CHICAGO SYMPHONY

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CHICAGO SYMPHONY NOVEMBER PROGRAMMING

CHICAGO — November programming presented by Chicago Symphony at Chicago Symphony Center and in community venues features a wide variety of events. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra schedule features a performance by rising pianist Mao Fujita in Strauss's *Burlesque,* alongside Beethoven's Fifth Symphony with conductor Marek Janowski. Grammy-nominated violinist, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Andrew Bird makes his CSO debut celebrating the 20-year anniversary of his acclaimed record *The Mysterious Production of Eggs*. Jaap van Zweden leads the CSO in Rachmaninov's Second Symphony, Julia Wolfe's *Liberty* and Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto with violinist Vadim Gluzman. Yo-Yo Ma joins the Orchestra to perform Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto, one of the first concertos he ever recorded.

The Chicago Symphony Presents Piano series opens with Bruce Liu's highly anticipated return to Chicago featuring two of Beethoven's most famous sonatas (*Moonlight* and *Waldstein*), alongside works by Chopin, Ravel and more. The Chicago Symphony Presents Chamber Music series continues with Nemanja Radulović and his chamber orchestra, Double Sens, in a program of Bach and Beethoven. The month concludes with the annual return of the Vienna Boys Choir for its holiday program, Christmas in Vienna.

The Chicago Symphony Negaunee Music Institute opens its Family Matinee series with Symphonic Superheroes, conducted by Alastair Willis. How to Train Your Dragon 2 in Concert kicks off the season's movies, featuring the CSO performing the film's score live. Michael Sanderling makes his Civic Orchestra of Chicago podium debut leading Shostakovich's Eleventh Symphony at Lincoln-Way East High School and Chicago Symphony Center. The CSO Chamber Music series continues with Carving Out History at the Driehaus Museum.

Tickets and more information are available at chicagosymphony.org.

Explore a chronological list of November 2026 concert programs.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Beethoven 5 & Mao Fujita (November 5-8)
Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, with its iconic four-note motif, stands as a powerful testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Strauss' *Burlesque* — written when the composer was just 21 — makes the perfect pairing, dazzling with pianistic fireworks and mischievous energy. The piece has become a calling card for rising pianist Mao Fujita, who performs it "with the maturity of someone twice his age" (*Bachtrack*).

Yo-Yo Ma & the CSO (November 11 [SOLD OUT])
For all the rich dimensions of Yo-Yo Ma's extraordinary career, Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto holds a special place. It was one of the first concertos he ever recorded, over 40 years ago, and it charts a searing emotional journey: Composed after the death of Stalin, the piece unleashes moods of biting sarcasm, rage, despair and soulful poignancy. Ma joins conductor Carlos Miguel Prieto, a frequent guest in Chicago, including with the CSO and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. A different side of Russian music, Rachmaninov's plush and glittering Symphonic Dances shows the master at the height of his late powers.

Andrew Bird & the CSO (November 13-14)
Grammy-nominated violinist, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Andrew Bird makes his CSO debut celebrating the 20-year anniversary of his acclaimed record *The Mysterious Production of Eggs*. Balancing jazz, folk and pop melodies in an unforgettable display of unique virtuosity, the concert features a full album performance with orchestral arrangements, capping off with a suite of fan-favorite tunes from his near 30-year repertoire.

Jaap van Zweden & Vadim Gluzman (November 19-21)
Rachmaninov's Second Symphony is the orchestral equivalent of a binge-watch drama, with each movement drawing you into the next, bursting with yearning, nostalgia and soaring climaxes. Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto captures the chapters in which he concluded his years as an expat and returned to the Soviet Union. Chicago favorite Vadim Gluzman takes on its kaleidoscopic solo part. Julia Wolfe's new work takes inspiration from the iconic bell that has long stood as a symbol of freedom and perseverance.

CSO Chamber Music

CSO Chamber Music at the Driehaus Museum: Carving Out History (November 3)
Inspired by the current exhibition, *Emma Stebbins: Carving Out History*, discover the music of elegance, passion and innovation while exploring the remarkable lives and artistic

achievements of these trailblazing women in the intimate setting of the Driehaus Museum and Murphy Auditorium.
Please note: This event takes place at Murphy Auditorium at Driehaus Museum, 50 E. Erie St., Chicago

Family

Symphonic Superheroes (November 21)
Move over Superman, Wonder Woman and other caped crusaders! In this captivating program, discover the superhero qualities of a symphony orchestra. Join Alastair Willis, members of the CSO and a trio of silly storytellers as they demonstrate how each instrument of the orchestra uses its unique musical powers to mold our moods, transport us to different times and faraway places, and accomplish great feats. Whether it's taking center stage for a solo or joining forces with the entire orchestra, every instrument has a heroic role to play!

Movies

How to Train Your Dragon 2 in Concert (November 27-29)
DreamWorks' *How to Train Your Dragon 2* is that rare sequel that's a worthy successor to the original! When Hiccup and Toothless discover a secret ice cave with wild dragons and a mysterious Dragon Rider, they find themselves in an epic battle to save the future of man and dragons! How to Train Your Dragon 2 in Concert features this spectacular sequel presented in HD with composer John Powell's thrilling score performed live to picture by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in an awe-inspiring experience for the whole family.

How to Train Your Dragon 2 © 2014 DreamWorks Animation LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Chicago Symphony Presents

Vienna Boys Choir: Christmas in Vienna (November 28)
For six centuries, the Vienna Boys Choir has delighted people across the globe with its purity of tone, wide repertoire and generosity of musical spirit. Comprised of boy sopranos and altos from dozens of countries, these cultural ambassadors present more than 300 concerts a year. Christmas in Vienna features Austrian folk songs, choral classics, popular songs and holiday carols.

