



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

News

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Press Contacts:**

**Photos available upon request:**

## TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR 2017/18 SPECIAL CONCERTS AT SYMPHONY CENTER

**Performances are Part of Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
and Symphony Center Presents 2017/18 Season**

### **Introducing a Post-Concert VIP Experience with Bill Murray**

CHICAGO—Tickets for select 2017/18 season Special Concerts presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) are currently on sale. These Special Concerts are part of Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and Symphony Center Presents (SCP) 2017/18 season programming. Performances take place at Symphony Center, 220 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

On Friday, September 22, at 7:00 p.m., Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra will be joined by violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter for the annual Symphony Ball. The prestigious gala is presented by The Women's Board of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Associations in celebration of the 2017/18 season opening. The night will include performances of Rossini's Overture to *William Tell*, Tchaikovsky's Suite from *The Sleeping Beauty* and Mozart's *Turkish Concerto* featuring Mutter as soloist.

Actor Bill Murray and German cellist Jan Vogler make their joint Symphony Center debut with an artistic collaboration on Tuesday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m. They will be joined by violinist Mira Wang and pianist Vanessa Perez for a program exploring the core values of literature and music in America. A new VIP experience—Pizza and Beer with Bill Murray—has been added to the October 10 program. This special, post-concert VIP experience includes food, drink and a photo with Murray with ticket proceeds benefitting CSOA artistic and educational programs. A separate \$150 ticket is required for entry. More information is available at [cso.org](http://cso.org).

Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO) return to Symphony Center to perform two SCP Special Concerts on Saturday, October 14 at 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Led

RICCARDO MUTI  
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL  
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER  
President

YO-YO MA  
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

by renowned trumpet player Wynton Marsalis, the 15-piece ensemble has made it their mission to not only entertain audiences, but also to enrich and expand the jazz community through performance, education and advocacy. The first program will be *Jazz For Young People: Who is Count Basie?*; a family-friendly concert exploring the legacy of piano player and band leader William Count Basie. For the evening program, Marsalis and JLCO welcome piano player Jon Batiste. The renowned jazz musician recently recorded alongside JLCO for their 2017 album *The Music of John Lewis* and has had onscreen appearances in the HBO series *Treme* and Spike Lee's *Red Hook Summer*. Batiste is also the bandleader with the Late Show with Steven Colbert and Artistic Director At Large of Harlem's National Jazz Museum.

On Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 p.m., Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán returns for their 11<sup>th</sup> annual Symphony Center appearance. The ensemble is recognized as a leader in traditional Mexican music. They've had their music featured in popular films such as *Transformers* and *Turbo*. Their most recent release, *Boleros, Baladas Y Bachatoas* presents a new spin on the traditional Latin genres.

Pianist Herbie Hancock will return to the Symphony Center for a special concert on Saturday, October 21 at 8:00 p.m. Considered an icon of modern music, Herbie Hancock performed his first Mozart piano concerto with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at age 11. In 1963, Davis joined the Miles Davis Quintet where he spent five years among saxophonist Wayne Shorter, bassist Ron Carter and drummer Tony Williams. The Chicago-native has won 14 Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year for his 2007 release *The Joni Letters*.

Italian pianist and composer Ludovico Einaudi makes his Symphony Center debut on Tuesday, October 24 at 8:00 p.m. After studying at the Milan Conservatorio, Einaudi built his career on the exploration of blending classical and popular music melodies. He has built an online fan base with more than 2.3 million monthly Spotify listeners and has sold more than 750,000 recordings. Einaudi has written a number of film scores for movies including the popular French drama *The Intouchables* and 2008 BAFTA winner *This is England*.

On Saturday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m., The China NCPA Orchestra will perform a program of symphonic works at Symphony Center. The China NCPA Orchestra, led by conductor Lü Jia, is the resident orchestra of the National Centre for the Performing, Beijing. It has performed in a number of opera productions since its establishment in 2010 including critically acclaimed performances of *Tosca*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Aida* and the contemporary work *The Chinese Orphan*.

