



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2023/24 SEASON PROGRAMMING

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces 2023/24 Season programming for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and several of the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) series. The Orchestra marks its 133rd concert season in 2023/24 and continues a singular musical legacy focused on the transformative power of music shared in the city of Chicago, across the country and throughout the world.

Riccardo Muti, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's tenth music director who formally concludes his 13-season tenure in June 2023, continues his association with the CSO to open the new season in September 2023. His residency of three distinct programs includes the world premiere of a CSO-commissioned work by renowned American composer Philip Glass and the annual Symphony Ball concert when violinist Leonidas Kavakos joins Muti and the Orchestra to perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. The celebrated artistic partnership of Muti and the CSO will also be part of 2023/24 Season touring activities in the U.S. and Europe.

Initially appointed by Riccardo Muti and named by *Musical America* as its 2023 Composer and Artist of the Year respectively, CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery and CSO Artist-in-Residence Hilary Hahn bring artistic collaboration and impact to their ongoing work with the Orchestra and the community. Montgomery continues in the third year of her appointment and Hahn extends her initial two-year appointment for an additional season through June 2024.

Across classical concert programming next season, Chicago audiences can discover the power, beauty and artistry of the CSO under the musical leadership of some of today's leading interpreters on the podium. This distinguished group of conductors features artists making podium debuts and return engagements and others building on long-term artistic relationships with the Orchestra in an impressive array of orchestral repertoire, including works receiving their world and U.S. premieres or first CSO performances.

Four CSO-commissioned works by American composers are set to receive world premieres next season, including Philip Glass' *The Triumph of the Octagon*, CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery's Percussion Concerto written for Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh, Lowell Liebermann's Flute Concerto No. 2 written for Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson, and Christopher Theofanidis' new concerto, *Indigo Heaven*, written for Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson. The CSO's

first performances of C.P.E. Bach's Sinfonia in E-flat Major are also part of an all-Bach program led by CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen, who is also soloist with Principal Oboe William Welter in J.S. Bach's Concerto for Oboe and Violin on this program.

Other programming highlights include a focus on the music of composer Gustav Mahler with CSO performances of his First, Second and Fourth symphonies, as well as songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* and the rarely heard *Blumine*, led by renowned interpreters, including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Jaap van Zweden and Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider. Sir Simon Rattle, whose last Chicago podium appearance was in 2009, also leads Mahler's Symphony No. 6 in a performance with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Building on a history of several previous artistic collaborations, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis joins the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under conductor Giancarlo Guerrero for April CSO subscription concerts. The program features Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, alternating between the original orchestral version performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and imaginative new jazz arrangements presented by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

More new music caps the season in June with the Orchestra giving two Chicago premieres. Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell has commissioned and is soloist in *The Elements*, a landmark project premiering in fall 2023. It features music of renowned American composers Jake Heggie, Jennifer Higdon, Edgar Meyer, CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery, and Kevin Puts, inspired by the natural elements of fire, air, ether, water and earth. In a season finale program, Daniil Trifonov is soloist in the Piano Concerto by former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates with Israeli conductor Lahav Shani on the podium.

Symphony Center remains Chicago's home for extraordinary musical artistry across an exceptional array of ensembles, soloists and genres offered in various Symphony Center Presents (SCP) series. The Orchestras series welcomes two celebrated ensembles: the Staatskapelle Berlin conducted by Daniel Barenboim, the CSO's ninth music director who returns for his first Chicago podium appearance since 2018, and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle, who becomes their chief conductor in September 2023. The Chamber Music series sees the return of CSO Artist-in-Residence Hilary Hahn, Mitsuko Uchida leading the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and two piano trio programs with illustrious soloists Emanuel Ax, Leonidas Kavakos and Yo-Yo Ma in an all-Beethoven program and Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Lisa Batiashvili, and Gautier Capuçon playing trios by Haydn, Ravel and Mendelssohn. The Piano series showcases esteemed pianists Evgeny Kissin and Sir Andrés Schiff, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Yefim Bronfman, Hélène Grimaud and Benjamin Grosvenor and series debuts for Bruce Liu and brothers Lucas and Arthur Jussen. The SCP Jazz series programming will be announced in spring 2023.

