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

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) presents a variety of programs in March, featuring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and renowned guest artists performing at Symphony Center and in community venues.

Zell Music Director Designate Klaus Mäkelä, Music Director Emeritus for Life Riccardo Muti and guest conductor Jakub Hruša lead the classical program offerings in March. Following his first U.S. tour with the CSO, Mäkelä returns to Symphony Center to conduct Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* (March 5-6). Hruša leads selections from Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*, and soloist Leif Ove Andsnes performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 (March 12-14). Muti takes center stage in a two-week residency: An Opera Night with Riccardo Muti, featuring selections from Verdi's passion-filled operas (March 19-21), and Muti Conducts Tchaikovsky & Rota, pairing Tchaikovsky's *Polish Symphony* with Rota's Suite from *The Godfather* (March 26-29).

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) in March features a variety of artists across genres. SCP Chamber Music continues with the Zukerman Trio on March 7, and Benjamin Grosvenor's March 8 SCP Piano recital features repertoire by Beethoven and Schumann. U.K.-based tenor saxophonist Nubya Garcia joins Illinois-born, Grammy-nominated vocalist Somi for a SCP Jazz program on March 13. Cuban pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba celebrates Miles Davis' legacy and John Beasley's "Unlimited Miles" project bridges Davis' legacy with the vibrant future on March 27. Two additional featured concerts in March include the Ravi Shankar Ensemble, which brings its debut tour to Symphony Center on March 22, and superstar cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who returns March 28 in a sold-out intimate solo recital.

CSO Chamber Music's March 14 program, presented by the Beverly Arts Center, bridges classical brilliance and Celtic soul, and the Winter Quartet brings together three distinct 20th-century voices in its March 24 program at Symphony Center.

The CSO for Kids series includes *Once Upon a Symphony: The Bremen Town Musicians* on March 7 and *Classical Elements*, a family-friendly musical exploration of air, fire and water led by conductor Mei-Ann Chen, on March 21.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago's 2025/26 Season continues with community performances at the South Shore Cultural Center (March 1) and Wentz Concert Hall (March 29); with programs repeated at Symphony Center (March 2 and 30). Civic performs alongside Percussion Scholarship Program students, CSO musicians and guest artists at the fundraising benefit [IMPACT: Showcasing Education & Community Programs of the CSO](#) on March 15.

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

[Explore](#) a chronological list of March 2026 concert programs.

## **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

### **Mäkelä Conducts *The Rite of Spring* ([March 5-6](#))**

Led by Zell Music Director Designate Klaus Mäkelä, the CSO presents one of the most electrifying and revolutionary works in the orchestral repertoire: Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. Included in this showcase of 20th-century masterpieces are the playful, Brazilian-inspired rhythms of Milhaud's *Le Bœuf sur le toit* and Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, which brings the bustling streets of the French capital to life with jazzy flair.

### **Jakub Hruša & Leif Ove Andsnes ([March 12-14](#))**

Czech conductor Jakub Hruša leads selections from Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*, a satirical slice-of-life opera set in a Bohemian village and filled with soaring tunes and folkloric color. Leif Ove Andsnes, whose Beethoven "is big, forthright, passionate" (*The Guardian*), scales the composer's stormy Third Piano Concerto. Robert Schumann's *Spring* Symphony captures the season's restless vitality.

### **An Opera Night with Riccardo Muti ([March 19-21](#))**

In a hallmark of his partnership with the CSO, Music Director Emeritus for Life Riccardo Muti takes center stage to conduct selections from Verdi's enthralling, passion-filled operas. The program also features a lineup of treasured Italian opera repertoire performed by internationally acclaimed singers and the Chicago Symphony Chorus.

### **Muti Conducts Tchaikovsky & Rota ([March 26-29](#))**

Experience the sweeping elegance of Tchaikovsky's *Polish* Symphony, a work brimming with dance-like vitality and imperial grandeur. Riccardo Muti and the CSO also delve into the evocative world of Nino Rota — composer of the scores for *The*

*Godfather* and *The Leopard* — capturing the drama, lyricism and charm of one of the 20th century's most celebrated composers.

The program is also offered on [March 27](#) at Wheaton College's Edman Memorial Chapel (401 E. Franklin St., Wheaton).

### **CSO Chamber Music**

#### **CSO Chamber Music at Beverly Arts Center ([March 14](#))**

Danny Yehun Jin (violin), Matous Michal (violin), Danny Lai (viola), and Olivia Jakyoungh Huh (cello) bridge classical brilliance and Celtic soul. The program features Mozart's expressive String Quartet No. 15 in D Minor, followed by the Irish-inspired lyricism of Charles Stanford's *Six Irish Folk Songs* and his String Quartet No. 1 in G Major. The afternoon concludes with a timeless performance of "Danny Boy," celebrating the enduring power of musical storytelling and cultural identity.

