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**Press Contact:**  
[Eileen Chambers](#)  
312-294-3092

## **RICCARDO MUTI AND THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO EMBARK ON EIGHTH EUROPEAN TOUR TOGETHER JANUARY 11-29, 2024**

### **Tour Includes First Appearances for Muti and CSO Together in Brussels and Budapest and Anticipated Return Appearances in Cologne, Essen, Frankfurt, Luxembourg, Milan, Paris, Rome, Turin and Vienna**

CHICAGO – Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) embark on their eighth European tour together in January 2024, marking the Orchestra's 35th tour to Europe, its first since 2020, and the 64th international tour in its history. Part of the CSO's 133rd season, the 2024 European tour includes 14 concerts in seven countries from January 11-29, 2024, with performances in Brussels, Paris, Essen, Luxembourg, Frankfurt, Cologne, Budapest, Vienna, Turin, Milan and Rome. The CSO's 2024 European tour concert schedule is available at [cso.org/europetour](https://cso.org/europetour).

The CSO's 2024 European Tour includes two-concert engagements at the Philharmonie Luxembourg ([January 15](#) & [January 16](#)), Alte Oper in Frankfurt ([January 18](#) & [January 19](#)) and at Vienna's celebrated Musikverein ([January 22](#) & [January 23](#)), as well as significant returns to the Philharmonie de Paris ([January 13](#)), Philharmonie Essen ([January 14](#)) and the Cologne Philharmonie ([January 20](#)). Muti and the CSO make their first appearances together in Brussels on [January 11](#) and in Budapest on [January 24](#) and cap the tour with stops in Turin at the Auditorium Lingotto on [January 26](#), a return to Teatro alla Scala in Milan — where Muti served as music director from 1986 to 2005 — on [January 27](#) and concluding with a performance on [January 29](#) at the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma. During the tour, the Members of the CSO will also participate in a wide variety of community programs and master classes supported by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO.

The 2024 European Tour repertoire features works by American composers Florence Price and Philip Glass — specifically Price’s Symphony No. 3, which Muti led in the Orchestra’s critically acclaimed first performances of the work in May 2022, and a new work by Glass entitled *The Triumph of the Octagon*, which is a CSO-commission that receives its world premiere with Muti and the CSO on September 28 in Chicago. Florence Price was the first Black female composer to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra, when her Symphony No. 1 received its world premiere by the CSO in 1933. Composer Philip Glass, who has ties to Chicago from his days as a student at the University of Chicago, attended one of the historic performances of his Symphony No. 11 — the CSO’s first performances of one of Glass’ symphonies — led by Muti in 2022, which has recently been released to critical acclaim on the CSO Resound label. The successful collaboration led to the CSO commissioning Glass to write a new work for this important tour.

Additional tour repertoire includes works that were performed throughout Muti’s tenure as the CSO’s distinguished 10th music director (2010-2023). Highlights include Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 4 (*Italian*) and Strauss’ symphonic poem *Aus Italien*, as well as Stravinsky’s 1919 Suite from *The Firebird*, Liadov’s *The Enchanted Lake* and Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 5.

A link to the complete schedule and programs for the 2024 European Tour is available [here](#).

Beginning in 2007 with a connection that was rekindled between Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra after more than three decades and continuing throughout his tenure as the CSO’s tenth music director (2010-2023), Muti has embraced the Orchestra’s legacy of international touring which began in 1892. He has led the CSO on seven previous European tours in 2007, 2011, 2012, two in 2014, 2017 (notably including an appearance at Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie, which marked the first appearance by an American orchestra at the new state-of-the-art concert hall) and in 2020 on an eight-city tour that included a residency at Vienna’s Musikverein, which celebrated the venue’s 150th anniversary that year.

Beyond tours in Europe, Muti and the CSO have also recently completed a 2023 North American tour, which included the Orchestra’s first appearance in Toronto, Canada in more than a century, and multiple U.S. tours since 2010. Muti and the CSO have also toured Asia together, with the first Asia tour taking place in January 2016 for three weeks of sold-out concerts in Taiwan, Japan, China, and South Korea. Their second Asia tour in January 2019 included their first appearances together in Taipei, Taiwan; return appearances in Shanghai and Beijing, China, and a debut appearance for Muti and the CSO together in Osaka, Japan, marking the Orchestra’s first performance at the Festival Hall since 2003, as well as a week-long residency including two sold-out

performances of Verdi's Requiem at Tokyo's Bunka Kaikan.

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra has been touring — domestically and internationally — since the beginning of its history. First traveling to Canada in 1892, the Orchestra has since embarked on 63 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

The 2024 European Tour is generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

The January 19 concert in Frankfurt is sponsored by ITW.

The January 27 concert in Milan is sponsored by Bank of America.

*The Triumph of the Octagon* is co-commissioned through the generous support of the Helen Zell Commissioning Program.

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### **Riccardo Muti**

Riccardo Muti is one of the world's preeminent conductors. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's distinguished tenth music director from 2010 until 2023, Muti was recently named Music Director Emeritus for Life beginning with the 2023/24 Season.

His leadership has been distinguished by the strength of his artistic partnership with the Orchestra; his dedication to performing great works of the past and present, including sixteen world premieres to date; the enthusiastic reception he and the CSO have received on national and international tours; and twelve recordings on the CSO Resound label, with three Grammy awards among them. In addition, Muti's contributions to the cultural life of Chicago—with performances throughout its many neighborhoods and at Orchestra Hall—have made a lasting impact on the city.

Born in Naples, Riccardo Muti studied piano under Vincenzo Vitale at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella, graduating with distinction. He subsequently received a diploma in composition and conducting from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan under the guidance of Bruno Bettinelli and Antonino Votto.

