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APRIL PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY

CHICAGO — April programming presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) at Symphony Center and in community venues features a wide variety of events, including Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) concerts with renowned guest conductors and soloists. April CSO concert highlights include debut performances for pianist Yulianna Avdeeva (April 18-21) and soprano Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha (April 11-13), and CSO subscription debuts for mezzo-soprano Ashley Dixon and baritone Lucas Meachem in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* (April 11-13). Return podium appearances include Klaus Mäkelä leading the U.S. premiere of Sauli Zinovjev's *Batteria* (April 4-6), James Conlon (April 11-13), Tugan Sokhiev leading a CSO first performance of Andrzej Panufnik's *Heroic Overture* (April 18-21) and Giancarlo Guerrero conducting subscription concerts featuring the CSO and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis (April 25-27). Featured guest artists in April CSO programs include CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen and CSO Principal Oboe William Welter in *The Music of Bach* (March 28-April 2), Grammy Award-winning pianist Yuja Wang in Bartók's *Second Piano Concerto* (April 4-6) and tenor Issachah Savage in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* (April 11-13).

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) programming includes an appearance by the Gateways Festival Orchestra led by conductor Anthony Parnter and featuring Gospel Music Hall of Fame a cappella group Take 6 (April 19). The SCP Chamber Music series continues with the return of cellist Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Kathryn Stott (April 7) for a program of sonatas. The SCP Piano series welcomes Grammy Award-winning pianist Yefim Bronfman (April 14), and the 30th season of the SCP Jazz series continues on April 24 with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis,

commemorating the 125th anniversary of Duke Ellington's birth. The international award-winning Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks (Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra) and Sir Simon Rattle return to Symphony Center on April 28.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, led by its Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur, will return to Kenwood Academy High School on April 7 for a collaborative concert with students from the Kenwood Academy Music Department. On April 8 at Symphony Center, the Civic Orchestra and Masur perform a program featuring Sibelius' Symphony No. 7 and Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony. On April 29, Grammy Award winner and Music Director of the Nashville Symphony Giancarlo Guerrero leads a concert to mark the finale of the annual Chicago Youth in Music Festival as the Civic Orchestra joins forces with Chicago-area high school students to perform Shostakovich's Symphony No. 4.

CSO for Kids: Once Upon a Symphony programs return in April with two performances of Goldilocks and the Three Bears (April 6 & 20), produced and presented in partnership with Chicago Children's Theatre.

CSO Chamber Music series returns to the University of Chicago's Mandel Hall on April 14 with a program featuring music of Haydn, Bartók and Brahms.

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

[Explore](#) a chronological list of April 2024 concert programs.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

The Music of Bach ([March 28-April 2](#))

CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen leads a program of Bach's works for chamber orchestra, including the Third *Brandenburg* Concerto, Violin Concerto in E Major and Orchestral Suite No. 1. Also included on the program are the CSO's first performances of C.P.E. Bach's Sinfonia in E-flat Major and J.S. Bach's Concerto for Oboe and Violin in C Minor featuring Chen and CSO Principal Oboe William Welter as soloists.

Klaus Mäkelä & Yuja Wang ([April 4-6](#))

Following critically acclaimed CSO podium appearances in 2022 and 2023, Klaus Mäkelä, Artistic Partner of the Concertgebouw Orchestra and Music Director of the Orchestre de Paris and Oslo Philharmonic, returns for a wide-ranging program that opens with the U.S. premiere of Finnish composer Sauli Zinovjev's *Batteria*. Grammy Award-winning pianist Yuja Wang joins Mäkelä and the CSO for a performance of Bartók's Second Piano Concerto, and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 closes the program.

Mendelssohn Elijah ([April 11-13](#))

Music Director of the Los Angeles Opera and former music director of the Ravinia Festival, James Conlon, leads soloists and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Soloists include soprano Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha, mezzo-soprano Ashley Dixon, tenor Issachah Savage and baritone Lucas Meachem. These performances mark soprano Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha's CSO debut, mezzo-soprano Ashley Dixon's CSO subscription debut and baritone Lucas Meachem's CSO subscription debut. The Chicago Symphony Chorus is prepared for this program by guest chorus director Eugene Rogers.

Chopin & Tchaikovsky ([April 18-21](#))

Renowned international orchestral and opera conductor Tugan Sokhiev leads the CSO and 2010 Chopin Competition winner Yulianna Avdeeva in her CSO debut for a performance of Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1. Sokhiev opens the program with the CSO's first performance of Andrzej Panufnik's *Heroic Overture*, a tribute to the courageous spirit of the Polish people, composed in 1952. Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1 (*Winter Dreams*) closes the program.