This concert takes place at and is presented by the Beverly Arts Center (2407 W. 111th St., Chicago).

#### **CSO Chamber Music: Winter Quartet ([March 24](#))**

The Winter Quartet brings together three distinct 20th-century voices in a program charged with intensity and atmosphere. Stravinsky's vibrant energy, Schulhoff's sharp wit and Bartók's somber voice unfold with striking clarity and contrast. Be immersed in the full expressive range of this music with seating on the stage or in the terrace of Orchestra Hall.

### **CSO for Kids**

#### **Once Upon a Symphony: The Bremen Town Musicians ([March 7](#))**

When four farm animals are no longer needed, they set off for the town of Bremen, dreaming of becoming musicians. On the way, they discover a house full of robbers! The friends quickly join forces to scare away the thieves, uncovering hidden courage they never knew they had.

Once Upon a Symphony is designed to introduce children ages 3 to 5 to the world of classical music and the musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Ignite your child's imagination with vivid storytelling and small ensemble performances, as well as sets, costumes and images created by Chicago Children's Theatre.

### **Classical Elements** ([March 21](#))

Conductor Mei-Ann Chen and members of the CSO embark on a musical exploration of air, fire and water. Journey through a musical depiction of the elements that help to create balance on planet Earth and discover how we are all part of that harmony.

### **Symphony Center Presents**

#### **Zukerman Trio** ([March 7](#))

“The matchless musicianship and charisma” of legendary violinist Pinchas Zukerman, acclaimed cellist Amanda Forsyth and celebrated pianist Michael Stephen Brown creates “a trio made in heaven” (*Limelight*). Higdon’s *Pale Yellow* radiates delicate beauty, Mendelssohn’s Piano Trio No. 1 brims with lyrical energy, and Dvořák’s *Dumky* Trio blends introspection with vibrant folk themes, merging masterful artistry with emotional depth.

#### **Benjamin Grosvenor** ([March 8](#))

Benjamin Grosvenor performs a program of fantasies and sonatas spanning the 19th century. Beethoven’s dreamlike *Moonlight* Sonata is followed by Robert Schumann’s mighty C Major Fantasy, dedicated to fellow virtuoso Liszt. Scriabin’s luminous Sonata No. 2 — inspired by the sea, with its gentle, moonlit waves and stormy climax — leads to Ravel’s *Gaspard de la nuit*, a masterpiece of shimmering colors and breathtaking virtuosity.

#### **Nubya Garcia / Somi** ([March 13](#))

A driving force within the U.K. jazz scene, tenor saxophonist Nubya Garcia effortlessly weaves rich layers of Afro-Caribbean rhythms, dub, spiritual jazz and electronic textures in a powerful sound that is “loaded with meaning and emotion” (*The Guardian*). Daughter of East African immigrants, Grammy-nominated vocalist Somi returns home to Illinois performing songs that “gracefully fuse African grooves, supple jazz singing and compassionate social consciousness” (*The New York Times*).

#### **Ravi Shankar Ensemble** ([March 22](#))

Curated by Sukanya and Anoushka Shankar, the Ravi Shankar Ensemble is a multi-generational collective dedicated to presenting Ravi Shankar’s masterful compositions and preserving the rich traditions of North Indian classical music. The ensemble’s debut tour showcases his soul-stirring music, alongside rare archival visuals, offering a powerful tribute to his enduring legacy.

#### **Miles Davis at 100: Gonzalo Rubalcaba / Unlimited Miles** ([March 27](#))

Cuban pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba — hailed as “among the most accomplished jazz pianists in the world today,” with “colossal technique and an unfettered musical imagination” (*Chicago Tribune*) — presents an exhilarating solo piano tribute to Miles

Davis. John Beasley's "Unlimited Miles" project bridges Davis' rich legacy with the vibrant future it continues to inspire, exploring Davis' visionary spirit through bold arrangements spanning every decade of his boundary-pushing career.

### **Yo-Yo Ma in Recital ([March 28](#))**

Yo-Yo Ma and his cello return to Symphony Center for a sold-out solo recital anchored by three of Bach's iconic cello suites; the program offers a wide-ranging reflection on the emotional depth and expressive power of the instrument. It's an invitation to experience one of the world's most revered artists in a setting that's both personal and profound.

