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MAY PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

CHICAGO — May programming presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) at Symphony Center and in other community venues includes a wide variety of events, including Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) subscription concerts with Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti featuring a world premiere of a CSO-commissioned work by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and programs featuring Concertmaster Robert Chen and Principal Timpani David Herbert as soloists. Other special CSO concerts include a May 1 performance with internationally celebrated cellist Yo-Yo Ma and a May 30 appearance by singer, songwriter and pianist Ben Folds that also marks the CSOA's 32nd annual Corporate Night benefit. Symphony Center Presents offers a diverse set of May programs including appearances on the Piano series by Víkingur Ólafsson, Seong-Jin Cho and Maria João Pires, as well as a recital by soprano Renée Fleming and pianist Evgeny Kissin. The SCP Jazz series continues with a performance by NEA Jazz Master Dave Holland featuring Kenny Barron, Kevin Eubanks and Eric Harland. Free programs in May include a CSO Chamber Music concert at the Kehrein Center for the Arts in the city's Austin neighborhood and several programs featuring the Civic Orchestra, including a Civic Fellows contemporary chamber music concert, a program led by Civic Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur at Kenwood Academy High School and Symphony Center and a May 22 Open Rehearsal of Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition* led by Muti.

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

[Explore](#) a chronological list of May 2023 concert programs.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concerts

Yo-Yo Ma with the CSO ([May 1](#)) [Sold Out]

Internationally revered cellist Yo-Yo Ma returns to the CSO for one night only with renowned Mexican conductor Carlos Miguel Prieto, music director of the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. Ma performs Elgar's Cello Concerto on a program that also includes Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, a work that explores the importance of joy, hope and optimism in the face of adversity.

Ma, whose association with the city and the CSO spans several decades, was the Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant from 2010-2019. Over the years, he has performed regularly with the CSO and on the Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music series. During his time as Creative Consultant, he collaborated with the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO to produce several Concerts for Peace and performed with musicians from the Civic Orchestra in a variety of settings including the annual Bach Marathon.

Vivaldi Gloria ([May 4-9](#))

Conductor and Baroque specialist Giovanni Antonini returns to Symphony Center to lead the CSO in a program featuring Vivaldi's Gloria. Soloists on the program are sopranos Amanda Forsythe and Yulia Van Doren and mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke. The Chicago Symphony Chorus also joins the Orchestra, led by guest chorus director and UCLA Choral Studies director James Bass. Notably, Vivaldi's Kyrie, RV 587, and his Sinfonia from *La Senna festeggiante*, RV 693, both receive their first CSO performances on this program.

Muti, Montgomery & Rachmaninov 2 ([May 11-16](#))

CSO Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti opens his May residency with a program featuring Sergei Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2, performed in connection with the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth this year. The program opens with the Overture to Richard Wagner's *Tannhäuser* and also features the world premiere of *Transfigure to Grace* by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery, who writes with "a technicolor brilliance and harmonic plushness" (*Chicago Tribune*).

Muti, Chen & Mozart Gran Partita ([May 18-23](#))

Muti's second May program opens with the Overture to the opera *Il matrimonio segreto* by 18th-century composer Domenico Cimarosa and continues with two works by Mozart. Concertmaster Robert Chen joins the Orchestra and Muti as soloist for Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4. The program concludes with a performance of Mozart's chamber music masterwork, the *Gran Partita* for 13 instruments, scored for twelve winds and string bass.

Muti, Herbert & Pines of Rome ([May 25-27](#))

Muti concludes his multi-week residency in Chicago with two of Respighi's vibrant orchestral tapestries: the *Ancient Airs and Dances* Suite 1, which is inspired by characteristics of Renaissance lute music, and his *Pines of Rome*, a four-movement tone poem musically depicting different natural settings in famous locations from the Villa Borghese to the Appian Way. CSO Principal Timpani David Herbert makes his solo debut with the Orchestra in the CSO's first performances of William Kraft's Timpani Concerto No. 1. Considered a core piece of the percussion repertoire, the Concerto utilizes five drums and explores a wide array of techniques and sonic effects. The wide-ranging program opens with Mozart's Divertimento in F Major, K. 138.

Muti will also participate in a CD and book signing after the concert on Thursday, May 25. The signing will take place in Grainger Ballroom, with merchandise available in the Symphony Store, the Ballroom and online in advance.

Ben Folds & the Chicago Symphony Orchestra ([May 30](#))

Multi-platinum singer, songwriter and pianist Ben Folds makes his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and guest conductor Steven Reineke, music director of The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall and principal pops conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra. A pianist and composer, Folds has made a name for himself as a genre-bending artist who brings together classical and pop music in original, energetic and exciting ways. In addition to producing a vast array of albums and collaborative records, he performs regularly with major symphony orchestras around the world and currently serves as the first-ever Artistic Advisor to the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center.

