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## **RICCARDO MUTI RETURNS TO CHICAGO TO LEAD TWO CSO PROGRAMS THIS FALL**

**Muti Leads an All-Beethoven Program Featuring *Eroica* Symphony and  
*Emperor* Concerto With Pianist Mitsuko Uchida (October 31-November 3)**

**Muti Leads CSO in Program Featuring World Premiere Performances of  
*Megalopolis Suite* from the 2024 Francis Ford Coppola Film by  
Former Mead Composer-in-Residence Osvaldo Golijov (November 8-9)**

### **OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 9**

CHICAGO — Riccardo Muti, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Music Director Emeritus for Life, returns to Chicago in October for the first time since leading the CSO on a critically acclaimed European tour in January 2024. He continues his artistic collaboration with the CSO following 13 years of celebrated partnership with the Orchestra as music director from 2010 to 2023. His CSO residency in October and November features two subscription concert programs.

In his first CSO subscription program, Muti and the CSO perform an all-Beethoven program including the composer's Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*) and Piano Concerto No. 5 (*Emperor*) with the distinguished pianist Mitsuko Uchida as soloist ([October 31-November 3](#)). Since 2014, Uchida has joined Muti and the CSO for three previous appearances in concertos by Beethoven, Mozart and Schumann. For Muti's second set of subscription concerts with the Orchestra, he leads a varied program that includes the world premiere performances of the *Megalopolis Suite* by former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Osvaldo Golijov ([November 8-9](#)). The suite was created from the score to the 2024 Francis Ford Coppola film *Megalopolis*, which premiered at the Cannes Festival in May and opened in U.S. theaters in September. The balance of the program includes works from Italian operas by Donizetti and Verdi as well as music inspired by

landscapes and traditions of Spain by Chabrier and Falla. This program is presented first on [November 7](#), at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Muti and the CSO have previously performed at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in 2013 and 2016.

Later in the 2024/25 Season, Muti leads the CSO on U.S. tour that includes a January 21 concert at Carnegie Hall, four planned stops in Florida (January 14-18) and a two-concert residency at the McKnight Center for the Performing Arts in Stillwater, OK on the campus of Oklahoma State University (January 23-24). Muti returns to Chicago for two June subscription concert programs, including season-culminating concerts featuring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and distinguished soloists in Verdi's Requiem ([June 19-24](#)). An online article and photo gallery on [Experience CSO](#) recaps Muti's 2024 concert activities around the world following his celebrated January 2024 European tour with the CSO. For program, ticket and patron information, visit [cso.org](http://cso.org).

### **Muti, Uchida, Emperor & Eroica ([October 31-November 3](#))**

Music Director Emeritus for Life Riccardo Muti returns to lead the Orchestra in a program featuring two of Beethoven's most renowned works. Grammy Award-winning pianist and co-artistic director of the Marlboro Music School and Festival Mitsuko Uchida joins the Orchestra and opens the program with Beethoven's majestic *Emperor* Concerto. The composer's groundbreaking *Eroica* Symphony closes the program, exploring themes of heroism, struggle and triumph.

Mitsuko Uchida's renowned artistry consistently attracts audience and critical acclaim. The distinguished pianist is widely recognized for her interpretations of the music of Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann and has collaborated with many of the world's finest orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and The Cleveland Orchestra, Berliner Philharmoniker, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and London Philharmonic Orchestra, among others. In 2022, Uchida won the *Gramophone* Piano Award and was recognized as *Musical America's* Artist of the Year. In 2024/25, she also continues in her role as a Carnegie Hall *Perspectives* Artist for the third consecutive season.

