



**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

## **TWO NEW CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FELLOWS ANNOUNCED FOR 2023/24 SEASON**

### **CSO Fellowship Welcomes Violinist Jesús Linárez and Bassist Olivia Reyes as New Fellows with Violinist and CSO Fellow Gabriela Lara to Return for a Second Season**

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) has announced that two musicians will join the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Fellowship program for the 2023/24 Season. Violinist Jesús Linárez and bassist Olivia Reyes will become the newest CSO Fellows at the beginning of the season in September, joining current CSO Fellow violinist [Gabriela Lara](#), who returns in 2023/24 for her second year in the program.

Launched in 2022, the CSO Fellowship program was developed with support from Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti, the CSO Members' Committee and Chicago Federation of Musicians and welcomes musicians from populations that have traditionally been underrepresented in American symphony orchestras, including, but not limited to, those who identify as Black, Latino or Indigenous. As CSO Fellows, musicians gain significant experience rehearsing and performing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra along with the opportunity to work with renowned conductors while receiving training and mentorship from CSO musicians to better equip them to win auditions in major U.S. orchestras. They also receive compensation to perform a minimum of 20 subscription weeks with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as well as financial support to attend auditions, and have access to up to 10, one-hour private lessons with a CSO musician annually. CSO Fellows may be invited to extend their fellowship for up to three years.

Violinist **Jesús Linárez** currently studies at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where he recently won the 2023 Concerto Competition and is a student of Almita Vamos. He is a member of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra and a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, where he has served as a co-concertmaster in the 2022/23 Season. Linárez was recently named concertmaster of the West Michigan Symphony and was also a 2022 fellow in the Grant Park Orchestra of Chicago. Originally from Barquisimeto, Venezuela, Linárez was a student at the Conservatorio de Música Vicente Emilio Sojo from 2009-2017, where he studied violin, piano, and music theory. He was also a member of the Latin American Violin Academy, where he studied with Jose Francisco del Castillo. Linárez was also a member

Venezuelan Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Teresa Carreño Symphony Orchestra and performed with Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra as part of a 2016 European Tour. Linárez was also a semi-finalist in the 2021 Sphinx Solo Competition, the winner of the 2022 Evanston Music Club Scholarship, and the first prize winner in the 2021 Chicago Violin Competition.

Bassist **Olivia Reyes** graduated in 2021 with a Bachelor of Music degree in Bass Performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where she studied with Jon McCullough-Benner, Principal Bass of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Reyes is currently a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, where she has performed as a section and rotating principal bassist since 2021. Reyes has also been a substitute principal bass for the Opera Festival of Chicago and a substitute bass with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra and the Camerata Chicago. In 2021, Reyes was Principal Bass of the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge, Colorado. She is also active as a mentor for the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO's ongoing partnership with Chicago Public Schools and a substitute mentor and coach for the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras (CYSO).

The CSO Fellowship Program was developed with full support from Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti as part of his ongoing commitment to training the next generation of musicians, as well as the CSO Members' Committee and the Chicago Federation of Musicians. The program builds upon the CSOA's longstanding focus on the training and development of musicians that began more than 100 years ago with the establishment of the [Civic Orchestra of Chicago](#)—the preprofessional training orchestra affiliated with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The CSOA has gone on to create or participate in programs that support young musicians from communities that are traditionally underrepresented in the orchestral field, specifically those interested in gaining entrance to top conservatories and post-secondary music schools as they seek a career in classical music performance. These programs include the [Percussion Scholarship Program](#), [Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative \(CMPI\)](#) and [Sphinx Orchestral Partners Auditions](#).

The CSO Fellowship Program is currently open to early-career string players (violin, viola, cello, double bass) who have graduated from college, university or conservatory and are from populations that have traditionally been underrepresented in American symphony orchestras, including, but not limited to, those who identify as Black, Latino or Indigenous. Additionally, applicants must have U.S. citizenship, permanent U.S. residency, or an O-1 or OPT visa at the time of application and must be a member in good standing of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM), or willing to join the AFM if accepted to the Fellowship. Up to three CSO Fellows can participate in the program each season. If accepted, a Fellow may be invited to remain in the program for up to three years. For information and updates about the CSO Fellowship, visit [cso.org/fellowship](https://cso.org/fellowship).

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** [cso.org](https://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](http://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](http://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.