FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
April 5, 2013

RIVERS: NATURE. POWER. CULTURE.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION CONVENESES  
RIVERS FESTIVAL

RIVERS-INFLUENCED MUSIC TO BE EXPLORED THROUGH CSO PERFORMANCES, THE WORLD PREMIERE OF A COMMISSIONED WORK BY THE CHICAGO JAZZ PHILHARMONIC,  
CHAMBER MUSIC AND RECITALS

Twenty Organizations Collaborate to Expand Festival and Amplify  
Dialogue About our Natural Resources Through Ancillary Events  
and Additional Programming

MAY 9 – JUNE 9, 2013

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO

CHICAGO—Inspired by Music Director Riccardo Muti’s passionate concern for the environment, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) convenes a multi-week, multi-genre festival entitled RIVERS: Nature. Power. Culture. During the festival, the CSOA will lead a conversation among nearly 20 Chicago institutions examining the significance of rivers in music and culture, the impact they have had throughout history and their importance.

“Many times we don’t realize how important water is for the future of our planet, for our life, for our commercial activity, for our health,” Muti stated. “We take it for granted. And so it is through these concerts we see the music that underlines the importance water has through the rivers, lakes, and seas that inspired the music.”

CSO concerts, chamber music performances, jazz and other presentations comprise the musical basis for this festival, which aims to delve deeply into the conversation about the connections between our natural environment and our cultural heritage.
“Residing in a city that was formed around the Chicago River, the CSO believes it is critical that we use our voice to convene discussions about the need to appreciate and support the preservation of the natural world,” noted CSOA President Deborah F. Rutter. “Starting from our perspective as citizen musicians, we consider it our civic responsibility to use music and other activities to engage and inspire our own audiences, as well as a broader public, in conversations that explore issues of importance to our hometown and the world at large.”

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra has gathered a wide range of partners and collaborators for RIVERS, all of which are invested in the continuing dialogue about rivers and their place in our city and society. The CSO is grateful to the City Of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel, Mayor; Chicago Park District, Michael Kelly, General Superintendent; Department Of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Michelle Boone Commissioner; Friends of the Chicago River; Chicago’s First Lady Cruises; The Art Institute of Chicago; Chicago Architecture Foundation; Artistic Circles; Choose Chicago; Chicago Chinatown Chamber Of Commerce, Yin Kean, Executive Director; Chicago Public Schools; Chicago Children’s Choir, Josephine Lee, President and Artistic Director; Richard Cahan, Co-Author, The Lost Panoramas: When Chicago Changed Its River And The Land Beyond & Program Officer, Richard H. Driehaus Foundation; Forest Preserve District, Cook County; The Joyce Foundation; Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Debra Shore, Commissioner; Redmoon Theater, Frank Maugeri, Co-Artistic Director; Openlands; The Wetlands Initiative; and The Langham Hotel Chicago.

Three very special events enhance the music offerings of the festival. On Saturday, May 11, the CSO is proud to support Friends of the Chicago River’s annual Chicago River Day by presenting Civic Orchestra musicians and showcasing RIVERS curriculum developed by CPS students at select sites around the city. On Saturday, May 18, the CSO hosts a RIVERS Symposium Day, which brings together some of today’s most fascinating scholars—led by Harvard University’s John Briscoe—on water issues of the Amazon, Mississippi and the world, with music from those regions. CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma will participate in discussions and perform. Finally, on Sunday, June 9, Maestro Riccardo Muti leads a celebration of the Chicago River with members of the CSO, the Chicago Children’s Choir and other community music ensembles at scenic Ping Tom Memorial Park in Chinatown.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concerts**

Four weeks of CSO subscription programs, led by guest conductors Mei-Ann Chen—in her CSO subscription concert debut—Juanjo Mena, Carlos Miguel Prieto and Jaap van Zweden, lay the foundation for the cultural exploration of rivers and their influence on music. Opening the festival with performances on May 9, 11 and 14, Chen’s programs feature Florence Price’s *Mississippi River*, which portrays the majestic river’s history in music through orchestrated folk song. In 1933 at the Chicago World’s Fair, Price was the first female African American composer to have a symphony performed by a major U.S. orchestra—the CSO. The preconcert lectures for these programs will feature Dr. Barbara Wright-Pryor, president of the Chicago Music Association, which championed Price’s compositions in the 1930s.

