



**For Immediate Release:**  
November 20, 2024

**Press Contacts:**  
[Hannah Sundwall](mailto:hannah.sundwall@csosymphony.org)  
[312-294-3083](tel:3122943083)

[Eileen Chambers](mailto:eileen.chambers@csosymphony.org)  
[312-294-3092](tel:3122943092)

## **DECEMBER PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN THE COMMUNITY**

CHICAGO — December 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. Conductor Dima Slobodeniouk makes his CSO subscription debut with cellist Johannes Moser as soloist (December 5-7), baritone Konstantin Krimmel makes his CSO debut with Fabien Gabel returning to the podium (December 12-14) and Lahav Shani makes his CSO solo debut as pianist on a program that he also conducts (December 19-21).

Additional highlights include programs across a variety of CSO concert series. CSO Chamber Music continues with the Winter Quartet (December 3) and CSO for Kids: Once Upon a Symphony opens its 2024/25 Season with *The Little Red Hen* (December 7). The CSO at the Movies series opens with the 1939 MGM classic *The Wizard of Oz* (November 29-December 1) and continues with holiday favorite *Elf* (December 13-15), starring Will Ferrell.

Festive concerts fill Symphony Center, including six performances of the annual family-friendly favorite Merry, Merry Chicago! with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony Chorus (December 18-23), as well as A Chanticleer Christmas (December 10) and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass, with its virtuosic showcase of works for brass ensemble (December 17).

Former CSO Solti Conducting Apprentice Erina Yashima returns to the podium to lead the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in concerts at Northside College Prep (December 8) and Symphony Center (December 9).

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

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

## **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

### **Grieg & Rachmaninov ([December 5-7](#))**

Conductor Dima Slobodeniouk makes his CSO subscription debut leading a program opening with Grieg's Suite No. 1 from *Peer Gynt*, inspired by Norway's national folk hero. German Record Critics' Award-winning cellist Johannes Moser returns for Lutoslawski's Cello Concerto, and the program concludes with Rachmaninov's First Symphony.

On Saturday, December 7, a postconcert CD signing with Johannes Moser takes place in Grainger Ballroom and is open to all ticket holders. Merchandise will be available at the Symphony Store preconcert and Grainger Ballroom at intermission and postconcert.

### **The Tempest & The Sea Hawk ([December 12-14](#))**

Music Director Designate of the Tonkünstler-Orchester Niederösterreich Fabien Gabel leads a program of seafaring and adventure-filled works, such as Britten's Four Sea Interludes from *Peter Grimes* and Tchaikovsky's *The Tempest*. BBC New Generation Artist and baritone Konstantin Kimmell makes his CSO debut in Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer*. The program closes with the CSO's first performances of Korngold's suite from the 1940 Hollywood epic *The Sea Hawk*.

On Thursday, December 12, WXRT's Terri Hemmert hosts [Classic Encounter](#), a preconcert interactive multimedia discussion with CSO Assistant Principal Clarinet John Bruce Yeh in Grainger Ballroom. Patrons may add the event to a ticket order after selecting seats for the concert.

On Saturday, December 14, at 2:00 p.m., visit the [Gene Siskel Film Center](#) for a special screening of Michael Curtiz's 1940 swashbuckling adventure, *The Sea Hawk*, starring Errol Flynn as Geoffrey Thorpe, who embarks on a mission to loot the Spanish ships poised to invade England.

### **Shani, Shostakovich & Brahms ([December 19-21](#))**

Chief Conductor of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Lahav Shani makes his CSO solo debut as piano soloist in Shostakovich's Second Piano Concerto, conducting from the keyboard. The program opens with Beethoven's Overture to *Egmont* and closes with Brahms' First Symphony.

## **CSO Chamber Music**

### **Winter Quartet Plays Mahler, Saariaho & Fauré ([December 3](#))**

The Winter Quartet, featuring CSO musicians Ni Mei (violin), Danny Lai (viola), Katinka Kleijn (cello) and Steinway Artist Spencer Myer (piano), performs captivating works, each offering a unique glimpse into the rich possibilities of chamber music, beginning with Mahler's unfinished and seldom-heard Piano Quartet. Saariaho's *Cloud Trio* evokes ethereal, shifting textures with its fluid and atmospheric passages, and Fauré's Piano Quartet No. 1 demonstrates the composer's mastery of blending intensity and lyrical beauty.

Tickets are pay what you wish, starting at \$15. Concertgoers can choose between on-stage or Terrace seating to experience the performance up close.

## **CSO for Kids**

### **Once Upon a Symphony: The Little Red Hen ([December 7](#))**

Produced and presented in partnership with Chicago Children's Theatre, Once Upon a Symphony combines vibrant music played by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with storytelling and enchanting visuals for a playful concert experience. Delightful musical selections combine with the story of a cow, horse and pig all turning down the Little Red Hen's requests for help planting wheat, grinding flour and baking bread — who are disappointed when the hen eats the delicious bread all by herself.

## **CSO at the Movies**

### **The Wizard of Oz in Concert ([November 29-December 1](#))**

Conductor Richard Kaufman leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Herbert Stothart's Academy Award-winning original score to MGM's 1939 *The Wizard of Oz*. Written in Chicago by L. Frank Baum, the book inspired the classic movie that generations have called their favorite of all time. Audiences can experience this Technicolor film with the CSO performing the treasured tunes of Harold Arlen.

