

# RICCARDO MUTI CONDUCTS THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN ALL-BRAHMS CONCERT IN ANN ARBOR ON FRIDAY, MARCH 9

## HILL AUDITORIUM CONCERT FEATURES VIOLINIST PINCHAS ZUKERMAN AS SOLOIST

ANN ARBOR, MI (February 1, 2012) – The **University Musical Society** (UMS) presents the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** with violinist **Pinchas Zukerman** on **Friday, March 9 at 8:00 p.m.** in **Hill Auditorium** (825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor). Led by the orchestra's principal conductor **Riccardo Muti**, the program features two works by Brahms: the Violin Concerto in D Major and his Symphony No. 2 in D Major.

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra enjoys an enviable position in the music world with performances greeted by enthusiastic audiences both at home and abroad. The Orchestra has made over 200 appearances under the auspices of UMS since its debut in 1892; the orchestra last performed in Hill Auditorium in 2010. Riccardo Muti conducted the Vienna Philharmonic's Hill Auditorium performance in 2006, although this will be his first time performing with the CSO under UMS auspices.

Violinist Pinchas Zukerman, recognized as a phenomenon for nearly four decades, returns to UMS for a performance of the Brahms Violin Concerto. "Youth sticks with some people... Zukerman seems the forever-young virtuoso: expressively resourceful, infectiously musical, technically impeccable, effortless. As usual, it was a joy to be in his musical company." (*Los Angeles Times*)

For tickets or additional information, contact the University Musical Society at **734-764-2538** or online at [www.ums.org](http://www.ums.org). Tickets may also be purchased in person at the League Ticket Office (911 North University Avenue). UMS Ticket Office hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., closed Sunday.

The **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** began in 1891 when Theodore Thomas, then the leading conductor in America, was invited by a Chicago businessman to establish a symphony orchestra. Maestro Thomas served as music director for 13 years until his death in 1905. Thomas was succeeded by Frederick Stock, who began his career in the viola section and whose 37-year tenure saw the founding of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the first training orchestra in the United States affiliated with a major symphony orchestra. Stock also established youth

auditions, organized the first subscription concerts especially for children, and began a series of popular concerts.

Three distinguished conductors headed the Orchestra during the following decade: Désiré Defauw from 1943 to 1947; Artur Rodzinski from 1947 to 1948; and Rafael Kubelík from 1950 to 1953. The next ten years belonged to Fritz Reiner, whose recordings with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra are still considered performance hallmarks. From 1963 to 1968, Jean Martinon held the position of music director. Sir Georg Solti, the Orchestra's eighth music director, served from 1969 until 1991. He held the title of music director laureate and returned to conduct the Orchestra for several weeks each season until his death in September 1997. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's first international tour came in 1971 under Solti's direction, and subsequent European tours, as well as trips to Japan and Australia, have reinforced its reputation as one of the world's finest musical ensembles.

In September 1991, Daniel Barenboim assumed leadership as the Orchestra's ninth music director. Barenboim's music directorship was distinguished by the opening of Chicago's new Symphony Center in 1997, highly praised operatic productions at Orchestra Hall, numerous virtuoso appearances with the Orchestra in the dual role of pianist and conductor, and more than 20 international tours.

In the fall of 2006, eminent Dutch conductor Bernard Haitink became the principal conductor. In May 2008, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association announced the appointment of Riccardo Muti as its 10<sup>th</sup> music director. Maestro Muti became music director designate in January 2009 and began a five-year contract as music director in September 2010. Appointed the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Helen Regenstein Conductor Emeritus in 2006, Pierre Boulez is a composer, conductor, tireless advocate for new music. Boulez was named principal guest conductor of the CSO in March 1995, only the third person to hold that title in the Orchestra's history.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra has long been associated with Ravinia, in Highland Park, Illinois, having first performed in Ravinia Park's second season in November 1905. The Orchestra helped to inaugurate the first season of the Ravinia Festival in August 1936 and has been in residence at the Festival every summer since. Throughout the CSO's history, recordings have been an important part of the Orchestra's activities. Since 1916, the Chicago Symphony has made more than 900 recordings. The Orchestra has won 60 Grammy Awards, more than any other orchestra in the world.