In the second week of the festival, Juanjo Mena leads concerts on May 16, 18 and 21 that feature Smetana’s *The Moldau* from *Má vlast*; Takemitsu’s *riverrun* with piano soloist Peter Serkin, who gave the world premiere of this piece; Villa-Lobos’ *Amazonas* and Beethoven’s Sixth Symphony (*Pastoral*).
Carlos Miguel Prieto’s CSO program, performed on **May 23, 24, 25 and 28**, focuses on Central and South American rivers: Ginastera’s Suite from *Panambí*, which was inspired by Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring* and tells the saga of the pre-Colombian north Argentinean Guarani Indians, and Revueltas’ rousing *La noche de los Mayas*, reflecting Mexico’s ancient people. Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet is the soloist in Saint-Saëns’ Piano Concerto No. 5 (*Egyptian*), which was influenced by the composer’s many trips to Egypt and includes a Nubian song Saint-Saëns heard on a boat crossing the Nile.

Rounding out the festival from **May 30 to June 4**, Jaap van Zweden’s leads the Orchestra in its first performances of CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates’ *Liquid Interface*, a four-movement work for orchestra that depicts water in many of its extreme forms, from hurricanes to the recorded sounds of calving glaciers, as well as in New Orleans, at the mouth of the Mississippi. Also on the program is Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 25 with David Fray as soloist and Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra.

**Symphony Center Presents (SCP) and Civic Orchestra of Chicago Performances**

Orbert Davis and the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic make their Symphony Center Presents Jazz debut on **Friday, May 24** as part of **RIVERS**, performing the world premiere of a SCP Jazz-commissioned work that celebrates the Chicago River and the impact it has had on making Chicago an American metropolis. The performance will use photographs from Richard Cahan and Michael Williams’ book, *The Lost Panoramas: When Chicago Changed Its River and the Land Beyond*. These previously unpublished pictures document how Chicago sacrificed the natural environment in order to survive and prosper by reversing the flow of the Chicago River.

A Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music recital, featuring cellist and CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, and musicians from the CSO, includes works by Bach, Dvořák and Beethoven at Symphony Center on **Wednesday, May 15**. Pianist Marc-André Hamelin gives a Symphony Center Presents Piano recital on **Sunday, May 19** that includes works by Debussy and Ravel that evoke water. Two pieces inspired by water—including the world premiere of Mason Bates’ *Difficult Bamboo*—and Kaija Saariaho’s *Trois Rivières* is featured on the final MusicNOW concert of this season on **Monday, June 3**. The program also includes nature-inspired music by Chris Theofanidis and Marcos Balter.

CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma joins the Civic Orchestra as soloist for their free concert on **Monday, May 13**. The program of music by John Luther Adams, Haydn and Beethoven is inspired by nature and flowing waters as symbols of discovery, cultural development and communication. The highlight of this concert is the Civic’s performance of Beethoven’s *Pastoral* Symphony without conductor and from memory. The ensemble has been studying this piece throughout the season with Yo-Yo Ma, who presented them with this artistic challenge.

**RIVERS Festival Special Events**

Through the CSO’s Institute for Learning, Access and Training, four Chicago Public Elementary Schools—Evers, Kipling, Swift and Waters—have been implementing curriculum centered around rivers across their classrooms in efforts to learn more about this precious resource. On **Saturday, May 11**, in support of the Friends of the Chicago River’s annual Chicago River Day, students from these schools will participate at two clean-up sites: Lake Katherine Nature Center in Palos Heights...
and Ronan Park East and Horner Park (Berteau Avenue) in Chicago. Volunteers are encouraged to join CSO staff during the Clean-Up Day, which begins at 9 a.m. Pop-up performances at selected sites along the Chicago River will also take place. More information about Chicago River Day and public registration is available at chicagoriver.org.

On **Saturday, May 18 at 10 a.m.**, a special *RIVERS* Festival symposium day explores the physical, economic, political, and cultural forces exerted by rivers through a sequence of conversations and music. Using the Mississippi and the Amazon as case studies, panels of historians, artists and engineers will bring richly contextualized understanding of the dependence that our art form and its audience have on the earth’s rivers. Featured participants are Yo-Yo Ma, John Briscoe (Professor of the Practice of Environmental Engineering at Harvard University), David Blackbourn (Professor of History at Vanderbilt University), Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), musicologist Michael Silvers, Brazilian-American composer and performer Clarice Assad, and musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, who will present three conversations interwoven with performances of music that traces its origin to rivers.