[Explore](#) a chronological listing of CSOA-presented programs included in the 2023/24 Season.

Riccardo Muti Opens the 2023/24 Season in September and Leads CSO Touring Activities

Riccardo Muti returns to Chicago to open the 2023/24 Season, maintaining the close artistic partnership that he has built with the Orchestra since becoming music director in 2010. Across a multi-week residency, Muti leads three distinct programs, including the opening program that features signature works including Liadov's shimmering symphonic poem, *The Enchanted Lake*, Stravinsky's Suite from *The Firebird* and the joy and lyricism of Brahms' Symphony No. 2 (September 21, 22 & 26).

Muti's second subscription concert program features the world premiere of composer Philip Glass' *The Triumph of the Octagon*. The new work was commissioned by the CSO following the Orchestra's

critically acclaimed first performances of Glass' Symphony No. 11 with Muti in 2022, that were attended by the influential American composer. Glass, whose lifelong fascination with mathematics and patterns has continued to inform his music, responds to the creative power of the eight-sided shape, which is found in the design of the 13th-century citadel Castel del Monte located in Muti's native Italy. The program's Italian theme is underlined with performances of Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 (*Italian*) and Richard Strauss' tone poem *Aus Italien* (September 28, 29 & 30).

To celebrate the opening of the new season, Muti also leads the annual Symphony Ball concert on September 23 with a varied program of orchestral highlights from Italian operas by Giordano, Puccini, Leoncavallo and Verdi and a performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with renowned violinist Leonidas Kavakos as soloist.

Selections from Muti's fall 2023 programs in Chicago, including Glass' *The Triumph of the Octagon*, will also be part of a January 2024 three-week tour, the first European tour for Muti and the CSO since 2020, and the Orchestra's 64th international tour. The 2024 tour will also feature the Orchestra's first European performances of the masterful Symphony No. 3 by Florence Price, following Muti and the Orchestra's critically heralded performances of the work in Chicago in the spring of 2022. 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. Additional U.S. appearances for Muti and the CSO are also scheduled for the 2023/24 Season with details to be announced.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Classical Concerts

The collective experience of the musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and their pursuit of excellence make it one of the most exciting ensembles in the world. The 133rd season celebrates what is possible when great talents unite.

Programs with the Chicago Symphony Chorus

Founded during the 1957/58 Season, the Chicago Symphony Chorus makes regular appearances with the CSO each season as part of an enduring and remarkable artistic partnership that is featured in choral-orchestral repertoire from many musical eras.

Daniel Harding, currently principal conductor of the Swedish Radio Orchestra and principal guest conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, leads the CSO and the Chicago Symphony Chorus in performances of Brahms' choral masterpiece *Schicksalslied* (Song of Destiny) and Gustav Holst's *The Planets* (November 2-4 & 7).

The inspiring power and impact of Handel's *Messiah*, one of the most beloved and widely performed oratorios in the repertoire. The iconic work returns to Orchestra Hall for the holiday season in performances featuring nearly 100 voices, led by Lyric Opera of Chicago Music Director Emeritus Sir Andrew Davis with soprano Joëlle Harvey, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano, tenor Matthew Polenzani and bass John Relyea as soloists (December 21-23).

Inspired by the oratorios of Handel and Bach, Mendelssohn wrote his *Elijah* in the spirit of those Baroque masterworks. Former Ravinia Festival music director and longtime CSO collaborator James Conlon conducts the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and distinguished soloists, including South African soprano Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha in her CSO debut and mezzo-soprano Ashley Dixon, tenor Issachah Savage, tenor and baritone Lucas Meachem singing the role of Elijah (April 11-13, 2024).