The April 19 performance takes place at Edman Memorial Chapel at 401 E. Franklin St., Wheaton, IL, 60187.

CSO x Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis ([April 25-27](#))

Artistic director, nine-time Grammy Award winner and NEA Jazz Master Wynton Marsalis and his renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra join six-time Grammy Award-winning conductor and music director of the Nashville Symphony Giancarlo Guerrero and the CSO for a jazz-meets-classical program. John Adams' *The Chairman Dances* and Shostakovich's Suite for Variety Orchestra No. 1 open the program. Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra will also perform selections by Duke Ellington. The two ensembles continue the concert with selections from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, alternating between the original orchestral version performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and imaginative new jazz arrangements presented by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. The program closes with All-American Pep from Marsalis' *Swing Symphony*, a journey through jazz history and American sound.

Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music

Yo-Yo Ma & Kathryn Stott ([April 7](#))

Nineteen-time Grammy Award-winning cellist Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Kathryn Stott, longtime friends and collaborators with over 30 years of concerts around the world, present a program featuring two contrasting cello sonatas by Franck and Shostakovich,

Dvořák's *Songs My Mother Taught Me*, Pärt's *Spiegel im Spiegel* ("Mirror in Mirror") and lyrical works by Gabriel Fauré, Sérgio Assad and Nadia Boulanger.

Symphony Center Presents Piano

Yefim Bronfman ([April 14](#))

Grammy Award-winning pianist Yefim Bronfman returns to Symphony Center to present a recital of works by composers from the Romantic Era. The afternoon opens with Beethoven's Sonata No. 7 in D Major, Op. 10, No. 3, followed by Schubert's expansive Sonata in A Minor, D. 784, written in 1823 during the trying period of the composer's hospitalization for the disease which eventually led to his death. The program also includes two of Schumann's works: Arabeske, Op. 18 and *Carnival Scenes from Vienna*, which reflect the city's vibrant cultural festivities of the Fasching (carnival) season in 1839.

Symphony Center Presents Featured Concert

Gateways Festival Orchestra featuring Take 6 ([April 19](#))

The all-Black Gateways Festival Orchestra concludes its week-long Chicago residency with a Symphony Center concert featuring 10-time Grammy Award, 10-time Dove Award and Soul Train Award-winning a cappella group Take 6. Conductor Anthony Parnter leads a program highlighting works by African American composers. The program opens with Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson's *Worship: A Concert Overture*, followed by Elgar's *Enigma* Variations. Chicago-native Margaret Bonds' *Montgomery Variations*, which were inspired by the life and civil rights work of Martin Luther King Jr. follows. The concert closes with selections from Gospel Music Hall of Fame members Take 6.

Symphony Center Presents Jazz

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis ([April 24](#))

World-renowned trumpeter, bandleader, composer and advocate for American culture Wynton Marsalis leads the renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, returning to its self-proclaimed second home at Symphony Center for an evening commemorating the 125th anniversary of Duke Ellington's birth.

Symphony Center Presents Orchestras

BRSO Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks ([April 28](#))

Sir Simon Rattle marks his first season as chief conductor of the Grammy Award-winning Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks (Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra) and leads the orchestra in Mahler's Sixth Symphony. In 2023, Sir Simon

Rattle and the BRSO won Diapason d'Or (French for "Golden Tuning Fork"), Supersonic Pizzicato and Gramophone Editor's Choice awards for their live recording of Gustav Mahler's Ninth Symphony.

CSO for Kids

Once Upon a Symphony: Goldilocks and the Three Bears ([April 6 & 20](#))

Once Upon a Symphony combines vibrant music played by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, storytelling and enchanting visuals for a playful concert experience, and are produced and presented in partnership with Chicago Children's Theatre. Delightful musical selections combine with Broadway's Rika Nishikawa narrating this classic story that playfully explores the wide and wonderful world of the forest through Goldilocks' eyes and some of the responsibilities that come along with growing older.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Civic at Kenwood Academy: Prokofiev 5 ([April 7](#))

Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur leads the Civic Orchestra in collaboration with students from the Kenwood Academy Music Department. Kenwood Academy students and Civic Orchestra members perform Newbold's *Mythos* and Man's *Glimpses of Muqam Chebiyat*. The Civic Orchestra concludes the program with a performance of Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony, the first of three symphonies written while living in the Soviet Union during World War II (1944).