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra collaborate on **Sunday, May 19** in a *RIVERS*-inspired all-Schubert chamber music program at The Art Institute of Chicago.

The festival’s culminating event, “Shall We Gather at the River,” takes place on **Sunday, June 9** at Chinatown’s Ping Tom Memorial Park, on the bank of the Chicago River. The afternoon’s activities, taking place both at the park and along the Chicago River, are a celebration of the river as the center of Chicago’s life. Diverse musical performances and family activities will take place all afternoon at Ping Tom Park, beginning at 2:30 p.m., while the CSO brass travel by boat from Michigan Avenue downtown to the park, serenading the plazas and bridges along the way. When the musicians arrive at the park, Music Director Riccardo Muti will lead the brass and the Chicago Children’s Choir in a special performance of Verdi’s “Va, pensiero.” The park’s new boathouse will also be dedicated as part of this event.

*RIVERS* Festival sponsors: Chicago Park District, Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Friends of the Chicago River, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Art Works.

Complete *RIVERS* Festival programs follow:

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  

- **Thursday, May 9, 2013, 8 p.m.**
- **Saturday, May 11, 2013, 8 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, May 14, 2013, 7:30 p.m.**

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Mei-Ann Chen**, conductor

- *MENDELSSOHN* *The Fair Melusina* Overture, Op. 32
- *PRICE* *Mississippi* River
- *RIMSKY-KORSAKOV* *Sheherazade*, Op. 35

Tickets: $31–$215
Special Event
**Chicago River Day**

Saturday, May 11, 2013, 9 a.m.

Students who participated in the CPS RIVERS-curriculum project will participate in activities at Lake Katherine Nature Center in Palos Heights and Ronan Park East and Horner Park (Berteau Avenue) in Chicago. For more details about volunteering for this event, visit Friends of the Chicago River at chicagoriver.org.

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**Civic Orchestra of Chicago**

**Monday, May 13, 2013, 8 p.m.**

**Civic Orchestra of Chicago**
Cliff Colnot, conductor
Yo-Yo Ma, cello

J.L. ADAMS  *A Northern Suite*

HAYDN  Cello Concerto in C Major, Hob. VIIb:1

BEETHOVEN  Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68
*(Pastoral)*

Tickets: This performance is free; tickets are required.

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**Symphony Center Presents**
*Chamber Music*

**Wednesday, May 15, 2013, 8 p.m.**

Musicians from the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**
Yo-Yo Ma, cello
Yuan-Qing Yu, violin
Hermine Gagné, violin
Li-Kuo Chang, viola
Alexander Hanna, bass
Jennifer Gunn, flute
Stephen Williamson, clarinet
J. Lawrie Bloom, clarinet
William Buchman, bassoon
Daniel Gingrich, horn
Tage Larsen, trumpet
Charles Vernon, trombone
Cynthia Yeh, percussion

Musicians from the **Civic Orchestra of Chicago**
Jonas Benson, viola
Megan Kyle, oboe
Robert Kistler, percussion

BACH, arr. Yanov-Yanovsky  Two-Part Inventions

DVOŘÁK  String Quartet No. 12 in F Major, Op. 96
*(American)*

BEETHOVEN  Septet in E-flat Major, Op. 20

Tickets: $75–$194
Chicago Symphony Orchestra

**Thursday, May 16, 2013, 8 p.m.**
**Saturday, May 18, 2013, 8 p.m.**
**Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 7:30 p.m.**

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**
**Juanjo Mena**, conductor
**Peter Serkin**, piano

**SMETANA**   The Moldau, from *Má vlast*
**TAKEMITSU**  *riverrun*
**VILLA-LOBOS**  *Amazonas*
**BEETHOVEN**  Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68 *(Pastoral)*

Tickets: $24–$212

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**Rivers Symposium Day**

**Saturday, May 18, 2013, 10 a.m.**

**Dr. John Briscoe**, Harvard University
**Dr. David Blackbourn**, Vanderbilt University
**Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
**Michael Silvers**, musicologist
**Yo-Yo Ma**, cello, Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant
**Clarice Assad**, Brazilian-American composer and performer

**Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Tickets: $5

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**CSO Chamber Music Series**
**Art Institute of Chicago**
**Fullerton Hall**