He first came to the attention of critics and the public in 1967, when he won the Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition, by unanimous vote of the jury, in Milan. In 1968, he became principal conductor of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, a position he held until 1980. In 1971, Muti was invited by Herbert von Karajan to conduct at the Salzburg Festival, the first of many occasions, which led to a celebration of fifty years of artistic collaboration with the Austrian festival in 2020. During the 1970s, Muti was chief conductor of London's Philharmonia Orchestra (1972–1982) succeeding Otto Klemperer. From 1980 to 1992, he inherited the position of music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra from Eugene Ormandy. From 1986 to 2005, he was music director of Teatro alla Scala, and during this time, he directed major projects such as the three Mozart/Da Ponte operas and Wagner's *Ring* cycle in addition to his exceptional contributions to the Verdi repertoire. Alongside the classics, he brought many rarely performed and neglected works to light, including pieces from the Neapolitan school, as well as operas by Gluck,

Cherubini and Spontini. Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* earned Muti the prestigious Abbiati Prize. His tenure as music director of Teatro alla Scala, the longest in its history, culminated in the triumphant reopening of the restored opera house on Dec. 7, 2004, with Salieri's *Europa riconosciuta*.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Riccardo Muti has conducted the most important orchestras in the world: from the Berlin Philharmonic to the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and from the New York Philharmonic to the Orchestre National de France; as well as the Vienna Philharmonic, an orchestra to which he is linked by particularly close and important ties, and with which he has appeared at the Salzburg Festival since 1971.

When Muti was invited to lead the Vienna Philharmonic's 150th-anniversary concert, the orchestra presented him with the Golden Ring, a special sign of esteem and affection, awarded only to a few select conductors. In 2021, he conducted the Vienna Philharmonic in the New Year's Concert for the sixth time, having previously led the concert in 1993, 1997, 2000, 2004, and 2018. The 2018 recording went double platinum, and the 2021 concert received the prestigious audience award, the Romy Prize in the TV Moment of the Year category.

In April 2003, the French national radio channel, France Musique, broadcast a "Journée Riccardo Muti," consisting of fourteen hours of his operatic and symphonic recordings made with all the orchestras he has conducted throughout his career. On Dec. 14 of the same year, he conducted the long-awaited opening concert of the newly renovated La Fenice opera house in Venice. Radio France broadcast another "Riccardo Muti Day" on May 17, 2018, when he led a concert at the Auditorium de la Maison de la Radio. Muti's recording activities, already notable by the 1970s and distinguished since by many awards, range from symphonic music and opera to contemporary compositions. The label RMMusic is responsible for Riccardo Muti's recordings.

In September 2010, Riccardo Muti became music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and was named 2010 Musician of the Year by *Musical America*. At the 53rd annual *Grammy Awards* ceremony in 2011, his live performance of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus was awarded Grammy awards for Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance. In 2011, Muti was selected as the recipient of the coveted Birgit Nilsson Prize, presented in a ceremony at the Royal Opera in Stockholm in the presence of King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia. In 2011, he received the Opera News Award in New York City, and he was awarded Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Prize for the Arts. That summer, he was named an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic and honorary director for life of the Rome Opera. In May 2012, he was awarded the highest papal honor: the Knight of the Grand Cross First Class of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Benedict XVI. In 2016, he was honored by the Japanese government with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

Muti has received numerous international honors over the course of his career. He is Cavaliere di Gran Croce of the Italian Republic and a recipient of the German Verdienstkreuz. He received the decoration of Officer of the Legion of Honor from French President Nicolas Sarkozy in a private ceremony held at the Élysée Palace. He was made an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in Britain. The Salzburg Mozarteum awarded him its silver medal for his contribution to Mozart's music, and in Vienna, he was elected an honorary member of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, Vienna Hofmusikkapelle and Vienna State Opera. The State of Israel has honored him with the Wolf Prize in the arts. In July 2018, President Petro Poroshenko presented Muti with the State Award of Ukraine during the Roads of Friendship concert at the Ravenna Festival in Italy following earlier performances in Kiev. In October 2018, Muti received the prestigious Praemium Imperiale for Music of the Japan Arts Association in Tokyo. Muti received the Great Golden Decoration of Honor for Services to the Republic of Austria, the highest possible civilian honor from the Austrian government, in August 2021. In addition, he has received more than twenty honorary degrees from the most important universities in the world.

Passionate about teaching young musicians, Muti founded the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra in 2004 and the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in 2015. Through *Le vie dell'Amicizia* (The Roads of Friendship), a project of the Ravenna Festival in Italy, he has conducted in many of the world's most

troubled areas in order to bring attention to civic and social issues.

Riccardo Muti's vast catalog of recordings, numbering in the hundreds, ranges from the traditional symphonic and operatic repertoires to contemporary works. He also has written four books: *Verdi, l'italiano* and *Riccardo Muti, An Autobiography: First the Music, Then the Words*, both of which have been published in several languages; as well as *Infinity Between the Notes: My Journey Into Music*, published in May 2019, and *The Seven Last Words of Christ: a Dialogue with Massimo Cacciari*, published in 2020; both titles are available in Italian.

[riccardomuti.com](http://riccardomuti.com)

[riccardomutioperacademy.com](http://riccardomutioperacademy.com)

[riccardomutimusic.com](http://riccardomutimusic.com)

### **Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](http://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 recently 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 63 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](http://cso.org/radio). Launched in 2007, [CSO Resound](http://cso.org/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 64 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](http://cso.org/chicagosymphonychorus), 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](http://cso.org/civico) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. [Symphony Center Presents](http://cso.org/symphonycenterpresents) features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The [Negaunee Music Institute](http://cso.org/negaunee) 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.