



For Immediate Release: December 8, 2025

[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Photos of Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#).

A video excerpt of Riccardo Muti conducting the Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
in the first movement of Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, *Italian*, can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS**

**A Maria Manetti Shrem Great Artist Performance**

**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
CONDUCTED BY  
RICCARDO MUTI**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026  
AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

Berkeley, CA, December 8, 2025—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes the return of the distinguished **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** and its revered Music Director Emeritus for Life, Maestro **Riccardo Muti**, for one concert only on Saturday, January 17 at 8pm at Zellerbach Hall. The performance is the sole Bay Area stop on the orchestra's seven-city West Coast tour and marks its much-anticipated return to Berkeley since Muti and the orchestra made their Cal Performances debut during the 2017–18 season.

Known for his mastery of Brahms' repertoire, Muti opens the concert leading the orchestra in the composer's towering Fourth Symphony, his last and arguably greatest symphonic work. It is followed by Stravinsky's suite from the ballet *The Fairy's Kiss*, based on a Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale. The expansive program concludes with Ravel's much-loved *Boléro*, an exploration of a single rhythm and two closely related melodies.

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is recognized as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Muti served as its tenth music director for 13 years, developing an uncanny rapport with the musicians and creating what is widely considered one of the most successful pairings of orchestra and conductor in modern times. Under his direction, the orchestra has been praised for its balance of passion and power, and—as *San Francisco Chronicle* critic Joshua Kosman wrote of the 2017 Berkeley performances—"a striking blend of expressive nuance and sheer sonic force." At the beginning of the 2023–24 Season, Muti became Music Director Emeritus for Life, and his close relations with this group of musicians continues to this day.

In addition to his famed artistic partnership with the orchestra, Muti is much admired for his command of repertoire past and present with the Chicago Symphony, he has conducted 18 world premieres and released 12 recordings on the CSO Resound label, winning four Grammy Awards among them.

This presentation is a Maria Manetti Shrem Great Artist Performance. Read about Maria Manetti Shrem on [Cal Performances' website](#).

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:  
**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Saturday, January 17, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street  
UC Berkeley**

*Orchestra*  
**[Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#)**  
**Riccardo Muti, *conductor***

**Program:**

Brahms/Symphony No. 4  
Stravinsky/*The Fairy's Kiss*  
Ravel/*Boléro*

Conductor Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra perform a program of orchestral gems for one night only in Berkeley. In 2023, Muti stepped down as the esteemed ensemble's music director to assume the role of Music Director Emeritus for Life, and his close relations with this group of musicians continues to this day. Muti conducts an expansive program of Brahms' Fourth Symphony, Stravinsky's suite from the ballet *The Fairy's Kiss*, and Ravel's *Boléro*.

**Tickets:** \$60–\$225 (prices subject to change). Tickets for all performances are available at [calperformances.org](#), by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. There is a \$15 per order service charge on ticket purchases made by phone or online that are not part of a subscription package. There is no fee for tickets purchased in person at the Zellerbach Hall Ticket Office unless they are part of a subscription. There is a \$20 service charge on all subscription orders.

UC Berkeley students can access exclusive discounts, including half-price tickets in all sections of the theater, and are also eligible to purchase a limited number of \$10 tickets for the best seats in the house for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra through the [Golden Bear Circle](#) program beginning at 12pm on Friday, January 9, online only. Information about all UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at [calperformances.org/ucb-students](#); information about other discounts can be found at [calperformances.org/discounts](#).

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