Mahler's Symphony No. 2 (*Resurrection*) has been recently championed globally by the formidable Esa-Pekka Salonen, who conducts the massive and profound work. The CSO joins forces with the Chicago Symphony Chorus and rising Norwegian opera star, soprano Mari Eriksmoen in her CSO debut, as well as mezzo-soprano Karen Cargill in her CSO subscription debut (May 23-25, 2024).

Women on the Podium

Conductors Gemma New and Elim Chan make their CSO podium debuts this season. New Zealand's Gemma New, "one of the brightest rising stars in the conducting firmament" (*St. Louis Dispatch*) was the 2021 recipient of the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award. Her program includes the orchestra's first performances of Aaron Kernis' *Musica Celestis* and welcomes Seong-Jin Cho — who makes his SCP Piano series debut in May 2023 — for his CSO debut in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. The program concludes with Mendelssohn's *Scottish* Symphony (February 8 & 10, 2024).

Hong Kong-born Elim Chan was the first female and youngest conductor named to the post of Chief Conductor of the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra in 2018. She leads Weber's Overture to *Der Freischütz* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade* in a program that also features Samuel Barber's *Toccata festiva* with renowned organist Paul Jacobs as soloist (May 2 & 4, 2024).

Returning to the CSO podium for the first time since 2017, conductor Susanna Mälkki leads a program featuring Wagner's Prelude to Act I of *Lohengrin*, Mahler's Symphony No. 4 with soprano Ying Fang as soloist in her CSO subscription debut and the world premiere of Lowell Liebermann's Flute Concerto No. 2 with Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson as soloist (March 21-24, 2024).

CSO Visiting Conductors

In another CSO podium debut next season, Kazuki Yamada, Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, leads the Orchestra in a program featuring Franck's Symphony in D Minor and the CSO's first performances of Tōru Takemitsu's 1991 composition *How slow the Wind*, along with Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 featuring Martin Helmchen as soloist (May 16-18 & 21, 2024).

The CSO warmly welcomes the return of Michael Tilson Thomas, following his resilient comeback to the concert hall. Having made his CSO debut in 1970, Tilson Thomas has led the Orchestra regularly and conducts a program of Mozart and Brahms next season (November 30, December 1-5). Tilson Thomas' predecessor as music director at the San Francisco Symphony, the renowned Swedish American conductor Herbert Blomstedt, takes the podium for performances of Schubert's Sixth Symphony and Beethoven's Seventh Symphony (March 1, 2 & 5, 2024).

Several conductors lead multiple CSO programs, including Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider, the Danish conductor of the National Orchestra of Lyon, who returns to Chicago first for a program that features a rare opportunity to hear Mahler's *Blumine* along with the composer's Symphony No. 1, as well as acclaimed cellist Jian Wang making his CSO debut in Bloch's soulful *Schelomo* (October 26-28). Szeps-Znaider returns as conductor and soloist in Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 2 on a program that also includes Mozart's Symphony No. 38 (*Prague*) and Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* Suite (May 9-11, 2024).

Also leading two CSO programs next season is Jakub Hrůša, the recently appointed music director of London's Royal Opera House and permanent guest conductor for the Czech Philharmonic, who returns after critically acclaimed performances in Chicago that started with a highly praised debut in 2017. His two weeks of concerts in March 2024 open with a program featuring Richard Strauss' *Death and*

Transfiguration, Lutosławski's Concerto for Orchestra and Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with Gil Shaham as soloist (March 7-12, 2024). Strauss' *Also sprach Zarathustra* opens Hrůša's next program that also includes Bartók's Suite from *The Miraculous Mandarin* and Martinů's Violin Concerto No. 1 featuring Czech violinist Josef Špaček in his CSO debut (March 14-16, 2024).