Chicago Symphony Presents Piano

Bruce Liu (November 1)
Ever since his meteoric rise at the 2021 International Chopin Competition, Bruce Liu has roused audiences with performances that balance breathtaking power and poetic refinement. Don't miss the chance to be swept up by his "immaculate pianism" and "fiery virtuosity" (*Chicago Classical Review*) in his highly anticipated return to Chicago.

Chicago Symphony Presents Chamber Music

Nemanja Radulović & Double Sens (November 22)
Sparks fly when Serbian-French violinist Nemanja Radulović leads his chamber orchestra, Double Sens, in this beguiling program of Bach and Beethoven. Experience Radulović's orchestral arrangement of Beethoven's *Kreutzer* Sonata, which *Gramophone* calls "an exhilarating ride" and *BBC Music Magazine* singles out for the "breakneck speed in the finale, [which] has to be heard to be believed." Radulović also brings his charismatic spirit to Bach's Violin Concerto in D Minor and a new arrangement of the great D Minor Chaconne.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Shostakovich 11 at Lincoln-Way East High School (November 15)
Led by Michael Sanderling, the Civic Orchestra performs Shostakovich's Eleventh Symphony at Lincoln-Way East High School (201 Colorado Ave., Frankfort).

Shostakovich 11 (November 16)
Once described as "a film score without a film," Shostakovich's Eleventh Symphony transports you to the Russian Revolution of 1905. The composer sets the scene outside the Winter Palace on a frigid January day and goes on to depict the massacre of protesters by the czar's troops. Revolutionary songs are threaded through its four movements, and the defiant finale, with its tolling bells and restless drums, signals a warning to the future.

Food and Beverage

Explore Chicago Symphony Center's onsite dining options for a seamless preconcert experience. Preorder a Sound Bites meal to enjoy in the Rotunda before the concert — or make a reservation to dine at the Thomas Club, offering a prix fixe menu featuring traditional American fare and a spectacular view of Lake Michigan. View menus and learn more at chicagosymphony.org/dining.

Parking and Transit Options

Exclusive parking rates are available through Millennium Garages, the Preferred Parking Partner for Chicago Symphony Center. The closest parking garage is the Grant Park South Garage, located at 325 S. Michigan Ave. Valet parking is available for select performances at Chicago Symphony Center's 67 E. Adams St. entrance. A round-trip North Shore Shuttle service is available for Friday matinees. Visit chicagosymphony.org/parking for more parking and transit options.

Patron Information

Contact Patron Services for personalized assistance online at chicagosymphony.org/contact or by calling 312-294-3000, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Beethoven 5 & Mao Fujita concerts are generously sponsored by Robert H. Aland and Family in loving memory of Fraida N. Aland.

The Yo-Yo Ma & the CSO concert is generously sponsored by The Negaunee Foundation.

The appearance of Jaap van Zweden is made possible by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation.

The appearance of Vadim Gluzman is made possible by the Grainger Fund for Excellence.

Movies in concert are generously sponsored by Megan and Steve Shebik.

The 2026/27 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

Major support for the Civic Orchestra of Chicago is also provided by John and Leslie Burns; Robert and Joanne Crown Income Charitable Fund; Nancy Dehmlow; Leslie Fund, Inc.; the Maval Foundation; Judy and Scott McCue; Barbara and Barre Seid Foundation; and Paul and Lisa Wiggin.

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Chicago Symphony: chicagosymphony.org

Chicago Symphony is a beacon of musical excellence and inspiration, both in Chicago and around the world. The organization stewards three acclaimed classical music ensembles, including the renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra; presents a dynamic performance series with guest artists, and comprises an embedded music education institute. At Chicago Symphony, the legendary sound of the CSO meets the future of music, inviting everyone to experience and connect with the transformative power of live performance.

The iconic Chicago Symphony Orchestra is the core ensemble, recognized worldwide for its artistic force and command of a deep, evolving repertoire. The CSO has been at the forefront of classical music since its founding in 1891, with a long history of introducing new compositions to the United States and the world. The CSO's vitality continues to inspire music lovers with nearly 150 concerts annually, weekly syndicated radio broadcasts and a catalog of celebrated recordings.

Klaus Mäkelä, a leader of classical music's next generation, begins his tenure as Zell Music Director in the 2027/28 Season, ushering in a new chapter for the CSO. His appointment as the 11th music director deepens Mäkelä's creative partnership with the musicians that began when he first conducted the Orchestra in 2022. Mäkelä succeeds Riccardo Muti, who held the position from 2010 to 2023 and now serves as the CSO's music director emeritus for life.

Chicago Symphony's other ensembles include the Chicago Symphony Chorus, the nation's largest professional chorus known for its extraordinary quality, and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a prestigious ensemble for early-career musicians that prepares its members for multifaceted and meaningful careers in orchestral music and beyond. Chicago Symphony Presents features world-renowned guest artists in jazz, global, and chamber music and offers one of the country's most distinguished piano recital series.

Chicago Symphony Center is our primary venue and home to the historic Orchestra Hall, where the CSO has performed for over a century. Located adjacent to Millennium Park, the Center is the musical heart of the Chicago Cultural Mile. The CSO's summer home is the Ravinia Festival on the North Shore, where the Orchestra performs a popular series of outdoor concerts each year.

As a cultural leader, we provide exceptional musical experiences and education for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. The Chicago Symphony Negaunee Music Institute produces concerts for schools and families, organizes free and low -cost public programming at venues throughout Chicago, and offers world-class musical training to tomorrow's musicians. The Institute also spearheads social impact initiatives that highlight the unique ability of music to foster empathy and healing.

Whether you are a classical music aficionado, looking to discover new artists or seeking connection with your community, Chicago Symphony is where you belong.