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Press Contact:
[Hannah Sundwall](#)
[312-294-3083](#)

TWO CONCERTS WITH THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ADDED TO 2025/26 SEASON

Programs Feature Grammy Award-Winning Artists Samara Joy and Chris Thile

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announced today the addition of two programs with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and two Grammy Award-winning artists, Samara Joy & the CSO on [Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.](#) and Chris Thile & the CSO on [Monday, June 8, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.](#) More information is available at [cso.org](#) or by calling [312-294-3000](#).

Following her sold-out Symphony Center debut in 2023, Samara Joy returns to perform with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Steven Reineke, for an evening spotlighting her voice and charisma. Samara is a five-time Grammy Award winner, including one for Best New Artist, and has been recognized a “classic jazz singer from a new generation” (*NPR*). She is celebrated as a masterful interpreter and rightful heir to legends like Sarah Vaughan, Betty Carter, Abbey Lincoln and Carmen McRae.

Grammy Award-winning mandolinist Chris Thile performs with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The program conducted by Eric Jacobsen features Thile’s work *ATTENTION! A narrative song cycle for extroverted mandolinist and orchestra* as part of Symphony Center’s America 250 tribute. Thile, a founding member of Nickel Creek and Punch Brothers, also performs a work by Caroline Shaw. Thile also gives a solo performance at Symphony Center on [October 24](#).

About Samara Joy

Samara Joy is a five-time Grammy Award-winning vocalist whose meteoric rise has garnered widespread acclaim and introduced new generations to jazz. Only 25, Samara has become a steady presence on network television and amassed millions of likes on TikTok. Her performance credits include legendary venues and events such as the Newport, Monterey, and Montreal Jazz Festivals; the Apollo; the Village Vanguard, and

Jazz at Lincoln Center. Praised by *DownBeat* for her “silky-voiced” artistry and by *NPR* as a “classic jazz singer from a new generation,” Joy is celebrated as a masterful interpreter of jazz standards and a rightful heir to legends like Sarah Vaughan and Betty Carter. A Bronx native, Samara grew up with a deep musical family history and began singing in her church's gospel choir. She immersed herself in jazz during college, winning the 2019 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition while a student at SUNY Purchase. Following her self-titled debut in 2021, her 2022 Verve Records album, *Linger Awhile*, earned her two Grammys in 2023, including Best New Artist. Her 2023 EP, *A Joyful Holiday*, featured her family, and in 2024, she won another Grammy for Best Jazz Performance for her single “Tight.” Most recently, she co-wrote and released “Why I’m Here,” an original song for the Netflix film *Shirley*. With her new Verve release, *Portrait*, Samara Joy continues to evolve as an artist, songwriter, and bandleader, solidifying her place as a significant voice in music.

About Chris Thile

Acclaimed Grammy Award-winning mandolinist, singer, songwriter, composer, and MacArthur Fellow recipient of the prestigious “Genius Grant”, Chris Thile is a multifaceted musical talent, described by *The Guardian* as “that rare being: an all-round musician,” and hailed by *NPR* as a “genre-defying musical genius.” Thile is a founding member of the highly influential string bands Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek and has collaborated with countless luminaries from Yo-Yo Ma to Fiona Apple to Brad Mehldau. For four years, Thile hosted public radio favorite *Live from Here with Chris Thile* (formerly known as *A Prairie Home Companion*). With his broad outlook, Thile creates a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike, giving the listener “one joyous arc, with the linear melody and vertical harmony blurring into a single web of gossamer beauty” (*The New York Times*).

Patron Information

Tickets for both programs are available now as part of a Create Your Own subscription package of three or more programs across the 2025/26 Season.

Individual tickets for Chris Thile & the CSO go on sale to the public on Wednesday, August 6, at 10:00 a.m. Samara Joy is a priority access concert; tickets are now available for 2025/26 Season subscribers. Representatives are available to assist with ticket packages by web chat at cso.org, by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000) (Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.), or by emailing patronservices@cso.org.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

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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. In April 2024, Klaus Mäkelä was named the Orchestra's 11th music director, and he will begin an initial five-year tenure as Zell Music Director with the 2027/28 Season. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became Music Director Emeritus for Life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Joyce DiDonato is the CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2025/26 Season.

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 domestically, and since 1892, has made 65 international tours, performing in 30 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. Donald Palumbo is the Director of the Chicago Symphony 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.