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**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAMMING
FOR TEENS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS**

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces the return of its signature student engagement events for the 2026/27 Season at Symphony Center, supporting the next generation of classical music lovers.

Highlights of the season include two CSO College Night events and the third annual Teen Night, specifically curated to connect young people with the Orchestra. Hosted by CSO Student Ambassadors — students passionate about classical music — these nights offer exclusive concert tickets and unique pre-performance experiences, such as musician Q&As, social hours and complimentary refreshments.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra College Nights

CSO Student Ambassadors host two College Night programs in the 2026/27 Season, which include pizza, cookies and soft drinks. During College Nights, students enjoy specially priced tickets to a CSO subscription concert as well as a preconcert Q&A session with a CSO musician hosted by a CSO Student Ambassador. Dinner begins at approximately 5:30 p.m. with the Q&A beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Buntrock Hall at Symphony Center.

No separate ticket is required for College Night preconcert events. Learn more at cso.org/collegenight.

Sleeping Beauty & Dvořák Cello Concerto ([October 22](#))

The crown jewel of cello repertoire, Dvořák's heroic and soulful Cello Concerto marks the return of Jian Wang, a soloist with a lustrous sound and compelling interpretive ideas. Selections from Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty* transport you to the Golden Age of ballet, painted in a thousand wondrous sounds. Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider opens the program with music from his native Denmark, in Nielsen's quicksilver *Maskarade* Overture.

Hrůša Conducts Shostakovich 7 ([April 15](#))

Composed during the 872-day siege of Leningrad, Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony vividly captures the spirit of resistance to oppression. Named 2026 Conductor of the Year by *Musical America*, Jakub Hrůša leads a performance that brings this monumental work into sharp focus. Its 1942 premiere was defiantly broadcast on loudspeakers placed throughout the city to bolster residents' morale. Experience the full fury of the invasion theme, as well as the moments of profound intimacy that reflect the voices of individual citizens. Few symphonic works capture a historical moment with such raw immediacy.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago Teen Night

Teen Night tickets become available two weeks before the date of the event and cost \$5 for teens and any accompanying adults or children. A concert ticket is required to access the evening's event and concert. No additional ticket or RSVP is required for the Teen Night preconcert event.

The CSOA recommends people ages 13-19 attend Teen Night. Stay tuned for more information about alternative places for accompanying adults and children to gather during the Teen Night preconcert event. CSOA staff members, a Symphony Center House Manager and ushers will manage and supervise the event.

Civic Plays Debussy, Mazzoli & The Firebird ([March 1](#))

The ultimate Russian fairy-tale ballet, Stravinsky's *The Firebird* pulses with iridescent colors and fantastical effects as it tells the story of a magical bird, an evil sorcerer and an intrepid prince. Debussy evokes a Breton legend about an underwater cathedral that emerges at sunrise, echoing with the sound of ancient bells. And Missy Mazzoli reimagines the Orpheus myth in an entrancing work that dates from her tenure as the CSO's Mead Composer-in-Residence. The score delivers "just the kind of fresh, imaginative sound world that we have come to expect of Mazzoli" (*Chicago Sun-Times*).

2026/27 Student Tickets

Symphony Center welcomes students with specially priced tickets for select concerts throughout the 2026/27 Season.

These events — central to the CSOA's commitment to student access — are available through specially priced tickets starting at \$18 and other ticket offers throughout the season. More information is available at cso.org/students.

Students can visit the [calendar listing](#) of performances with student ticket availability. Tickets usually become available 1-4 weeks ahead of the concert date with newly eligible concerts typically added on Thursday afternoons.

Students can also subscribe to a [Create Your Own](#) subscription of three or more performances and save 30-50% off standard ticket prices. Please note, the extra student savings is applied at the end of the order process, after you have selected your concerts and seats for the CYO package.

[Explore](#) more information about how to order student tickets or become a student subscriber.

Please note, the student ticket program is only eligible for current students and orders must be placed by individual students. All student ticket holders must present a valid student ID.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Student Ambassadors

CSO Student Ambassadors are students who are passionate about connecting with their student communities through orchestral music experiences. In addition to receiving free tickets to select CSO concerts, Student Ambassadors plan College Night events, promote College Night on their campuses and lead College Night preconcert activities such as conducting interviews with CSO musicians.

There are no requirements to join other than being a college student with a passion for classical music. More than 20 Chicago-area colleges and universities are represented among the corps of CSO Student Ambassadors. For more information about the program or how to become a Student Ambassador, visit [cso.org/studentambassadors](https://www.cso.org/studentambassadors).

Group Sales for Educators

Student ticket offers are limited and cannot be applied to groups. Educators looking to bring a group of 10 students or more should contact Group Sales at [312-294-3040](tel:312-294-3040) or [cso.org/groups](https://www.cso.org/groups) for more information about special group pricing for all concerts.

Ticket and Patron Information

Contact Patron Services for personalized assistance online at [cso.org/contact](https://www.cso.org/contact) or by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000), Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](https://www.cso.org)

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the world's great orchestras. In April 2024, Klaus Mäkelä was named the Orchestra's 11th music director, and he will begin an initial five-year tenure as Zell Music Director with the 2027/28 Season. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became music director emeritus for life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Jean-Yves Thibaudet is the CSO artist-in-residence for the 2026/27 Season.

The CSO commands a vast repertoire, from baroque through contemporary music. Its renowned musicians perform more than 150 concerts annually, in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in downtown Chicago and each summer at the Ravinia Festival in suburban Highland Park. The ensemble regularly tours domestically, and since 1892, has made 65 international tours, performing in 30 countries on five continents.

Patrons around the globe enjoy weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings via the WFMT Radio Network and online at [cso.org/radio](https://www.cso.org/radio). Launched in 2007, [CSO Resound](https://www.cso.org/resound) is the ensemble's Grammy Award-winning record label, featuring live performances with world-class conductors and guest artists. Since 1916, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have amassed an extensive discography that has earned 65 Grammy awards from the Recording Academy.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA), which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Symphony Center Presents and Negaunee Music Institute. The [Chicago Symphony Chorus](https://www.cso.org/chorus), founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus, and Donald Palumbo currently serves as director. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919/20 Season, the [Civic Orchestra of Chicago](https://www.cso.org/civic) trains the next generation of musicians with Ken-David Masur as its principal conductor. [Symphony Center Presents](https://www.cso.org/symphony-center-presents) features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, global and contemporary. The [Negaunee Music Institute](https://www.cso.org/negaunee) offers community and educational programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds throughout the Chicagoland area.

Through the Institute and numerous other activities — including annual free community concerts in Chicago neighborhoods — the CSO is committed to using the power of music to strengthen bonds with its longtime patrons and create connections with new audiences.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association 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.