's contemporary music series opens the new season in a performance at Orchestra Hall with a program curated by the CSO's newly appointed Mead Composer-in-

Residence, Jessie Montgomery. The program, which celebrates composers with ties to Chicago, includes *Authority* by area native Ted Hearne and a world premiere of a MusicNOW-commissioned work by rising star Elijah Daniel Smith that reimagines the Baroque concerto grosso form. Haitian American flutist-composer Nathalie Joachim explores individual and cultural identity in her wind quintet *Seen* alongside Montgomery's vocal works *Lunar Songs* and *Loisaida, My Love*, based on text by J. Mae Barizo and Bimbo Rivas. (November 1)

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

Legendary keyboardist and NEA Jazz Master and Kennedy Center Honoree Herbie Hancock makes an anticipated return to Symphony Center to open the 2021/22 season of the SCP Jazz series. "Hancock is a hero. The boundless, irrepressible quality of his performance was a potent reminder of that." (*The New York Times*). (September 2)

Symphony Center Presents Piano

Russian virtuoso Daniil Trifonov comes to Chicago to offer a colorful and thoughtful program including Debussy's first masterwork for the piano, *Pour le piano*; Szymanowski's Sonata No. 3; a set of playful miniatures by Prokofiev, his *Sarcasms*, Op. 17, and Brahms' powerful Sonata in F Minor. (November 12)

Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music

Superstar soloists Yuja Wang, piano, and Leonidas Kavakos, violin, combine their talents to perform violin sonatas by J.S. Bach, along with two composers who fell under the master's influence. Busoni's Second Violin Sonata ends with a kaleidoscopic set of variations on a Bach chorale, while Shostakovich's late-career sonata channels the grandeur and intensity in Bach's music. (November 7)

Symphony Center Presents Special Concerts

International piano phenomenon Lang Lang returns to Orchestra Hall for a performance of J.S. Bach's towering masterpiece, the iconic *Goldberg Variations*. (October 8)

The Latin Grammy Award-winning Quinteto Astor Piazzolla is the recognized standard-bearer for *nuevo tango* with its signature ensemble of instruments: bandoneón (Argentine accordion), violin, piano, electric guitar and double bass. The group celebrates the centenary of its namesake, Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla, in a program of his most memorable compositions. (November 19)

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the CSO's premiere training ensemble of emerging professional musicians, returns to perform its first live concert at Symphony Center since March 2020. Led by guest conductor Thomas Wilkins, the program includes Adolphus Hailstork's *An American Port of Call* and William Grant Still's Symphony No. 1 (*Afro-American*). (November 8)

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago brings performances of J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concertos to communities across Chicago as part of the seventh annual Bach Marathon. Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur joins the Civic for the event's culminating moment in a finale concert at Fourth Presbyterian Church. (December 6)

CSO for Kids: Family Matinees

This program features music that provides a sense of hope and belonging after a year of uncertainty and isolation. Charismatic conductor Thomas Wilkins leads members of the CSO, along with Crain-Maling CSO Young Artists Competition winners Rosie Wang, flute, and Isabella Brown, violin, in this concert perfect for ages 5-12. (October 23)

Holiday Programming at Symphony Center

The holiday season at Symphony Center begins Thanksgiving weekend with *Home Alone*. Audiences can enjoy the hilarious, heart-warming family favorite shown on the big screen at Symphony Center as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Richard Kaufman, performs John Williams' delightful, Academy Award-nominated score. (November 26, 27 and 28)

"The world's reigning male chorus" (*The New Yorker*), the Grammy Award-winning ensemble Chanticleer returns for its 2021 presentation of "A Chanticleer Christmas," with a cappella arrangements of holiday music both familiar and new, performed at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. (December 7 and 8)

Experience the power and precision of the legendary brass section of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in a program of traditional favorites and symphonic masterworks arranged for brass ensemble. *This concert is presented in collaboration with the Midwest Clinic, an International Band and Orchestra Conference.* (December 15)

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus join forces in a performance of Handel's landmark oratorio, *Messiah*, led by Baroque specialist Nicholas McGegan and featuring a roster of distinguished soloists. (December 16, 17, 18 and 19)

Chicago's favorite musical holiday celebration, *Merry, Merry Chicago!*, returns to Symphony Center under the baton of Alastair Willis. Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra share music of the season in this festive program for the whole family — with a much-anticipated appearance by a certain gentleman in red. (December 17, 18, 21, 22 and 23)

Experience the world's foremost children's choral group, the Vienna Boys Choir, in a joyful program of popular folk songs, classical masterpieces and beloved holiday favorites. (December 21)

Patron Information

Create Your Own series ticket packages of at least three or more CSOA-presented programs offered at Symphony Center September 2, 2021, through January 8, 2022, and single tickets for

the SCP Jazz series concert with Herbie Hancock go on sale to the public on July 13, 2021, at 10 a.m., with single tickets for Fall and Holiday 2021 programs going on sale in August.

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org), by calling 312-294-3000 (Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.) or by emailing patronservices@cso.org.

In accordance with current health and safety guidelines, audience capacity at Symphony Center will return to standard levels in Fall 2021, with capacity levels subject to change, depending on evolving conditions and changing guidelines for public health and safety related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Face coverings are required for unvaccinated individuals, including individuals and age groups currently unable to receive a vaccine. Masks may also be required or encouraged for additional patrons, depending on standards from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Chicago Department of Public Health at the time of the performance. Fall concerts from September 2 through November 21, 2021 will be presented without intermission and will last less than 90 minutes.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association is committed to creating a comfortable, enjoyable and safe environment for its musicians, patrons and staff. To ensure everyone's visit to Symphony Center is safe and sound, we will continue to modify our guidelines and the concert experience, based on the latest public health recommendations and in consultation with leading health experts. Patrons are encouraged to visit [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.cso.org/safeandsound) for the most recent information.

In support of Chicago's diverse and legendary music industry, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events have designated 2021 as the "Year of Chicago Music." Select Fall 2021 concerts are part of this citywide focus on music that is one of the first of its kind in the U.S. Learn more at [Chicago.gov/Music](https://www.chicago.gov/Music).

Artists, programs and prices 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.

Allstate Insurance Company is the Youth Education Program Sponsor.

The SCP Jazz series is sponsored, in part, by Exelon.

The Mead Composer-in-Residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is endowed through a generous gift from Cindy Sargent and the late Sally Mead Hands.

The CSO thanks the following donors who provide major support for new music programming: the Zell Family Foundation, Cindy Sargent, the Sally Mead Hands Foundation and the Julian Family Foundation.

The Artist-in-Residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is made possible through a generous gift from James and Brenda Grusecki.

The 2020/21 Civic Orchestra of Chicago season is generously sponsored by The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.

Major funding for the Civic Orchestra Fellowship Program is provided by The Julian Family Foundation.

The Negaunee Music Institute is endowed by a generous gift from The Negaunee Foundation.

The October 8 Lang Lang performance is generously sponsored by Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz.

Support for CSO for Kids is provided by Abbott Fund, Archer Daniels Midland Company, John Hart and Carol Prins, Kinder Morgan, PNC, Megan and Steve Shebik, Michael and Linda Simon, the Walter and Caroline Sueske Charitable Trust and an anonymous family foundation.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org and 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 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 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. 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.

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.