Conductor **Riccardo Muti** made his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival in July 1973. In September of 2007—for the first time in more than 30 years—he appeared with the CSO in a month-long residency that included two weeks of remarkable subscription concerts, a sold-out opening night gala, and a triumphant European tour, which marked the Orchestra’s first performances in Italy in more than 25 years. In May 2008, the CSO announced Muti’s appointment as its 10<sup>th</sup> music director, a post he assumed with the beginning of the 2010/11 season.

Born in Naples, Italy, Riccardo Muti studied piano at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella under Vincenzo Vitale, graduating with distinction. He subsequently received a diploma in composition and conducting from the Verdi Conservatory in Milan, where he studied with Bruno Bettinelli and Antonino Votto.

Riccardo Muti first came to the attention of critics and the public in 1967, when he was unanimously awarded first place at the Guido Cantelli Competition for conductors in Milan. The following year, he was appointed principal conductor of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, a position he maintained until 1980. In 1971, Muti was invited by Herbert von Karajan to conduct at the Salzburg Festival, the first of many occasions; in 2010 he celebrated his 40th year of artistic collaboration with this festival. From 1972 until 1982, Muti was chief conductor and music director of the Philharmonia Orchestra in London; from 1980 to 1992, he served as music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra; and from 1986 to 2005, he was music director of the Teatro alla Scala. During his tenure at La Scala he undertook such projects as the Mozart–Da Ponte trilogy and Wagner’s Ring cycle and reopened the newly restored La Scala with Antonio Salieri’s *Europa riconosciuta*, originally commissioned for La Scala’s inaugural performance in 1778. He also remounted Verdi’s trilogy of *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, and *Il Trovatore* after an absence of more than 20 years.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Riccardo Muti has conducted most of the important orchestras in the world, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, and New York Philharmonic, as well as the Vienna Philharmonic, with which he has appeared at the Salzburg Festival since 1971. When Muti was invited to conduct the orchestra for the sesquicentennial celebration concert of the Vienna Philharmonic, he was presented with the Golden Ring by the orchestra as a sign of special appreciation and affection, a prize bestowed to only a select few conductors. In addition, he was invited to conduct the Vienna Philharmonic for

the celebrations of Mozart's 250th birthday in January 2006. In December 2003, he conducted the opening concert of the newly renovated La Fenice Opera House in Venice, and from 2006 to 2011 he served as artistic director of Salzburg's Whitsun Festival.

Riccardo Muti's social and civic conscience as an artist is demonstrated by concerts in a number of locations symbolizing the world's troubled past and contemporary history, which he has conducted as part of the Ravenna Festival's *Le vie dell'Amicizia* (The Paths of Friendship) project. These have included performances in Sarajevo, Beirut, Jerusalem, Moscow, Yerevan, Istanbul, New York, Cairo, Damascus, L'Aquila, Trieste, and El Djem, Tunisia. Most recently, in July 2011, he led the Cherubini Orchestra in a concert in Nairobi, Kenya for over 5,000 people to raise awareness and fund education projects in Kibera.

Innumerable honors have been bestowed on Riccardo Muti over the course of his career. He has been made a Cavaliere di Gran Croce of the Italian Republic and has received the Verdienstkreuz from Germany; in 2010 he received the decoration of Officer of the Legion of Honor from French President Nicolas Sarkozy in a private ceremony held at Élysée Palace. He also was made an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in Britain. The Salzburg Mozarteum awarded him its silver medal for his contribution to Mozart's music, and in Vienna he has been elected an honorary member of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, the Wiener Hofmusikkapelle, and the Wiener Staatsoper. Russian President Putin awarded him the Order of Friendship, and the State of Israel has honored him with the Wolf Prize for the arts. He has received honorary degrees from many universities in Italy and abroad. In 2010, he was named 2010 Musician of the Year by Musical America. In March 2011, Riccardo Muti was selected as the second-ever winner of the Birgit Nilsson Prize, awarded every 2-3 years to a singer or conductor who has had a significant impact in the classical field. This past April, he was honored at the sixth annual Opera News Awards, and in May 2011 he was awarded Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Prize for the Arts. In July 2011, he was named an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic.