### **Elf in Concert ([December 13-15](#))**

Buddy was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and raised to adulthood among Santa's elves. Unable to shake the feeling that he doesn't fit in, the adult Buddy travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. This holiday season, audiences can relive this heartwarming holiday classic on a giant screen with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra — conducted by Justin Freer — playing John Debney's wonderful score.

## **CSO Holiday Concerts**

### **Merry, Merry Chicago! ([December 18-23](#))**

With the hall trimmed in festive decor, Alastair Willis — music director of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra, and principal conductor and artistic adviser of the Symphonia Boca Raton — returns to Orchestra Hall to lead members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by Associate Chorus Director Cheryl Frazes Hill, in a program of traditional music of the season and festive songs. Program highlights include *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, *Joy to the World*, *Sleigh Ride*, *White Christmas*, including a rousing encore of the cherished local favorite *Christmas in Chicago*. Before the concert and during intermission, audiences can listen to performances by school and community ensembles from across the Chicago area in different locations throughout Symphony Center.

On Saturday, December 21, the CSO Latino Alliance hosts the annual Noche Navideña to gather friends and family for the holiday celebration. Specially priced tickets for individual Latino Alliance concert dates and events are available at [cso.org/LatinoAlliance](http://cso.org/LatinoAlliance).

## **Symphony Center Presents**

### **A Chanticleer Christmas ([December 10](#))**

The Grammy Award-winning men's chorus brings its signature holiday celebration to Symphony Center for one-night only. The program includes early hymns and carols in a variety of arrangements, selections from Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, the beloved *Ave Maria* by Franz Biebl, and a selection of contemporary Christmas songs. The program concludes with a selection of Christmas spirituals, another cherished Chanticleer tradition.

### **Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass ([December 17](#))**

The CSO brass section presents a virtuosic showcase of traditional favorites and symphonic masterworks arranged for brass ensemble. Conducted by CSO trombonist Michael Mulcahy, the program includes music of Gabrieli and Britten and arrangements of works by Brahms, Holst and Puccini.

## **Civic Orchestra of Chicago**

### **Civic at Northside College Prep: Yashima Conducts Mahler 5 ([December 8](#))**

The Civic Orchestra performs a community concert at Northside College Prep (5501 N. Kedzie Ave, Chicago) led by former CSO Solti Conducting Apprentice Erina Yashima. The program will also be performed at Symphony Center on Monday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are free; reservations are required and open November 22.

### **Yashima Conducts Mahler 5 ([December 9](#))**

Former CSO Solti Conducting Apprentice Erina Yashima leads the Civic Orchestra in Mahler's Fifth Symphony, including a stormy funeral march, folk-inspired dances, a rapturous Adagietto — said to be Mahler's love letter to his wife Alma — and a final hymn of triumph.

Tickets for this concert are pay what you wish, starting at \$5, and open November 22.

### **Food and Beverage**

The Thomas Club, located on the ninth floor of Symphony Center with sweeping views of Lake Michigan, offers a prix fixe menu featuring traditional American fare for a seamless preconcert dining experience. View menus, make reservations, and learn more about dining at the Thomas Club at [cso.org/dining](https://www.cso.org/dining).

### **The Symphony Store**

Celebrate the holidays with the CSOA's 2024 commemorative ornament. This year's ornament commemorates over 90 years of volunteer service to the CSO and pays tribute to the beloved holiday trees that once graced the terminals at Chicago O'Hare International Airport — one of the CSOA's most visible volunteer projects. Each ornament is handmade in Lincoln, Rhode Island, and is finished with 24-karat gold and sparkling Austrian crystals. Ornaments are available now at the Symphony Store and can be purchased online at [symphonystore.com](https://www.symphonystore.com).

### **Parking and Transit Options**

Exclusive parking rates are available through Millennium Garages, the Preferred Parking Partner for Symphony Center. The closest parking garage is the Grant Park South Garage, located at 325 S. Michigan Ave. Valet parking is located at Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance, and is available for select performances. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Visit [cso.org/parking](https://www.cso.org/parking) for more parking and transit options.

### **Group Sales**

Symphony Center is the perfect place to share the joy of music with friends and family this December. Groups of 10 or more enjoy special pricing, reduced ticket fees and flexible payment options. Visit [cso.org/groups](https://www.cso.org/groups) for more information or call [312-294-3040](tel:312-294-3040) for personalized assistance.

## **Patron Information**

Contact Patron Services for personalized assistance online at [cso.org/contact](https://www.cso.org/contact) 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.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

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

The appearance of Konstantin Krimmel is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

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

The CSO at the Movies series is generously sponsored by Megan and Steve Shebik.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass is presented in collaboration with the Midwest Clinic, an International Band and Orchestra Conference.

The Shani, Shostakovich & Brahms program is generously sponsored by Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz.

The 2024/25 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 is also provided by Robert and Joanne Crown Income Charitable Fund; Nancy Dehmlow; Leslie Fund, Inc.; Judy and Scott McCue; Leo and Catherine Miserendino; Barbara and Barre Seid Foundation; The George L. Shields Foundation, Inc.; the Maval Foundation, and Paul and Lisa Wiggin.

Newsradio 105.9 WBBM is a Media Partner for The Tempest & The Sea Hawk and Merry, Merry Chicago!

###

**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. In April 2024, Klaus Mäkelä was named the Orchestra's 11th music director, and he will begin an initial five-year tenure as Zell Music Director with the 2027/28 Season. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became Music Director Emeritus for Life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Daniil Trifonov is the CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2024/25 Season.

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](https://www.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.