The 32nd Annual Corporate Night is a fundraising event presented in partnership by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association and the League of the CSOA. Abbott Laboratories will be recognized at this year's event with the Excellence in Corporate Philanthropy Award with CEO Robert Ford accepting the award. Proceeds benefit the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's artistic, educational and community engagement programs in Chicago and across the globe. There is limited ticket availability. Special event tickets including a preconcert reception and dinner, and premium concert seating are available at cso.org.

Symphony Center Presents Piano

Víkingur Ólafsson ([May 7](#))

Icelandic pianist Víkingur Ólafsson, described by *The Daily Telegraph* as "the new superstar of classical piano," makes his Symphony Center Presents debut with a program that intersperses Mozart's keyboard works with music by four of the

composer's contemporaries: Haydn, C.P.E. Bach, Cimarosa and Galuppi. Completing the program is Franz Liszt's transcription of Mozart's *Ave verum corpus*.

Ólafsson will also participate in a CD signing after the concert on Sunday, May 7. The signing will take place in Grainger Ballroom, with merchandise available in the Symphony Store, the Ballroom and online in advance.

Seong-Jin Cho ([May 21](#))

Korean pianist Seong-Jin Cho makes his Symphony Center Presents debut in a program that features works by composers Handel, Gubaidulina and Brahms and culminates in Schumann's mercurial Symphonic Etudes.

Maria João Pires ([May 28](#))

Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires, hailed as "an elegant technician and probing interpreter" (*The New York Times*) and whose playing is "modest in scale, gloriously immodest in its beauty" (*Financial Times*), brings a program of Beethoven and Schumann to Symphony Center in a rare Chicago recital appearance.

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

An Evening with Dave Holland featuring Kenny Barron, Kevin Eubanks & Eric Harland ([May 12](#))

One of the most versatile and prolific bassists in jazz history, NEA Jazz Master Dave Holland returns to Symphony Center with a true all-star group of jazz heavyweights and frequent collaborators — comprised of pianist and fellow NEA Jazz Master Kenny Barron, guitarist and former *Tonight Show* music director Kevin Eubanks and highly acclaimed drummer Eric Harland — for a single evening of unforgettable music.

Symphony Center Presents

Renée Fleming & Evgeny Kissin ([May 14](#))

Legendary soprano Renée Fleming and world-renowned pianist Evgeny Kissin join forces in this Symphony Center Presents and Lyric Opera of Chicago Collaboration. Fleming's sumptuous voice and Kissin's virtuosity shine in this extraordinary pairing of Grammy-winning musicians, performing a wide-ranging selection of art songs, including selections by Schubert, Liszt, Duparc and Rachmaninov.

CSO for Kids

Downtown Sounds ([May 6](#))

Master storyteller, TikTok influencer and Chicago historian Shermann "Dilla" Thomas is co-host with guest conductor Scott Speck for a musical journey with the CSO around

Chicago in a program that explores what our city's neighborhoods sound like. The concert features music by Gershwin, Márquez and Tchaikovsky, who use melodies and rhythms to portray city streets and bustling neighborhoods.

Once Upon a Symphony: The Elves and the Shoemaker ([May 20](#))

Once Upon a Symphony programs combine vibrant music played by CSO musicians, storytelling, and enchanting visuals for a playful concert experience, and are produced and presented in partnership with Chicago Children's Theatre. In this performance, members of the CSO and storyteller Felix Mayes bring to life The Elves and the Shoemaker, a story that reveals we all need help at times, and when we receive it, we are able to strengthen our connections with one another.

Make an afternoon of your visit to Symphony Center [with this easy-to-use guide](#), including parking and dining details and fun postconcert activities.

CSO Chamber Music

The Wabash Avenue Music Collective at Kehrein Center for the Arts ([May 21](#))

The Wabash Avenue Music Collective, made up of CSO musicians Rong-Yan Tang and Kozue Funakoshi on violin, viola Max Raimi, cello Karen Basrak and Assistant Principal Clarinet John Bruce Yeh, presents a program of works for strings and mixed chamber ensembles. The program features Haydn's String Quartet in D Minor; Mozart's Clarinet Quintet, and Raimi's *Runagate Runagate* for string trio, clarinet, and mezzo soprano, featuring Sara Dailey as soloist.

This event is free and takes place at the Kehrein Center for the Arts in Chicago. Tickets are required and will become available on May 5.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Civic Fellows Chamber Music ([May 7](#))

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago Fellows present a dynamic concert of contemporary chamber music works with a focus on highlighting diverse, living composers. The program was curated by the Civic Fellows following a national call for scores that had more than 65 applicants from across the United States.

