



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
RICCARDO MUTI MUSIC DIRECTOR

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559
TELEPHONE 312-294-3333
FACSIMILE 312-294-3329

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Press Contacts:
[Eileen Chambers](#)
312-294-3092

RICCARDO MUTI RETURNS IN JUNE TO LEAD THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN THREE PROGRAMS TO CLOSE THE 2022/23 SEASON

Muti Leads CSO and Principal Tuba Gene Pokorny in the Orchestra's first performances of Lalo Schifrin's Tuba Concerto on Program with Schubert's Symphony No. 9 (*Great*) (June 15-17)

Muti Leads Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and Renowned Soloists in Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* (June 23-25)

Muti Conducts Free Concert for Chicago in Millennium Park Where He Launched his Time as CSO Music Director (June 27)

June 15-27, 2023

CHICAGO — Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago in June to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in three programs to close the 2022/23 Season. The two-week residency begins with a program featuring Schubert's Symphony No. 9 (*Great*) and the CSO's first performances of Lalo Schifrin's Tuba Concerto with Principal Tuba Gene Pokorny as soloist ([June 15-17](#)). Then, Muti leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and renowned soloists in Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* ([June 23-25](#)). On June 27, Muti and the CSO return to the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park — where Muti launched his time as CSO music director in September 2010 in a concert attended by more than 25,000 Chicagoans — to perform a free Concert for Chicago featuring music by American composer Florence Price and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. During his June residency, Muti also leads a CSO open rehearsal for invited senior, community and veterans groups on Thursday, June 15 as part of his commitment to creating access for a wide array of audiences across the Chicago area and participates in a postconcert book and CD signing after the June 17 performance at Symphony Center. For program, ticket and patron information, visit [cso.org](https://www.cso.org).

Muti, Pokorny & Schubert 9 ([June 15-17](#))

Muti begins his June residency with a program featuring Schubert's Symphony No. 9 (*Great*), the composer's final completed symphony. Muti last led this work as part of the CSO's a cycle of Schubert's symphonies during the 2013/14 Season. The program also includes the CSO's first performances of Lalo Schifrin's Tuba Concerto featuring Principal Tuba Gene Pokorny, for whom the work was written. The Overture to *Indigo and the Forty Thieves*, an operetta by Johann Strauss Jr. based on the familiar folk tale, opens the program.

Schifrin's Tuba Concerto was written in 2017 as a collaboration with CSO Principal Tuba Gene Pokorny, who premiered the work with the Redlands Symphony in March of 2018 and performed it with Santa Barbara Chamber Players Orchestra earlier this year. Schifrin began working on the piece after being inspired by the timbre and capabilities of the upper register of the tuba's range. The work emphasizes not only the virtuosic and technical capabilities of the tuba but also the expressive and lyrical qualities that it can achieve, particularly in its high register. Across the concerto's three movements, the musical language touches on diverse musical styles and influences that alternate between baroque, 20th-century music, and American jazz.

Schifrin, an acclaimed composer, pianist, arranger and conductor, was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and went on to study composition with teachers including Olivier Messiaen at the Paris Conservatory in the 1950s. Later in America, he performed as a pianist with famed jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, wrote and arranged popular jazz compositions and was recognized with five Grammy Awards. Schifrin has also written more than 100 scores for film and television projects, including those for many of Clint Eastwood's *Dirty Harry* films, and popular TV series such as *Mannix* and *Mission: Impossible*. His credits also include arranging music for several of the projects for The Three Tenors (Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo and José Carreras), and writing the CSO-commissioned work, *Fantasy for Screenplay and Orchestra* for Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which was premiered in the 2002/03 Season.

Soloist Gene Pokorny has been principal tuba of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since his appointment in 1989. He has also held principal tuba positions in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Utah Symphony, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Equally comfortable as a teacher and performer, Pokorny teaches at music festivals and performs solo recitals worldwide when not in concert with the CSO. In addition to serving as the tuba coach for the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, his current teaching positions include those at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts, Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, and the Pokorny Low Brass Seminar, which takes place at the Northern Illinois University School of Music.

Related events for June 15-17 performances

On June 15, CSO Latino Alliance and African American Network members are invited to enjoy refreshments and networking at a postconcert celebration recognizing the distinguished tenure of Riccardo Muti as music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Concertgoers may visit [Latino Alliance](#) or [African American Network](#) to learn more.

Audiences are also invited to attend a postconcert CD and book signing with Riccardo Muti immediately following the performance on Saturday, June 17. The signing will take place in the First Floor Rotunda and is open to all ticketholders. Merchandise will be available for purchase in the Symphony Store lobby and online in advance of the event.

This signing coincides with the June 16 digital release of the newest CSO Resound recording, [Contemporary American Composers](#), which features performances led by Riccardo Muti recorded live in Orchestra Hall. The recording includes three recent works, with two CSO commissions from Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and Max Raimi, as well as the CSO's first performance of the Symphony No. 11 by Philip Glass. Beginning June 16, the recording will be available for digital download and streaming through platforms including Apple Music, Amazon Music and Spotify, as well as [symphonystore.com](#). A physical CD release of the new recording will be available at retailers worldwide in summer 2023.