### **Muti & the CSO ([November 8-9](#))**

In his second subscription program, Muti leads the CSO in a varied program that opens with the Orchestra's first performances of the Overture to Donizetti's comic opera *Don Pasquale* and continues with "The Four Seasons," ballet music from Verdi's opera *I vespri siciliani* (The Sicilian Vespers). The rich and colorful score evokes the character of each season and includes light and lyrical woodwind passages, waltzing strings and brilliant brass. The program also takes listeners on a musical journey to the landscapes

and traditions of southern Spain with two dance-inspired works, Chabrier's *España* and music from Falla's Suite No. 2 from the ballet *The Three-Cornered Hat*. Muti and the CSO first performed Falla's memorable ballet music together in the fall of 2007 for three subscription concerts in Orchestra Hall — followed immediately by additional performances on a European tour — that represented his first CSO podium appearances since 1975. Completing the program is the CSO-commissioned world premiere of the *Megalopolis Suite* by Osvaldo Golijov, a CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence from 2006 to 2010. It features music from his score for the 2024 Francis Ford Coppola film *Megalopolis*, in which the fate of Ancient Rome haunts a modern world.

In his composer's note for the suite, Golijov shares that Coppola "wanted the film music to play an important role for audiences to believe that we are in Rome. Nobody knows how Ancient Rome sounded, but we all have Hollywood's 'Rome' in our metabolism: we believe that Rome sounded like, for instance, Miklos Rosza's score for *Ben Hur*. There are so many scenes that require this style of music that I decided to write an entire 'Roman Tone Poem' that would make sense on its own as a piece of music, unrelated to any specific scene, but with all its themes stemming from the Roman themes in the film." This music is at the core of *Roma*, the first of four movements in the orchestral suite. The second and third movements — *Love is in the Air* and *Death Kiss Utopia* — highlight the film's dramatic love themes. The final movement, *Saturnalia*, is the end music for the film, containing not only the love themes but elements of the composer's "Heroic Rome" theme and "Rome Fanfare" found in the first movement.

Osvaldo Golijov is a Grammy Award-winning composer with a catalog of works in a wide range of genres. His works include the *St. Mark Passion*, which was recently performed to critical acclaim at the 2024 Edinburgh International Festival, and the opera *Ainadamar* about the Spanish poet Federico García Lorca, which opens at the Metropolitan Opera in October. Recent works include the song cycle *LAIKA*, written for countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo and the Met Orchestra Chamber Ensemble, and *The Given Note*, a work for violinist Johnny Gandelsman and The Knights. Golijov has collaborated on several other soundtracks for Francis Ford Coppola films, including *Tetro* and *Youth Without Youth*. Golijov was born in La Plata, Argentina, in 1960, and lived in Jerusalem before immigrating to the US in 1986. He is the Composer-in-Residence at The College of the Holy Cross.

In recent years Golijov's music has been heard on the CSO MusicNOW series as part of a February 2023 program curated by former Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and at the Ravinia Festival in the CSO's acclaimed 2022 performance of the 2007 CSO-commissioned work *Rose of the Winds* led by Ravinia Chief Conductor Marin Alsop.

## **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).

## **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 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. Visit [cso.org/parking](https://www.cso.org/parking) for more parking and transit options.

## **Patron Information**

Contact Patron Services for personalized assistance online [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.

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter.

The performances October 31 to November 3 are generously sponsored by the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon.

*Megalopolis Suite* is commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for Riccardo Muti through the generous support of the Helen Zell Commissioning Program.

The November 8 and 9 performances are made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Thursday, October 31, 2024, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, November 2, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 3, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

**Mitsuko Uchida**, piano

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 5 (*Emperor*)

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*)

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Krannert Center for the  
Performing Arts  
500 S. Goodwin  
Urbana, Illinois

Thursday, November 7, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

DONIZETTI Overture to *Don Pasquale*

VERDI The Four Seasons  
from *I vespri siciliani*

CHABRIER *España*

GOLIJOV *Megalopolis Suite*

[World Premiere, CSO Commission]

FALLA Suite No. 2 from

*The Three-Cornered Hat*

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Friday, November 8, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 9, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

DONIZETTI Overture to *Don Pasquale*

VERDI The Four Seasons from  
*I vespri siciliani*

CHABRIER *España*

GOLIJOV *Megalopolis Suite*

[World Premiere, CSO Commission]

FALLA Suite No. 2 from

*The Three-Cornered Hat*

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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 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. 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](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 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.