Tickets for these 2016/18 special performances are on sale now. Subscriptions for all 2016/17 CSO and Symphony Center Presents series are also available. Single tickets for all CSO and Symphony Center Presents programs go on sale August 12, 2016. Tickets and subscriptions are available by calling the Symphony Center box office at 312-294-3000, online at [cso.org](http://cso.org), or by visiting the Symphony Center box office at 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604. All performances take place at Symphony Center unless otherwise noted.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Symphony Ball**

Friday, September 22, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Riccardo Muti**, conductor  
**Anne-Sophie Mutter**, violin

SMITH                    *The Star-Spangled Banner*  
ROSSINI                 *Overture to William Tell*  
MOZART                 Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major, K. 219 (*Turkish*)  
TCHAIKOVSKY         Suite from *The Sleeping Beauty*, Op.66a

Tickets:

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**Symphony Center Presents  
Special Concert**

Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

**Bill Murray**, actor and vocals  
**Jan Vogler**, cello  
**Mira Wang**, violin  
**Vanessa Perez**, piano

Tickets:

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**Symphony Center Presents  
Jazz**

Saturday, October 14, 2017, 11:00 a.m.

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra**  
**Wynton Marsalis**, trumpet

Jazz for Young People: Who is Count Basie?

Tickets:

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**Symphony Center Presents  
Jazz**

Saturday, October 14, 2017, 8:00 p.m.

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra**  
**Wynton Marsalis**, trumpet  
**Jon Batiste**, piano

Tickets:

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**Symphony Center Presents  
Special Concert**

Sunday, October 15, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

**Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán**

Tickets:

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**Symphony Center Presents  
Special Concert**

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 8:00 p.m.  
**Herbie Hancock**, piano  
**Lionel Loueke**, guitar  
**James Genus**, bass  
**Terrace Martin**, saxophone and keyboards  
**Vinnie Colaiuta**, drums

Tickets:

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**Symphony Center Presents  
Special Concert**

Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 8:00 p.m.  
**Ludovico Einaudi**, piano

Tickets:

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**Symphony Center Presents  
Orchestras**

Saturday, October 28, 2017, 8:00 p.m.  
**China NCPA Orchestra**  
**Lü Jia**, conductor  
**Wu Man**, pipa

ZHAO JIPING	Violin Concerto No. 1 [United States Premiere]
HARRISON	Pipa Concerto
BRAHMS	Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98

Tickets:

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**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Riccardo Muti ([riccardomutimusic.com](http://riccardomutimusic.com))**

Riccardo Muti, born in Naples, Italy, is one of the preeminent conductors of our day. In 2010, when he became the tenth music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), he already had more than forty years of experience at the helm of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Philharmonia Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Teatro alla Scala. He is a guest conductor for orchestras and opera houses all over the world: the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna State Opera, the Royal Opera House, the Metropolitan Opera, and many others. Muti studied piano under Vincenzo Vitale at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella in his hometown of Naples, graduating with distinction. He subsequently received a diploma in composition and conducting from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan, also graduating with distinction. His principal teachers were Bruno Bettinelli and Antonino Votto, principal assistant to Arturo Toscanini at La Scala. After he won the Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition—by unanimous vote of the jury—in Milan in 1967, Muti's career developed quickly. In 1968, he became principal conductor of Florence's Maggio Musicale, a position that he held until 1980.

Herbert von Karajan invited him to conduct at the Salzburg Festival in Austria in 1971, and Muti has maintained a close relationship with the summer festival and with its great orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, for more than forty-five years. When he conducted the philharmonic's 150th anniversary concert in 1992, he was presented with the Golden Ring, a special sign of esteem and affection, and in 2001, his outstanding artistic contributions to the orchestra were further recognized with the Otto Nicolai Gold Medal. He is also a recipient of a silver medal from the Salzburg Mozarteum for his contribution to the music of W.A. Mozart. He is an honorary member of Vienna's Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde (Society of the Friends of Music), the Vienna Hofmusikkapelle, the Vienna Philharmonic, and the Vienna State Opera.