This event takes place at Kenwood Academy High School, 5015 S. Blackstone Ave., Chicago, IL.

Prokofiev 5 ([April 8](#))

Civic Orchestra of Chicago Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur leads a program opening with Sibelius' Symphony No. 7, which explores Nordic landscapes, captivating listeners with its poignant melodies and introspective themes. The program concludes with Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony – a bold tribute to the unyielding grandeur of the human spirit.

Shostakovich 4 ([April 29](#))

Concluding the annual Chicago Youth in Music Festival, six-time Grammy Award-winning conductor and music director of the Nashville Symphony Giancarlo Guerrero leads the finale concert. The Civic Orchestra joins forces with Chicago-area high school students to perform Shostakovich's Symphony No. 4.

CSO Chamber Music

CSO Chamber Music at the University of Chicago ([April 14](#))

The CSO Chamber Music series continues at the University of Chicago with CSO violinists Qing Hou and Lei Hou, violist Lawrence Neuman, Principal Cello John Sharp, Assistant Principal Clarinet and E-flat Clarinet John Bruce Yeh and Grammy Award-nominated pianist John Novacek for an afternoon of music composed inside the world of specific cultures. The program includes Haydn's well-known Piano Trio No. 39 in G Major, Hob. XV:25 and Bartók's *Contrasts*, which is filled with Hungarian and Romanian dance melodies. The program closes with Brahms' Clarinet Quintet, one of the first works composed for an ensemble featuring clarinet.

This event takes place at Mandel Hall at University of Chicago, 1131 E. 57th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

Food & Beverage

From lobby bars serving enticing selections of refreshments to sit-down dining experiences and options for unforgettable private events, there are a variety of opportunities to elevate your concert experience. Symphony Center's restaurant, Forte, features Mediterranean-influenced cuisine and classic cocktails, draft beer, locally roasted coffee and gelato.

The Thomas Club, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan, opens on select dates for dining. View menus, make reservations, and learn more about dining at the Thomas Club or Forte restaurant at [cso.org/dining](https://www.cso.org/dining).

Patron Information

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.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 will become available two weeks prior to each concert.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

Parking & 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 select 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.

The March 28-April 2 Music of Bach concerts are generously sponsored by the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon.

The April 4-6 Klaus Mäkelä & Yuja Wang performances are generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

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

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra thanks the League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association — led by Sharon Mitchell, League President — for contributions to the Endowed Concert Fund, which supports the performances April 11-13 of Mendelssohn's Elijah.

The April 18-21 Chopin & Tchaikovsky concerts are sponsored by the Bonnie Ann Barber Endowment Fund, which recognizes the importance of the CSO to Chicago and aims to preserve and support the CSO's legacy for future generations.

The appearance of Yulianna Avdeeva is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

The CSO at Wheaton series is supported by Megan and Steve Shebik.

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

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association Youth Programming is sponsored by Allstate.

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Carol Prins, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Kinder Morgan, The Negaunee Foundation, PNC, Courtney Shea, Megan and Steve Shebik, Michael and Linda Simon, the Walter and Caroline Sueske Charitable Trust and an anonymous family foundation.

The April 7 Yo-Yo Ma & Kathryn Stott concert is generously sponsored by The Negaunee Foundation & Zell Family Foundation.

The April 14 SCP Piano Yefim Bronfman performance is made possible with the generous sponsorship of Josef and Margot Lakonishok.

Funding for educational programs during the 2023/24 Season of SCP Jazz has been generously provided by Dan J. Epstein, Judith Guitelman and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation. The CSOA thanks the Epstein Family Foundation for ten consecutive years of generous, innovative support for the SCP Jazz Education program.

The 2023/24 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

Major support for the Civic Orchestra of Chicago also provided by Robert and Joanne Crown Income Charitable Fund; Leslie Fund, Inc.; Judy and Scott McCue; Barbara and Barre Seid Foundation; The George L. Shields Foundation, Inc.; The Maval Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago and CSO x Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra projects are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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

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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. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, was named Music Director Emeritus for Life beginning with the 2023/24 Season. Jessie Montgomery is Mead Composer-in-Residence, and Hilary Hahn is CSO Artist-in-Residence.

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 nationally, and since 1892, has made 64 international tours, performing in 29 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. Launched in 2007, [CSO 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 the Negaunee Music Institute. The [Chicago Symphony Chorus](#), founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919–20 season, the [Civic Orchestra of Chicago](#) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. [Symphony Center Presents](#) features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The [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.