



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
RICCARDO MUTI MUSIC DIRECTOR

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559
TELEPHONE 312-294-3333
FACSIMILE 312-294-3329

For Immediate Release:
September 6, 2022

Press Contacts:
[Hannah Sundwall](#)
312-294-3083

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION'S SYMPHONY BALL OFFERS FESTIVE START TO THE 2022/23 SEASON AND HONORS MUSIC DIRECTOR RICCARDO MUTI

Muti and the CSO Welcome Yefim Bronfman as Soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 at Symphony Ball Concert

CHICAGO – On Saturday, September 24, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., the Women's Board of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) will present Symphony Ball, a festive part of the opening weekend of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's 2022/23 Season that includes red-carpet arrivals and a preconcert champagne toast throughout Symphony Center for all concertgoers. The gala evening will also honor Riccardo Muti for his celebrated artistic partnership with the CSO as music director. Symphony Ball is chaired by CSOA Women's Board member Dora Aalbrechtse and her husband John Aalbrechtse, a CSOA Trustee. Northern Trust is the Presenting Sponsor of Symphony Ball.

The Symphony Ball concert will open with Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's recently rediscovered work, *Solemn Prelude*. Then, Riccardo Muti and the CSO will be joined by the renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman in Mozart's joyous Piano Concerto No. 22 before concluding with a soaring finale, Tchaikovsky's virtuosic and deeply moving symphonic poem *Francesca da Rimini*.

"John and I are delighted to chair an evening honoring our world-renowned and stellar music director, Maestro Riccardo Muti," said Symphony Ball co-chair Dora Aalbrechtse. "During his 12 years as music director, Maestro Muti and the members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra have enchanted and elated concertgoers not only at Symphony Center, but across Chicago, the United States and around the globe."

John Aalbrechtse noted: "Riccardo Muti and the remarkable musicians of the CSO have been wonderful ambassadors spreading joy and a love of music to tens of thousands of people worldwide. Dora and I are honored to chair this celebration of Maestro Muti's masterful artistic leadership of the CSO and are looking forward to an exceptional evening."

In addition to the concert, patrons may enhance their experience with a gala package that includes a private preconcert reception for Grand Patrons and Sponsors in Buntrock Hall at

Symphony Center, as well as the post-concert gala that features cocktails, dinner, and dancing at The Four Seasons Hotel Chicago. Black tie attire is suggested.

The elegant surroundings that will greet Symphony Ball guests are created this year by VH Designs. According to Women's Board President Judy Feldman: "Symphony Ball will provide guests with a night to remember. The Four Seasons ballroom will feature layers of rich colors – blue, merlot and burgundies with pops of sparkling blacks and silver metallics. The celebration will have layers of shimmer, seduction and pools of light that will give guests the feel of a sophisticated club on Michigan Avenue."

During the cocktail hour, guests will enjoy Croque Monsieur, crab cake sliders with tomato jam, brie tarts with cranberry conserve and glazed walnuts, and tuna tartare in a wonton cone with citrus-soy sauce. Specialty cocktails will include a Lemon Drop made with limoncello and a Negroni, two popular liqueurs of Muti's native Italy.

The dinner menu will take cues from Italian cuisine, beginning with a baby gem lettuce salad with roasted pear, radicchio, lamb chopper cheese, and crispy serrano ham topped with basil vinaigrette and balsamic pearls. The second course will feature Cavatelli Amatriciana garnished with basil and shaved parmesan. The entrée will be a combination plate of grilled filet of beef with a Chianti reduction sauce and roasted sea bass with fall mango chutney served with forbidden rice with currants and scallions and assorted fall vegetables. A vegetarian entrée served upon request will include minestrone risotto with fall vegetables and parmesan cheese. The dessert course will feature a trio of chocolate mousse, tiramisu and a mixed berry tart. Throughout dinner, Louis Latour Macon Lugny Les Genievres Maconnias and Red Banfi Chianti Classico will be poured.

Echoing the era of elegant jazz clubs for which Chicago once was known, gala guests will enjoy listening and dancing to the music of the Steve Bissat Orchestra and Amanda Wolf, who regularly perform at the Drake Hotel.

Tickets for the Symphony Ball concert, including the preconcert toast, range from \$49 to \$129 and are available online at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org), by calling 312-294-3000 or by visiting the Symphony Center box office at 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Gala dinner packages, which include tickets to the Symphony Ball concert, start at \$1,250 per person and can be purchased by phone at 312-294-3185 or email at symphonyball@cso.org.

All artists, programs, and ticket prices are subject to change.

Patrons are encouraged to visit [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.cso.org/safeandsound) for audience protocol instructions and the most recent health and safety information.

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

Northern Trust is the Presenting Sponsor of Symphony Ball.

Other notable sponsors include Abbott, ITW, Sidley Austin, Zell Family Foundation, Dora and John Aalbrecht, Jenner & Block, Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz, The Negaunee Foundation,

Cathy and Bill Osborn, Sharon and Charles Angell, Bank of America, Mayer Brown and Steve and Megan Shebik.

Chicago Magazine is a media partner of Symphony Ball.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

#

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 eleven 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 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.