### **Civic Orchestra of Chicago**

#### **Civic Plays Price & Dvořák at South Shore Cultural Center ([March 1](#))**

Ken-David Masur leads the Civic Orchestra in works by three titans of Black excellence in American music, starting with gems by George Walker and Ulysses Kay. Florence Price's *Ethiopia's Shadow in America* portrays an enslaved man's spiritual journey from the time of his arrival on this continent. Antonin Dvořák, a vital early champion of American music, imbues his lyrical and exuberant Seventh Symphony with admiration and hope for his own native Czech Republic.

This concert takes place at South Shore Cultural Center (7059 S. South Shore Dr., Chicago). Tickets are free; reservations are required and available [now](#).

#### **Civic Plays Price & Dvořák ([March 2](#))**

Ken-David Masur leads the Civic Orchestra in works by three titans of Black excellence in American music, starting with gems by George Walker and Ulysses Kay. Florence Price's *Ethiopia's Shadow in America* portrays an enslaved man's spiritual journey from the time of his arrival on this continent. Antonin Dvořák, a vital early champion of American music, imbues his lyrical and exuberant Seventh Symphony with admiration and hope for his own native Czech Republic.

#### **IMPACT: Showcasing Education & Community Programs of the CSO ([March 15](#))**

Be inspired by the musicians who are learning, growing and serving Chicago through the programs produced by the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Enjoy a showcase of extraordinary performances by the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, musicians from the CSO, Percussion Scholarship Program students and more. Transform lives by supporting these vital education and community engagement activities.

Tickets are free; reservations are required and available [now](#).

### **Civic Plays Copland 3 at Wentz Concert Hall ([March 29](#))**

Carlos Miguel Prieto explores the vitality of music from across North America. Aaron Copland's Third Symphony is a work of majestic landscapes and postwar optimism, culminating in the inspirational *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Carlos Chávez evokes the rituals and splendor of pre-Columbian Mexico in his *Sinfonía india*. Soloists from the Black chamber music collective D-Composed join the Civic Orchestra for Michael Abels' *Delights & Dances*, which crackles with bluegrass, jazz and Latin dance rhythms.

This concert takes place at Wentz Concert Hall (171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville). Tickets are free; reservations are required and open March 13.

### **Civic Plays Copland 3 ([March 30](#))**

Carlos Miguel Prieto explores the vitality of music from across North America. Aaron Copland's Third Symphony is a work of majestic landscapes and postwar optimism, culminating in the inspirational *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Carlos Chávez evokes the rituals and splendor of pre-Columbian Mexico in his *Sinfonía india*. Soloists from the Black chamber music collective D-Composed join the Civic Orchestra for Michael Abels' *Delights & Dances*, which crackles with bluegrass, jazz and Latin dance rhythms.

### **Food and Beverage**

Explore Symphony Center's on-site dining options for a seamless preconcert experience. Preorder a Sound Bites meal to enjoy in the Rotunda at Symphony Center before the concert — or make a reservation to dine at the Thomas Club, offering a prix fixe menu featuring traditional American fare and a spectacular view of Lake Michigan. View menus and learn more at [cso.org/dining](https://www.cso.org/dining).

### **Parking and Transit Options**

Exclusive parking rates are available through Millennium Garages, the Preferred Parking Partner for Symphony Center. The closest parking garage is the Grant Park South Garage, located at 325 S. Michigan Ave. Valet parking is available for select performances at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Visit [cso.org/parking](https://www.cso.org/parking) for more parking and transit options.

### **Patron Information**

Contact Patron Services for personalized assistance online at [cso.org/contact](https://www.cso.org/contact) or by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000), Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.

The 2025/26 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter.

Support for Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association programming for children and families is provided by BMO, ComEd, John Hart & Carol Prins, Kinder Morgan, PNC Bank, Megan & Steve Shebik, Linda & Michael Simon and the Walter and Caroline Sueske Charitable Trust.

Newsradio 105.9 WBBM is a Media Partner for the Jakub Hruša & Leif Ove Andsnes concerts. The concerts are generously sponsored by Zell Family Foundation and United Airlines.

Chicago Jazz, *DownBeat* Magazine and WDCB 90.9FM Jazz are Media Partners for the Nubya Garcia / Somi concert and the Miles Davis at 100: Gonzalo Rubalcaba / Unlimited Miles concert.

Funding for educational programs during the 2025/26 Season of SCP Jazz has been generously provided by Dan J. Epstein, Judith Guitelman and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation.

The appearance of the Chicago Symphony Chorus for the An Opera Night with Riccardo Muti performances has been made possible by a generous gift from The Grainger Foundation.

The An Opera Night with Riccardo Muti performances are generously sponsored by William R. Jentes and the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon.

Newsradio 105.9 WBBM is a Media Partner for the Muti Conducts Tchaikovsky & Rota concerts. These performances are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

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

CSO at Wheaton performances are generously sponsored by the JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of DuPage Foundation.

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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 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.