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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION TO OFFER FREE ACCESS TO CSOTV

**Content Includes Critically Acclaimed CSO Sessions Series,
CSO for Kids, Civic Orchestra of Chicago and Archival Concert Performances**

Free Streaming on CSOtv Video Portal Begins Today

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) is pleased to announce that it will offer free access to a wide variety of content on its CSOtv video portal, beginning today. Audiences in Chicago and worldwide will be able to connect with the extraordinary artistry of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in episodes of the critically acclaimed CSO Sessions series, which was introduced in October 2020, as well as the CSO for Kids and Civic Orchestra of Chicago series, archival concert performances and more. In addition, six new episodes of CSO Sessions will be released on CSOtv throughout the 2021-22 season, with Episode 23: Ortiz, Villa Lobos & Ginastera premiering today. The CSOtv portal has been upgraded to provide an improved user experience, making content easier to watch than ever before. Videos are available to stream 24/7 on demand online at [csotv.com](https://www.csotv.com), as well as via six mobile and connected TV apps: iOS, Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Android and Android TV with most apps available now or coming soon. Free access to content on CSOtv is supported in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Now Streaming on CSOtv

CSO Sessions

Originally developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which created ongoing restrictions for live concert performances—and with artistic guidance from Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti—CSO Sessions launched in October 2020 and included 22 unique episodes, filmed in high definition in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in Chicago and released throughout the 2020-21 season. *Musical America* called the series “a kind of love letter to both the CSO’s stellar players and to Orchestra Hall” and *Chicago Classical Review* noted that “the playing was as

consistently polished and superb as one could wish.” With CSO musicians serving as hosts during each episode, CSO Sessions included chamber music works from the 17th through the 21st centuries performed by a variety of CSO ensembles ranging from duos to octets in string, wind, brass and mixed ensembles. Featured composers included Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Bryan, Coleridge-Taylor, Dvořák, Gabrieli, Mazzoli, Montgomery, Mozart, Nielsen, Price, Saint-Georges, Shaw, Tchaikovsky, Tower and others. Episodes of CSO Sessions and program details are available [here](#).

Episode 23: Ortiz, Villa-Lobos & Ginastera – premieres October 26, 2021

Recorded in March 2021, the episode opens with the trio *Denibée Yucañana*, a 1999 composition for flute, bass and percussion written by acclaimed composer Gabriela Ortiz. The word *denibée* comes from the Zapotec language and means “Tiger Hill,” which was the name of the street where Ortiz grew up in Mexico City. The composer evokes the colors and distinct character of her neighborhood in this intensely rhythmic and improvisatory work performed by Robert Kassinger (bass), Emma Gerstein (flute) and Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh. The program continues with the *Quintette en forme de chôros* by 20th-century Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos. The term *chôros* refers to the bands of street musicians whose performances were popular in Rio de Janeiro. Composed in 1928, this one-movement wind quintet unfolds in distinct sections that highlight traditional Latin rhythms and utilizes a unique instrumentation. It is performed by Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson, Lora Schaefer (oboe), Assistant Principal Clarinet John Bruce Yeh, Scott Hostetler (English horn) and Assistant Principal Bassoon William Buchman. Completing the program is the groundbreaking String Quartet No. 1 of 20th-century Argentine composer Alberto Ginastera. Written in 1948, the composer noted that the quartet “contains rhythms and melodic motifs of the music of the Pampas,” which are the vast grassy plains of the Argentine interior. While the energy and intensity of the rugged landscape come through in the quartet’s outer movements, the third movement, marked “calm and poetic,” suggests a peaceful, starry night. The performance features Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong, Simon Michal (violin), Weijing Wang (viola) and Assistant Principal Cello Kenneth Olsen.