Dreams and Reveries ([May 14-15](#))

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago returns to Kenwood Academy on Sunday, May 14, at 2:00 p.m. The Orchestra will be led by Civic Orchestra Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur in repertoire inspired by the atmosphere and landscapes of dreams. The program, also offered on Monday, May 15, at 8:00 p.m. at Symphony Center, features Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, the feverish portrait of a lover's opium-induced

dream, complete with a whirling ballroom scene, cackling witches and a slashing guillotine. Also on the program is contemporary Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdóttir's *Dreaming*, which summons an ethereal landscape where chronological time comes to a halt. Former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Anna Clyne's *Masquerade*, evoking the 18th-century promenade concerts held in London's pleasure gardens, opens the program.

Open Rehearsal ([May 22](#))

As part of his ongoing commitment to training the next generation of musicians, CSO Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti leads the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in an open rehearsal of Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition*. Since becoming music director in 2010, Muti has led multiple open rehearsals with the Civic Orchestra and a historic side-by-side concert with Civic and CSO musicians in 2018 in Millennium Park.

CSOtv

Audiences in Chicago and worldwide can connect with the extraordinary artistry of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with free access to a wide variety of content available through the [CSOtv \(cso.tv\)](https://www.cso.tv) video portal. Email signup is required to access free content. Content includes the critically acclaimed CSO Sessions series, as well as the CSO for Kids and Civic Orchestra of Chicago series, archival concert performances and more.

On May 1, online audiences can access a new themed playlist titled "Springtime in Paris," dedicated to the works of French composers. The playlist encompasses a wide variety of styles within the French literature, from Maurice Ravel's playful String Quartet in F to Olivier Messiaen's significant and poignant *Quartet for the End of Time*. Also featured are works by Pierre Gabaye, Darius Milhaud and Charles Gounod. All performances feature CSO musicians performing together in chamber ensembles.

New playlists will be introduced monthly on CSOtv throughout the 2022/23 Season.

Food and Beverage

Levy Restaurants, in concert with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, is reimagining food and beverage for concertgoers, Chicagoans and visitors alike at Symphony Center. From concert bars serving thoughtful selections to sit-down dining experiences and unforgettable private events, the two world-class institutions are now working together to deliver an elevated concert experience.

Symphony Center's newest restaurant, Forte, created for audience members, locals and visitors, features contemporary Mediterranean cuisine and classic cocktails, draft

beer, locally roasted Metric coffee and locally made Paulo gelato in a space that's recently refreshed to pair with the historic building. For restaurant hours and information visit forterestaurant.com. Reservations can be made through [Tock](#).

For select performances, concertgoers can enhance their concert experience by dining at the Thomas Club with a prix fixe menu, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan. Visit cso.org/dining for more information.

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.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances at Symphony Center and in neighborhood venues are free, but tickets are required unless otherwise noted. Seating is general admission, and there is a nonrefundable \$5 per ticket service fee for most performances that take place at Symphony Center. Tickets become available two weeks prior to each concert.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

Parking and Transit Options

Symphony Center and SpotHero, the nation's leading parking reservation app, have teamed up to help make parking easier. To reserve a parking spot, visit spothero.com or download the SpotHero app and search for "Symphony Center." Valet parking is available for most performances at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Exclusive subscriber parking rates are available through the Grant Park South Garage. Visit cso.org/parking for more parking and transit options.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter.

The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Programs are sponsored by the Illinois Arts Council.

The program on May 1 is generously sponsored by The Negaunee Foundation.

Allstate is the Youth Education Program Sponsor.

Support of School Concerts is provided, in part, by Kinder Morgan.

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WBBM News Radio is the Tuesday Media Partner for the May 9, 16 and 23 programs.

The appearance of the Chicago Symphony Chorus has been made possible by a generous gift from The Grainger Foundation.

In appreciation of their generous support for the *SEMPRE* ALWAYS campaign, the CSO recognizes Randall Kroszner and David Nelson as sponsors of the May 7 recital.

The 2022/23 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by The Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

The Civic Orchestra Chamber Series is generously sponsored by Judy and Scott McCue, Neil and Karen Kawashima and other donors through the Civic Orchestra Chamber Access Fund.

Band WDCB are the media partners for the May 12 performance.

Funding for educational programs during the 2022/23 SCP Jazz season has been generously provided by Dan J. Epstein, Judy Guitelman and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation.

The May 14-15 program is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Support of Once Upon a Symphony is provided, in part, by PNC Bank.

The May 21 program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

The May 25-27 performances are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The presenting sponsor for the May 30 program is CIBC Private Wealth.

Media partners for the May 30 program are Chicago Magazine and Q101.

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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.