Other conductors returning to the CSO podium next season include Jaap van Zweden, music director of the New York Philharmonic, directing Mahler's Songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* with renowned German baritone Christian Gerhaher making his first CSO solo appearance since 2007. The program also includes Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 and the CSO's first performances of American composer Nina Shekhar's award-winning work, *Lumina* (October 12-15). James Gaffigan, the newly appointed General Music Director of Komische Oper Berlin leads a program of works by American composers Barber, Bernstein and Gershwin, as well as *Sensemaya*, the landmark work by Silvestre Revueltas, considered by many to be the 20th-century Mexican composer's masterpiece (October 19-21 & 24).

In addition to the world premiere of the new concerto *Indigo Heaven* written for Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson by composer Christopher Theofanidis, Chief Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic John Storgårds conducts Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 3 and Sibelius' *Pohjola's Daughter* (November 9-11). Violinist Leonidas Kavakos makes his second CSO solo appearance of the season when he joins Philippe Jordan, music director of the Vienna State Opera, for Szymanowski's Violin Concerto No. 2 on a program that also features the original version of Mussorgsky's *A Night on Bald Mountain* and Stravinsky's towering orchestral achievement, *The Rite of Spring* (November 16-19).

CSO Artist-in-Residence Hilary Hahn joins Finnish conductor and frequent collaborator Mikko Franck, music director the Philharmonic Orchestra of Radio France, as soloist in the Brahms Violin Concerto on a program that also includes Wagner's Prelude to *Tristan und Isolde* and Sibelius' Symphony No. 7 (December 7-9). Czech Philharmonic Music Director and regular guest on the CSO podium Semyon Bychkov returns to lead a program with Brahms' Fourth Symphony and the Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto No. 3 with Renaud Capuçon as soloist (December 14-16).

Paavo Järvi, music director of Zürich's Tonhalle Orchestra, leads a program featuring Beethoven's *Leonore* Overture No. 3, Nielsen's Symphony No. 5 and Elgar's Cello Concerto with British cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason in his CSO debut (February 15-18, 2024). Talented Uzbek pianist Behzod Abduraimov makes his CSO debut in Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 under the direction of acclaimed conductor Hannu Lintu, chief conductor of the Finnish National Opera and Ballet, on a program with music by Shostakovich and Mussorgsky, as well as the first CSO performances of *Ciel d'hiver* by Kaija Saariaho, the prominent composer whose 70th birthday was widely celebrated in Finland with a yearlong festival of her music in 2022 (February 22-24 & 27, 2024).

The gifted Finnish conductor Klaus Mäkelä, Artistic Partner of the Concertgebouw Orchestra and Music Director of the Orchestre de Paris and Oslo Philharmonic, who made his critically heralded CSO debut in April 2022, continues to thrill audiences worldwide with his distinct musical interpretations. His CSO program features Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 and Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the brilliant pianist Yuja Wang as soloist, as well as the U.S. premiere of the 2016 work *Batteria* by Finnish composer Sauli Zinovjev (April 4-6, 2024). Renowned international orchestral and opera conductor Tugan Sokhiev is back next season to lead the CSO in a program that includes Panufnik's *Heroic* Overture and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1 (*Winter Dreams*), as well as Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 with pianist Yulianna Avdeeva in her CSO debut (April 18, 20-21, 2024).

Giancarlo Guerrero, music director of the Nashville Symphony, leads the combined artistic forces of the CSO and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis for a program with Marsalis' own "All-American Pep" from his *Swing Symphony*, music of Shostakovich and John Adams and a fresh interpretation of a suite from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, including a new arrangement for jazz orchestra of several movements of this iconic symphonic work. These performances are part of the annual Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis residency at Symphony Center, with details for the group's Symphony Center Presents Jazz series concert on April 24 to be announced. (April 25-27, 2024).

The final weeks of the 2023/24 Season bring several exceptional programs and podium appearances to the stage of Orchestra Hall. Manfred Honeck, longtime music director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra who made a triumphant 2022 Metropolitan Opera debut, has been a regular guest on CSO programs for several decades. The Austrian conductor leads a performance of Bruckner's Symphony No. 7 as well as the world premiere of CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery's Percussion Concerto with Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh as soloist (May 30, 31 and June 1, 2024).