CSO for Kids

Produced in partnership with Chicago Children’s Theatre, these fun and engaging videos bring music to life through the exploration of contemporary children’s literature. Performances by musicians of the CSO are woven with beautiful illustrations and narration by celebrated Chicagoans, including First Lady of Chicago Amy Eshleman, jazz vocalist Kurt Elling and more.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

These performances feature musicians from the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the CSO's prestigious training program for emerging professional musicians, filmed at Symphony Center and beyond. Civic episodes recorded in the 2020-21 season feature wide-ranging repertoire by composers including Andy Akiho, Rebecca Clarke, Claude Debussy, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Bohuslav Martinů, Missy Mazzoli, Jessie Montgomery, Jeff Scott, Nina Shekhar, Tyshawn Sorey and Igor Stravinsky.

CSO Archival Performances and Special Features

Archival performances include several programs currently available for viewing only through December 11, 2021: “From the CSO’s Archives: Great Music From Chicago,” “Solti’s Beethoven: The Fifth Symphony Revisited” and “The Symphony of Rhythm: Solti Conducts Beethoven’s Seventh.” Special features available on an ongoing basis include “Muti Conducts Beethoven 9,” “A Tribute to Veterans: Trumpeting the Power of Music,” “Negaunee Music Institute Showcase” and more.

In addition, CSOtv also highlights the educational video series Orchestral Excerpt Insights, which features Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians performing and teaching masterworks of the symphonic repertoire, as well as Intermission @ the CSO, a podcast hosted by CSO trumpet John Hagstrom. In the podcast series, Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians engage in behind-the-scenes conversations about what it takes to make the CSO one of the world’s greatest orchestras.

Coming Soon to CSOtv

Throughout the 2021-22 season, five new episodes of CSO Sessions will premiere monthly on CSOtv, with two more episodes featuring chamber music and three episodes featuring performances filmed during the historic series of Chicago Symphony Orchestra concerts that reopened Symphony Center in May and June 2021. Episodes will feature works by Strauss, Mozart, Hailstork, Barber, Bernstein, Coleridge-Taylor, Schubert, Montgomery, Wagner and more. Newly created episodes in the CSO for Kids and Orchestral Excerpt Insights series featuring CSO musicians will also become available for free streaming this season.

Information about new releases will be posted regularly on [cso.tv](https://www.cso.tv) throughout the 2021-22 season.

CSOtv — Subscribe for Free With No Monthly Fee

Visit [cso.tv](https://www.cso.tv) to register and get free access to content on CSOtv, the streaming home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Account holders can sync videos offline, save videos to watch later and continue watching on any device. There are no monthly fees associated with CSOtv. Viewers can watch CSOtv content on desktop computers, tablets or mobile phones, six mobile and connected TV apps and additional options to cast to a compatible TV from a preferred device.

For assistance, CSOA Patron Services representatives are available by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org) or by calling 312-294-3000 or by emailing patronservices@cso.org.

The CSO’s music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

Free access to content on CSOtv is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Sponsorship support for CSO Sessions is generously provided by the Zell Family Foundation; an anonymous donor; Kenneth C. Griffin Charitable Fund; JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of the DuPage Foundation; the Julian Family Foundation, in honor of Cristina Rocca; Cynthia M. Sargent; Megan and Steve Shebik; Betty W. Smykal; TAWANI Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; ITW, and PNC.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago receives generous support from The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.

Major funding for the Civic Orchestra Fellowship Program is provided by The Julian Family Foundation.

The Negaunee Music Institute is endowed by a generous gift from The Negaunee Foundation.

Support for CSO For Kids is provided by Abbott Fund, Archer Daniels Midland Company, John Hart and Carol Prins, Kinder Morgan, PNC, Megan and Steve Shebik, Michael and Linda Simon, the Walter and Caroline Sueske Charitable Trust and an anonymous family foundation.

Allstate Insurance Company is the CSOA Youth Education Program Sponsor.

Support for Intermission @ the CSO is generously provided by Phyllis Bleck and Bruce Oltman.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: 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 62 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. Recordings by the CSO have earned 63 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti's first of eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at cso.org/resound.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) 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.