Violinist **Pinchas Zukerman** has remained a phenomenon in the world of music for four decades. His musical genius, prodigious technique and unwavering artistic standards are a marvel to audiences and critics. Devoted to the next generation of musicians, he has inspired younger artists with his magnetism and passion. His devotion

to teaching has resulted in innovative programs in London, New York, China, Israel, and Ottawa. He is equally respected as violinist, violist, conductor, pedagogue, and chamber musician.

Pinchas Zukerman's 2011-2012 season includes over 100 worldwide performances, bringing him to multiple destinations in North America, Europe, and Asia. In his third season as Principal Guest Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London, he leads the ensemble in concerts throughout Spain, Italy, and the United Kingdom, as well as on an east coast tour of the United States and Canada. Additional orchestral engagements include the New York and Israel Philharmonic Orchestras and Chicago, San Francisco, Oregon and San Diego Symphonies. Guest appearances with international orchestras include the Bayerische Staatsoper Munich, Budapest Festival Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, OSESP Brazil, Miyazaki Festival Orchestra, Bavarian Radio Symphony and Orchestra Giovanni Luigi Cherubino. His chamber ensemble, the Zukerman Chamber Players, appears at the Ravinia, Schleswig-Holstein and Tuscan Sun Music Festivals and tours to Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Croatia, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, United States, and Canada.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1948, Pinchas Zukerman studied music with his father, first on the recorder and clarinet, and later on the violin. He soon began lessons with Ilona Feher and came to America in 1962 with the support of Isaac Stern, Pablo Casals, and the America-Israel and Helena Rubinstein Foundations. He began his studies at The Juilliard School with Ivan Galamian and, in 1967, was named first-prize winner of the 25th Leventritt Competition. He holds an honorary doctorate from Brown University and an Achievement Award from the International Center in New York. He was presented with the King Solomon Award by the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and in 1983 President Reagan awarded him the Medal of Arts for his leadership in the musical world. In 2002 he became the first recipient of the Isaac Stern Award for Artistic Excellence at the National Arts Awards Gala in New York City, and in May 2006 was appointed as the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative's first instrumentalist mentor in the music discipline. Pinchas Zukerman is married to cellist Amanda Forsyth and is father to two daughters, Arianna and Natalia.

### **Quick Facts**

- Chicago Symphony Orchestra previous UMS appearances: This performance marks the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's 202<sup>nd</sup> UMS appearance. The Orchestra made its UMS debut in November 1892, conducted by Theodore Thomas. The CSO's last performance was in January 2010 with a rare concert performance of Béla Bartók's one-act opera, *Bluebeard's Castle*.

- Riccardo Muti has performed on six previous UMS seasons; he last performed with the Vienna Philharmonic in 2006.
- Pinchas Zukerman has performed on three previous UMS seasons; his last performance was in 1996 with the Tokyo String Quartet.
- Sponsored by **Key Bank**. Co-sponsored by **Robert and Marina Whitman, Clayton and Ann Wilhite, James and Nancy Stanley, and Jay Zelenock in memory of Mary Kate Zelenock**. Hosted by **Mike Allemang and Janis Bobrin**.
- Media Partners: **WGTE Public Broadcasting, WRCJ 90.9 FM, and the Detroit Jewish News**.
- Additional information: <http://cso.org>

## CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Riccardo Muti**, conductor

**Pinchas Zuckerman**, violin

**Friday, March 9, 8:00 p.m.**

**Hill Auditorium** (825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor)

Tickets start at \$10

### Program

Brahms Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 77 (1878)  
 Brahms Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73 (1877)

Sponsored by **Key Bank**. Co-sponsored by **Robert and Marina Whitman, Clayton and Ann Wilhite, James and Nancy Stanley, and Jay Zelenock in memory of Mary Kate Zelenock**. Hosted by **Mike Allemang and Janis Bobrin**.

Media Partners: **WGTE Public Broadcasting, WRCJ 90.9 FM, and the Detroit Jewish News**.

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## UMS Ticket Office

**734-764-2538**

Outside the 734 area code, call toll-free **800-221-1229**.

**(These numbers should be published.)**

**<http://www.ums.org>**

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 Ann Arbor, MI, 48109-1011  
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