



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
RICCARDO MUTI MUSIC DIRECTOR

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SINGLE TICKETS FOR FALL AND HOLIDAY 2021 PROGRAMMING ON SALE AUGUST 19

**Programming Begins in September with
Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra opening the
Orchestra's 131st Season on September 23 and a
Symphony Center Presents Jazz Concert with Herbie Hancock on September 2**

New Audience Protocols Added as Part of "Safe and Sound" at Symphony Center

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces that single tickets for Fall and Holiday 2021 programming will go on sale on Thursday, August 19 at 10:00 a.m. (CDT) and will be available at [csosoa.org](https://www.csosoa.org) or by calling 312-294-3000. Fall programming begins with Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in the September 23 opening concert of the Orchestra's 131st season and their first performance together since February 2020, as well as the September 2 concert with Herbie Hancock that officially opens the 2021/22 season of the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series.

In accordance with current public health and safety guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic, audience capacity will not be limited for these performances unless conditions and guidelines change. Updated audience protocols at Symphony Center now include proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test upon arrival at all performances. Regardless of vaccination status, audiences attending performances at Symphony Center will also be required to wear face coverings unless public health and safety guidelines change. The CSOA joins a growing coalition of performing arts organizations across the Chicago area in adopting these new audience safety protocols that will be in effect beginning in September through December 2021. Detailed program information can be found at [csosoa.org](https://www.csosoa.org) with Safe and Sound guidelines for audiences available at [csosoa.org/safeandsound](https://www.csosoa.org/safeandsound). Program information for the remainder of the 2021/22 season will be announced in October.

“The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association is delighted to be welcoming audiences back to Symphony Center this fall. Our focus remains on the health and safety of our audiences, artists, stage crew and staff,” noted CSOA President Jeff Alexander. “Implementing these protocols allows us to bring people together safely to once again experience the transformative and life-enriching power of music during a very challenging time.”

Fall and Holiday 2021 Programming Highlights

Riccardo Muti, now entering his 12th season as music director, leads the CSO in three distinct programs presented between September 23 and October 9. The programs feature works by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges; Florence Price; Missy Mazzoli and Anatoly Liadov, as well as Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*) and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*) and Symphony No. 7 and the Brahms Violin Concerto with Leonidas Kavakos as soloist. Symphony Center Presents highlights include programs with Lang Lang, Daniil Trifonov, Latin Grammy Award-winning Quinteto Astor Piazzolla and a chamber music recital with violinist Leonidas Kavakos and pianist Yuja Wang. Additional highlights include CSO subscription concerts with CSO Artist-in-Residence Hilary Hahn performing Dvořák’s Violin Concerto, a MusicNOW concert curated by newly appointed Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and a CSO for Kids concert led by conductor Thomas Wilkins.

A full complement of holiday programming begins Thanksgiving weekend with a CSO at the Movies presentation of *Home Alone* and continues with appearances by Chanticleer, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass and the Vienna Boys Choir, as well as performances of Handel’s *Messiah* featuring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the CSO’s annual *Merry, Merry Chicago* concerts.

For complete Fall and Holiday 2021 program information visit [cso.org](https://www.cso.org).

Safe and Sound at Symphony Center

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) 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, the CSOA will continue to modify guidelines and the concert experience, based on the latest public health recommendations and in consultation with leading health experts. Patrons will be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test upon arrival at all performances. Options for proof of vaccination include presentation of a vaccination card or via several mobile apps. Alternatively, proof of a negative PCR test within 72 hours of performance date or antigen test within 6 hours of performance must be shown upon arrival. Currently, children under 12 do not need to present proof of a negative test but are required to be masked when attending performances at Symphony Center. Ticket holders will receive specific instructions for entry in advance of the performance. Fall concerts from September 2 through November 21, 2021, will be

presented without intermission and will last less than 90 minutes. Patrons are encouraged to visit [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.cso.org/safeandsound) for audience protocol instructions and the most recent information.

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.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](https://www.cso.org) and [experience.cso.org](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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.