Muti Conducts Beethoven *Missa solennis* ([June 23-25](#))

Marking the culmination of 13 seasons of artistic partnership, Riccardo Muti will lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and renowned soloists in his final subscription concerts as the Orchestra's 10th music director in performances of Beethoven's *Missa solennis*. The composer's landmark choral-orchestral work serves as a fervent meditation on faith and doubt, spanning moments of ecstasy and angst, as well as soaring beauty and near-operatic theatricality. Muti has described it as "the Sistine Chapel of Music ... a work so complex that it makes every interpreter's wrists tremble." A renowned interpreter of Beethoven's music, Muti has only conducted the *Missa solennis* once before, with the Vienna Philharmonic as part of the 2021 Salzburg Festival. The milestone performance was hailed as "radiant, intense, dignified and grand" by *The New York Times*.

The guest chorus director for this program is Metropolitan Opera Chorus Master and former Lyric Opera of Chicago Chorus Director Donald Palumbo, who first collaborated with Muti and the CSO and Chicago Symphony Chorus in June 2022 for performances of Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*. Featured soloists in Beethoven's *Missa solennis* are soprano Erin Morley, mezzo-soprano Alisa Kolosova, tenor Giovanni Sala, and bass-baritone Kyle Ketelsen.

Erin Morley, who returns to perform with the CSO for the first time since 2009, is one of today's most sought-after coloratura sopranos, regularly appearing on the world's most important opera stages such as the Vienna State Opera, National Opera of Paris, Los Angeles Opera and the Metropolitan Opera. Russian mezzo-soprano Alisa Kolosova has previously collaborated with Muti as part of the 2021 *Missa solemnis* performance at the Salzburg Festival with the Vienna Philharmonic. She has a longstanding relationship with the Festival, having been a participant in its 2009 Young Singers Project and first coming to international attention after singing Giuditta in Mozart's *Betulia liberata* under Muti at the 2010 Salzburg Whitsun Festival. Italian tenor Giovanni Sala, who makes his CSO debut in these performances, studied at the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Como, and has gone on to win the International Competition of the Teatro alla Scala Academy in Milan, as well as perform at the Ravenna Festival, both with Muti. Acclaimed American bass-baritone Kyle Ketelsen has made regular appearances at the Metropolitan Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago, as well as more recent performances on prestigious international stages, including the Vienna State Opera, Bavarian State Opera, and Teatro de la Maestranza. Ketelsen previously appeared with Muti and the CSO in 2010 performances of Berlioz's *Lélio, or The Return to Life*, which was featured in Muti's first season as CSO music director and later released as a recording on the CSO Resound label.

Concert for Chicago ([June 27](#))

Muti and the CSO return to Millennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion for the seventh time to perform a free Concert for Chicago. The performance is presented in partnership with the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE). The evening's performance, which marks Muti's final concert as CSO music director, opens with the *Andante moderato* by Florence Price — the first Black woman composer to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra, when her *Symphony No. 1* received its world premiere by the CSO in 1933 — and closes with Tchaikovsky's exhilarating *Symphony No. 5*.

Since becoming music director of the CSO in 2010, Muti has led free community concerts across the city in church sanctuaries and high school auditoriums, and most notably in multiple appearances at Millennium Park in downtown Chicago. These performances include his first Concert for Chicago performed September 19, 2010, at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park for a capacity audience of more than 25,000, which represented Muti's first concert as CSO music director. Muti and the CSO have returned to Millennium Park for appearances in 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018, and most recently in 2022.

No tickets are required for the June 27 Concert for Chicago and early arrival is recommended as the venue may reach capacity.

Patron Information

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at 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.

Some streets around Grant Park and Symphony Center will be closed during the weeks leading up to the NASCAR street race weekend. Patrons coming to concerts June 23 – July 1 are encouraged to review transit options, leave extra time for travel, and plan to arrive early. More information is available at cso.org/nascar.

All artists and programs 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.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra programs are sponsored by the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

The June 15-17 concerts are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

The appearance of Gene Pokorny on the June 15-17 program is made possible by Grainger Fund for Excellence.

The appearance of the Chicago Symphony Chorus on the June 23-25 program is made possible by a generous gift from the Grainger Foundation.

The June 23-25 concerts are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation, Josef and Margot Lakonishok, the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon, an anonymous donor, Betty W. Smykal, the Julian Family Foundation, Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz, and the Patrons Circle for *Missa solennis*.

The Concert for Chicago is sponsored by Kenneth C. Griffin, Citadel and Citadel Securities.