Audiences will be whisked away for a colorful musical journey when Stéphane Denève, music director of the St. Louis Symphony and recently appointed artistic director of the New World Symphony, leads an evocative program of works by French composers. His program opens with Lili Boulanger's impressionistic *D'un matin de printemps*, includes the Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 5 (*Egyptian*) with Jean-Yves Thibaudet as soloist and closes with Debussy's *Ibéria* and Ravel's *Boléro* (June 6-8, & 11, 2024).

The Elements is a suite of five distinct movements created by five American composers — Jake Heggie (Fire), Jennifer Higdon (Air), Edgar Meyer (Water), CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery (Ether) and Kevin Puts (Earth) — whose works together speak to the power and beauty of the natural world. Conductor Juraj Valčuha, the recently named music director of the Houston Symphony, leads the CSO's first performances of this significant new work on a program that also features Weber's Overture to *Oberon* and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 1, an astonishingly mature work written when the composer was only 19 years old (June 13-15, 2024).

The 2023/24 Season concludes with a thrilling finale program led by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's talented maestro, and Munich Philharmonic's Music Director Designate Lahav Shani as he joins extraordinary pianist Daniil Trifonov for the CSO's first performances of the Piano Concerto by former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates and concludes the program with Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*) (June 20-23, 2024).

CSO Special Concerts

This season, three special concerts feature musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in compelling and celebratory programs.

The annual Symphony Ball concert is part of a multi-week engagement with Riccardo Muti as he leads the CSO in Italian opera selections and a performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with Leonidas Kavakos as soloist (September 23).

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass, led by CSO Trombone Michael Mulcahy, share their annual gift of music in a program of inspiring and powerful selections for brass (December 19).

Shaken, Not Stirred is a concert filled with the iconic music from the James Bond film franchise, including

hits from *Skyfall*, *Goldfinger*, *Diamonds are Forever* and more. Conductor John Morris Russell leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra alongside Broadway star and vocal powerhouse Capathia Jenkins in this musical salute to the world's most famous secret agent (June 4, 2024).

CSO MusicNOW

The contemporary music series featuring musicians of the CSO invites audiences to discover new music from today's most innovative compositional voices in four concerts at Symphony Center. Programs are curated by Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery. Series program schedule and details to be announced in summer 2023.

Symphony Center Presents (SCP)

Building on years of presenting exceptional performances by visiting ensembles and the world's most renowned artists in solo and chamber music recitals, Symphony Center Presents continues its tradition of inviting audiences to experience extraordinary musical artistry in a must-see lineup of concerts for the coming season.

Symphony Center Presents Orchestras

Having just celebrated his 80th birthday in November 2022, ninth CSO music director Daniel Barenboim returns to Chicago next season to lead an all-Brahms program with the Staatskapelle Berlin. Barenboim, who recently stepped down from his role as the orchestra's general music director, a post he had held since 1992, was also named conductor for life by the Staatskapelle Berlin in 2002 and celebrates their renowned artistic partnership on this landmark North American tour in 2023 (November 28). The series also welcomes the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra for a performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 6 led by Sir Simon Rattle, who officially steps into the role as that orchestra's Chief Conductor in September of this year (April 28, 2024).

Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music

The Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music series invites audiences to embrace the more intimate sounds of small ensembles. This new season highlights two programs of piano trios, as well as recitals for piano and string soloists.

The trio of internationally renowned soloists, pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, violinist Lisa Batiashvili and cellist Gautier Capuçon, performs a program featuring piano trios of Haydn, Ravel and Mendelssohn (October 22). The incomparable combination of pianist Emanuel Ax, violinist Leonidas Kavakos and cellist Yo-Yo Ma reunites for a program of Beethoven piano trios (February 3, 2024).