**Sunday, May 19, 2013, 2 p.m.**

**Tononi Ensemble**
**Fox Fehling**, violin
**Charles Pikler**, viola
**Daniel Katz**, cello
**Roger Kline**, bass
**J. Lawrie Bloom**, clarinet
**Susan Merdinger**, piano
**Alison Wahl**, soprano
**Laura Boguslavsky**, mezzo-soprano
**Ryan J. Cox**, baritone

**SCHUBERT**  Piano Trio Movement in E-flat, D. 897 *(Notturno)*
**SCHUBERT**  *Auf der Donau*
**SCHUBERT**  *Auf dem Flusse*
**SCHUBERT**  *Mignon und der Harfner*
**SCHUBERT**  *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen*
**SCHUBERT**  *Die Forelle*
**SCHUBERT**  Piano Quintet in A Major, D. 667 *(The Trout)*

Tickets: $26
Symphony Center Presents  
**Sunday, May 19, 2013, 3 p.m.**  
Marc-André Hamelin, piano  
BERG  Piano Sonata, Op. 1  
FAURÉ  Impromptu No. 2 in F Minor, Op. 31  
FAURÉ  Barcarolle No. 3 in G-flat Major, Op. 42  
RAVEL  *Gaspard de la nuit*  
HAMELIN  Variations on a Theme by Paganini  
DEBUSSY  *Reflets dans l'eau* from *Images* for Piano, Book I  
RAVEL  *Jeux d'eau*  
RACHMANINOV  Sonata No. 2, Op. 36  
Tickets: $23–$85

Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
**Thursday, May 23, 2013, 8 p.m.**  
**Friday, May 24, 2013, 1:30 p.m.**  
**Saturday, May 25, 2013, 8 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
Carlos Miguel Prieto, conductor  
Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano  
GINASTERA  Suite from *Panambí*, Op. 1a  
SAINT-SAËNS  Piano Concerto No. 5, Op. 103  
*(Egyptian)*  
REVUELTAS  *La noche de los mayas*  
Tickets: $24–$212

Symphony Center Presents  
**Jazz Series**  
**Friday, May 24, 2013, 8 p.m.**  
Orbert Davis’ Chicago Jazz Philharmonic  
Orbert Davis, artistic director  
Tickets: $23–$74

Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
**Thursday, May 30, 2013, 8 p.m.**  
**Friday, May 31, 2013, 8 p.m.**  
**Saturday, June 1, 2013, 8 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
Jaap van Zweden, conductor  
David Fray, piano  
BATES  *Liquid Interface*  
MOZART  Piano Concerto No. 25 in C Major, K. 503  
BARTÓK  Concerto for Orchestra  
Tickets: $24–$212
**Symphony Center Presents**  
**MusicNOW: Three Rivers**  
Monday, June 3, 2013, 7 p.m.  
Musicans from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Cliff Colnot, conductor  
Mason Bates, Mead Composer-in-Residence  
Anna Clyne, Mead Composer-in-Residence  

Harris Theater for Music and Dance  
205 E. Randolph Dr.  

THEOFANIDIS  _Summer Verses_  
BALTER  _Live Water_  
BATES  _Difficult Bamboo_  
SAARIAHO  _Trois rivières_  

Tickets: $25

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**Special Event**  
Sunday, June 9, 2013, 4 p.m.  
“Shall We Gather at the River”  
Riccardo Muti, conductor  
Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass  
Chicago Children’s Choir  
Josephine Lee, director  

Ping Tom Memorial Park  
FREE  

Tickets: This event is free and open to the public.

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Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago is supported in part by awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, as well as Alphawood Foundation, The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, and The Pauls Foundation.

May 16 CSO concert is generously sponsored in part by the Audrey Love Charitable Foundation.

The Symphony Center Presents Jazz Series is sponsored by BMO Harris Bank.  
Media Sponsors: Chicago Sun-Times, Downbeat, WBEZ

Friday, May 24 CSO matinee concert is endowed in part by Elaine Frank in memory of Zollie Frank.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is partially supported by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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**TICKETS** for all 2012/13 Chicago Symphony Orchestra, _Symphony Center Presents_ and Civic Orchestra of Chicago concerts can be purchased by calling CSO ticketing services at **312-294-3000** or **800-223-7114**, online at **cso.org**, or by visiting the Symphony Center box office at 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604. Discounted student tickets can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040. Artists, programs and ticket prices are subject to change.

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