The Concert for Chicago is presented in partnership with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, June 15, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 16, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 17, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

Gene Pokorny, tuba

J. STRAUSS, JR. Overture to *Indigo and the Forty Thieves*

SCHIFRIN Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra**

SCHUBERT Symphony No. 9 in C Major, D. 944
(*Great*)

Tickets: \$35-\$399

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Friday, June 23, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 24, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 25, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

Erin Morley, soprano

Alisa Kolosova, mezzo-soprano

Giovanni Sala*, tenor

Kyle Ketelsen, bass-baritone

Chicago Symphony Chorus

Donald Palumbo, guest chorus director

BEETHOVEN *Missa solennis* in D Major, Op. 123

Tickets: \$199-\$399

Concert for Chicago

Millennium Park

201 E. Randolph St.

Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

PRICE Andante moderato

TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5 in E Minor

This concert is free. No tickets are required.

Riccardo Muti is one of the world's preeminent conductors. In 2010, he became the tenth music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. It was recently announced that he would extend his tenure through the 2022/23 season at the request of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. Muti's leadership has been distinguished by the strength of his artistic partnership with the Orchestra; his dedication to performing great works of the past and present, including thirteen world premieres to date; the enthusiastic reception he and the CSO have received on national and international tours; and eleven recordings on the CSO Resound label, with three Grammy awards among them. In addition, his contributions to the cultural life of Chicago — with performances throughout its many neighborhoods and at Orchestra Hall — have made a lasting impact on the city.

Born in Naples, Riccardo Muti studied piano under Vincenzo Vitale at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella, graduating with distinction. He subsequently received a diploma in composition and conducting from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan under the guidance of Bruno Bettinelli and Antonino Votto.

He first came to the attention of critics and the public in 1967, when he won the Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition, by unanimous vote of the jury, in Milan. In 1968, he became principal conductor of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, a position he held until 1980. In 1971, Muti was invited by Herbert von Karajan to conduct at the Salzburg Festival, the first of many occasions, which led to a celebration of fifty years of artistic collaboration with the Austrian festival in 2020. During the 1970s, Muti was chief conductor of London's Philharmonia Orchestra (1972–1982), succeeding Otto Klemperer. From 1980 to 1992, he inherited the position of music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra from Eugene Ormandy.

From 1986 to 2005, he was music director of Teatro alla Scala, and during that time, he directed major projects such as the three Mozart/Da Ponte operas and Wagner's *Ring* cycle in addition to his exceptional contributions to the Verdi repertoire. His tenure as music director of Teatro alla Scala, the longest in its history, culminated in the triumphant reopening of the restored opera house on December 7, 2004, with Salieri's *Europa riconosciuta*.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Riccardo Muti has conducted the most important orchestras in the world: from the Berlin Philharmonic to the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and from the New York Philharmonic to the Orchestre National de France; as well as the Vienna Philharmonic, an orchestra to which he is linked by particularly close and important ties, and with which he has appeared at the Salzburg Festival since 1971. When Muti was invited to lead the Vienna Philharmonic's 150th-anniversary concert, the orchestra presented him with the Golden Ring, a special sign of esteem and affection, awarded only to a few select conductors. In 2021, he conducted the Vienna Philharmonic in the New Year's Concert for the sixth time.

Muti has received numerous international honors over the course of his career. He is Cavaliere di Gran Croce of the Italian Republic and a recipient of the German Verdienstkreuz. He received the decoration of Officer of the Legion of Honor from French President Nicolas Sarkozy. He was made an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. The Salzburg Mozarteum awarded him its silver medal for his contribution to Mozart's music, and in Vienna, he was elected an honorary member of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, Vienna Hofmusikkapelle and Vienna State Opera. The State of Israel has honored him with the Wolf Prize in the arts. In July 2018, President Petro Poroshenko presented Muti with the State Award of Ukraine during the Roads of Friendship concert at the Ravenna Festival in Italy following earlier performances in Kiev. In October 2018, Muti received the prestigious Praemium Imperiale for Music of the Japan Arts Association in Tokyo.

In September 2010, Riccardo Muti became music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and was named 2010 Musician of the Year by *Musical America*. In 2011, Muti was selected as the recipient of the coveted Birgit Nilsson Prize. In 2011, he received the Opera News Award in New York City and Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts. That summer, he was named an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic and honorary director for life of the Rome Opera. In May 2012, he was awarded the highest papal honor: the Knight of the Grand Cross First Class of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Benedict XVI. In 2016, he was honored by the Japanese government with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. On August 15, 2021, Muti received the Great Golden Decoration of Honor for Services to the Republic of Austria, the highest possible civilian honor from the Austrian

government.

Passionate about teaching young musicians, Muti founded the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra in 2004 and the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in 2015. The purpose of the Italian Opera Academy — which takes place in Italy, as well as in Japan since 2019 as part of a multi-year collaboration with the Tokyo Spring Festival — is to pass on Muti's expertise to young musicians and to foster a better understanding of the complex journey to the realization of an opera. 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. The label RMMUSIC is responsible for Riccardo Muti's recordings.

riccardomuti.com

riccardomutioperacademy.com

riccardomutimusic.com

Chicago Symphony Orchestra: 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 63 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 Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have earned 64 Grammy Awards from the Recording Academy. Two Grammys were awarded in 2011 for Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti's first of eleven 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 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.