Muti succeeded Otto Klemperer as chief conductor and music director of London's Philharmonia Orchestra in 1973, holding that position until 1982. From 1980 to 1992, he was music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and in 1986, he became music director of Milan's Teatro alla Scala. During his nineteen-year tenure, in addition to directing major projects such as the Mozart–Da Ponte trilogy and Wagner *Ring* cycle, Muti conducted operatic and symphonic repertoire ranging from the baroque to the contemporary, also leading hundreds of concerts with the Filarmonica della Scala and touring the world with both the opera company and the orchestra. His tenure as music director, the longest of any in La Scala's history, culminated in the triumphant reopening of the restored opera house with Antonio Salieri's *Europa riconosciuta*, originally commissioned for La Scala's inaugural performance in 1778.

Throughout his career, Muti has dedicated much time and effort to training young musicians. In 2004, he founded the Orchestra Giovanile Luigi Cherubini (Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra), based in his native Italy. He regularly tours with the ensemble to prestigious concert halls and opera houses all over the world. In 2015, he founded the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in Ravenna, Italy, to train young conductors, répétiteurs, and singers in the Italian opera repertoire. He was invited to bring a similar program to South Korea in 2016, establishing the first of its kind in Asia.

Since 1997, as part of *Le vie dell'Amicizia* (The paths of friendship), a project of the Ravenna Festival in Italy, Muti has annually conducted large-scale concerts in war-torn and poverty-stricken areas around the world, using music to bring hope, unity, and attention to present day social, cultural, and humanitarian issues.

Muti has received innumerable international honors. He is a Cavaliere di Gran Croce of the Italian Republic, Officer of the French Legion of Honor, and a recipient of the German Verdienstkreuz. Queen Elizabeth II bestowed on him the title of honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire, Russian President Vladimir Putin awarded him the Order of Friendship, and Pope Benedict XVI made him a Knight of the Grand Cross First Class of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great—the highest papal honor. Muti also has received Israel's Wolf Prize for the arts, Sweden's prestigious Birgit Nilsson Prize, Spain's Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts, Japan's Order of the Rising Sun Gold and Silver Star, and the gold medal from Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his promotion of Italian culture abroad. He has received more than twenty honorary degrees from universities around the world.

Considered one of the greatest interpreters of Verdi in our time, Muti wrote a book on the composer, *Verdi, l'italiano*, published in Italian, German, and Japanese. His first book, *Riccardo Muti: An Autobiography: First the Music, Then the Words*, also has been published in several languages. Riccardo Muti's vast catalog of recordings, numbering in the hundreds, ranges from the traditional symphonic and operatic repertoires to contemporary works. His debut recording with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*, released in 2010 by CSO Resound, won two Grammy awards. His second recording with the CSO and Chorus, Verdi's *Otello*, released in 2013 by CSO Resound, won the 2014 International Opera Award for the Best Complete Opera.

During his time with the CSO, Muti has won over audiences in greater Chicago and across the globe through his music making as well as his demonstrated commitment to sharing classical music. His first annual free concert as CSO music director attracted more than 25,000 people to Millennium Park. He regularly invites subscribers, students, seniors, and people of low incomes to attend, at no charge, his CSO rehearsals. Muti's commitment to artistic excellence and to creating a strong bond between an

orchestra and its communities continues to bring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to ever higher levels of achievement and renown.

[www.riccardomutimusic.com](http://www.riccardomutimusic.com)

#### **Other featured artists**

**Anne-Sophie Mutter** (September 22)

**Bill Murray** (October 10)

**Wynton Marsalis** (October 14 &15)

**Mariachi Vargas** (October 15)

**Herbie Hancock** (October 21)

**Ludovico Einaudi** (October 24)

**CHINA NCPA Orchestra** (October 28)

#### **The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org) and [www.csosoundsandstories.org/](http://www.csosoundsandstories.org/)**

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the preeminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the CSO's Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, and Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek are its Mead Composers-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 60 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](http://cso.org/radio). Recordings by the CSO have earned 62 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 seven releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [www.cso.org/resound](http://www.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, 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 with Muti and the CSO, 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. Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO. 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.