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma makes a second appearance on the Chamber Music series when he shares the Orchestra Hall stage with longtime friend and collaborator, pianist Kathryn Stott, for a wide-ranging recital program highlighting selections from their recent recording project, including works of Dvořák, Fauré, Kabalevsky and Franck, among others (April 7, 2024).

One of the world's great virtuoso violinists, Maxim Vengerov makes a long-awaited return to Chicago, partnering with pianist Polina Osetinskaya in music of Brahms, Clara Schumann, Robert Schumann and Prokofiev (November 10).

The Mahler Chamber Orchestra and pianist Mitsuko Uchida thrill audiences with their sensitive musicality. They bring a program of Mozart piano concertos led by Uchida from the keyboard, as well as a performance of Jörg Widmann's Choralquartett in his own arrangement for string orchestra (March 26, 2024).

CSO Artist-in-Residence Hilary Hahn gathers with friends for a compelling afternoon of musicmaking to cap the series (June 9, 2024).

Symphony Center Presents Piano

The Piano series brings world class pianists to Chicago's Symphony Center for performances of an extraordinary array of keyboard music from many styles and eras.

One of the most admired pianists of our time, Sir András Schiff opens the new season of SCP Piano series concerts (November 12). Other venerated pianists performing this season are Hélène Grimaud with a program of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms (February 4, 2024); Yefim Bronfman playing sonatas of Schubert and Bartók (April 14, 2024); and Evgeny Kissin with a program featuring music of Beethoven, Brahms, Rachmaninov and Prokofiev (May 19, 2024).

Pierre-Laurent Aimard, whom the *The Wall Street Journal* dubbed a "brilliant musician and an extraordinary visionary," shares a program full of keyboard fantasies composed across five centuries (February 25, 2024). Making his second SCP Piano series appearance following an auspicious CSO solo debut in 2022, British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor is known for his distinctive interpretations of Chopin's music. He brings a program featuring two Chopin works along with Liszt's Piano Sonata in B Minor that is paired with a new Symphony Center Presents co-commissioned work by Australian composer Brett Dean (March 10, 2024).

The piano duo phenomenon, brothers Lucas and Arthur Jussen, make a series debut playing works for two pianos and piano four-hands in a virtuosic program that features the two-piano version of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* and a stunning new work by Polish composer Hanna Kulenty (January 21, 2024). The talented young Canadian Bruce Liu, the winner of the 2021 International Frédéric Chopin Competition, also makes his series debut in a program of Haydn, Chopin, Kapustin, Rameau and Liszt (June 2, 2024).

Additional Symphony Center Presents Programming

Chicago audiences can experience an incredible variety of music and artists from around the world as part of Symphony Center Presents programming in the 2023/24 Season.

Sitar player Anoushka Shankar performs across a broad range of styles, from classical and contemporary to acoustic and electronic. From an early age she learned from and performed with her father Ravi Shankar, whose name is practically synonymous with sitar playing (October 13).

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band returns to Symphony Center for a free concert featuring a wide array of musical selections performed by this historic ensemble (October 21).

The Gateways Festival Orchestra is an ensemble of the Rochester, NY-based Gateways Music Festival, whose mission is to connect and support professional classical musicians of African descent. After a sold-out 2022 Carnegie Hall appearance, the Orchestra makes a stop in Chicago as part of a U.S. tour led by acclaimed conductor Anthony Parnter. The concert will mark the culmination of a five-day Chicago festival, co-sponsored by Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music and media partner WFMT (April 19, 2024).

German jazz singer Max Raabe brings his Berlin-based Palast Orchester to the stage of Orchestra Hall for a program of the cabaret and dance band music of Germany in the 1920s and 30s (March 15, 2024).

CSO at the Movies

This popular series has become a staple in the CSO concert calendar with many programs offering the perfect opportunity for audiences to explore orchestral music in a different way as the CSO performs the scores of favorite classic movies.

Opening the new season of film programs is *Fantasia in Concert*, a unique concert program that blends sections of Walt Disney's groundbreaking 1940 animated film *Fantasia* with *Fantasia 2000*. Captivating music from Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 (*Pastoral*), Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, Respighi's *The Pines of Rome* and more comes to life on the big screen in memorable interpretations created by the famous Disney animation studio. Presentation Licensed by Disney Concerts. Conducted by Emil de Cou (November 24-26).

The series continues with the Academy Award-winning film *An American in Paris* featuring popular music of Ira and George Gershwin in its colorful score. The 1951 MGM classic is an unforgettable showcase for onscreen dance partners Leslie Caron and Gene Kelly and features Kelly's captivating choreography throughout the film. Conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos (February 9, 2024).

The score of Oscar-winning composer John Williams is at the heart of Steven Spielberg's 1977 film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, a story that suggests the communicative power of music may extend to extraterrestrials. Conducted by Richard Kaufman (May 3 & 5, 2024).

The 2023/24 Season concludes with special symphonic concerts featuring the music of renowned Japanese composer Joe Hisaishi, most widely known for his collaborations with celebrated Japanese filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki. Hisaishi will conduct the CSO in his own Symphony No. 2 and music from Studio Ghibli's 1997 film *Princess Mononoke* (June 27-29, 2024).

CSO for Kids

Families and caregivers can discover the joy of sharing music together at Symphony Center in two distinct series created with young listeners in mind. CSO for Kids programming is created with support from the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which advances education, training and community engagement programs for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.

The Once Upon a Symphony series welcomes young children ages 3 to 5 for programs created in collaboration with Chicago Children's Theatre, inspired by classic storybooks and paired with live music and song featuring musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. 2023/24 Season programs include performances of *The Three Little Pigs* (December 9, and January 6 & February 10, 2024) and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* (April 6, April 20, & May 18, 2024).

Family Matinee concerts offer an introduction to the world of the orchestra in hour-long programs created around themes of discovery and wonder, led by dynamic conductors and featuring special guests with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (November 4, February 17, May 11, 2024). Programs will be announced later this spring.

CSOA Holiday Programming

The holiday season is a time to reconnect and celebrate together with music. Symphony Center's annual presentation of *Merry, Merry Chicago!* returns with a festive program led by conductor Thomas Wilkins, principal conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra (December 15-17, 22-23). Other popular programs include the hilarious Christmas movie *Home Alone* with Richard Kaufman conducting members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in this popular score by composer John Williams (December 8-10), as well

as the return of the Vienna Boys Choir's Christmas in Vienna program (November 25) and A Chanticleer Christmas at Fourth Presbyterian Church (December 5-6).

Patron Information

Subscriptions are now on sale for the 2023/24 Season of Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Center Presents. Curated subscription series packages and Create Your Own packages of three or more concerts are available.

Subscribers initially save up to 40 percent off standard ticket prices and save 15 percent off additional tickets ordered throughout the season. Additional subscriber benefits include priority seating, flexible ticket exchange privileges, access to reduced parking rates and offers at the Symphony Store.

Subscriptions may be ordered online, by phone, by mail or in person at the Symphony Center Box Office. Convenient payment plan options are available for purchases made by credit card. Individual concert tickets for 2023/24 Season go on sale to the public in August.

Beginning in the 2023/24 Season, all evening CSO Classical concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Patron Services representatives are available to assist by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org), by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000) (Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.) or by emailing patronservices@cso.org. Groups of 10 or more may call 312-294-3040. Symphony Center, home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, is located at 220 S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) is committed to creating a comfortable, enjoyable and safe environment for its musicians, patrons and staff. To ensure everyone's visit to Symphony Center is safe and sound, the CSOA will continue to modify guidelines and the concert experience, based on the latest public health recommendations and in consultation with leading health experts. Patrons are encouraged to visit [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.cso.org/safeandsound) for audience protocol instructions and the most recent information.

To learn more about the musicians and music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, performers, affiliate and visiting artists, visit [cso.org/about/performers](https://www.cso.org/about/performers).

All artists and programs are subject to change.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

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