

THE DRIEHAUS MUSEUM AND CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP ON MURPHY AUDITORIUM CONCERT SERIES



Evening-length CSO chamber concerts will be specially curated to reflect the themes of Driehaus Museum's 2025 exhibitions

*Inaugural program on April 8 features three works in celebration of *A Tale of Today: Materialities* with a brief introduction to the exhibition by its guest curator, Dr. Giovanni Aloï*

CHICAGO (March 26, 2025) – The **Driehaus Museum** and **Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO)** are proud to announce a partnership on a new three-part chamber concert series in the historic Murphy Auditorium ([50 East Erie](#).) Inspiring audiences to discover connections across disciplines, CSO will curate evening-length concerts that reflect the themes of the Driehaus Museum's 2025 exhibitions. The series kicks off with a program in celebration of *A Tale of Today: Materialities* from 6:30-8:30PM on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, featuring an introduction to the exhibition by its guest curator Dr. Giovanni Aloï. Tickets are \$50 and include admission to see *A Tale of Today: Materialities* during regular museum hours.

The partnership comes on the heels of the restoration and reopening of the Murphy Auditorium as part of the Driehaus Museum campus in 2024. Originally constructed between 1923 and 1926, the recent renovation has transformed the Murphy Auditorium into a world-class performance space.

This concert series is generously sponsored by the Zell Family Foundation.

Driehaus Museum Executive Director **Lisa M. Key** stated, "With this announcement, we celebrate the union of two Chicago institutions for the benefit of our community. The CSO is ideally suited for the Murphy Auditorium, now an integral part of the Museum's campus, and the Murphy Auditorium's opulent and intimate environment is a special place to showcase the CSO's prodigious talents. By connecting music to our exhibitions, this program series will offer a unique opportunity to broaden our perspectives through the dialogue between music and art."

"This partnership with the Driehaus Museum offers a unique opportunity for the CSO to explore the profound connections between visual art and music," said **Cristina Rocca**, Vice President of Artistic Administration. "We've curated programs that resonate with the themes of the Museum's exhibitions. The intimate setting of the Murphy Auditorium provides a space where these dialogues can flourish, offering audiences an immersive and deeply moving artistic experience."

UPCOMING PROGRAM

CSO Chamber Music: *A Tale of Today: Materialities*

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 6:30-8:30PM

Tickets \$50 (\$25 student)

In celebration of *A Tale of Today: Materialities*, musicians from CSO perform Phillip Glass's *Quartet Satz*, a contemporary and unique string quartet that was composed for the Kronos Quartet. The program continues with Beethoven's *Serenade for Flute, Violin, and Viola*, and concludes with George Chadwick's *String Quartet No. 4 in E Minor*. Tickets are available at driehausmuseum.org/programs.

ABOUT THE CURRENT EXHIBITION

A Tale of Today: Materialities (on view through April 27, 2025) invites living artists to select a material from the Museum, research its history, and produce site-specific installations designed to uncover hidden cultural, historical, and ecological networks, connecting the fabric of the Mansion to distant shores, traditions, and ideologies. Organized by guest curator Giovanni Aloï, this immersive, three-floor exhibition includes new works from artists working in a variety of disciplines including Olivia Block, Rebecca Beachy, Jonas Becker, Beth Lipman, Jefferson Pinder, Laleh Motlagh, Luftwerk, Edra Soto, Bobbi Meyer, Richard Hunt, Ioto, Barbara Cooper, and Ebony G. Patterson. *Materialities* is presented as part of the Driehaus Museum's contemporary art series, *A Tale of Today*, in which emerging artists build upon the immersive experience and cultural history of the Gilded Age building to expand our understanding of the world through the art, architecture, design. *A Tale of Today: Materialities* is part of Art Design Chicago, a citywide collaboration initiated by the Terra Foundation for American Art that highlights the city's artistic heritage and creative communities.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dr. Giovanni Aloï is an author, curator, educator, and maker specializing in the histories of art and politics of aesthetics in representations of nature in art. He is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture* and US correspondent for *Esse Magazine – Art + Opinion*. Aloï is co-editor of the University of Minnesota series 'Art after Nature', and has authored four books including *Why Look at Plants? - The Vegetal World in Contemporary Art* (2019), *Lucian Freud – Herbarium* (2019) and the forthcoming *Vegetal Entwinements* (2023) co-edited with Michael Marder, *Estado Vegetal* (2023), *I'm not an artist: reclaiming creativity in the age of infinite content* (2025), *Botanical Revolutions*

(2025), and *Lawn* (2025). He lectures at museums and universities internationally and has taught graduate and undergraduate courses at Queen Mary University of London, Goldsmiths, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Sotheby's Institute of Art in London and New York. He received his Ph.D. in natural history and contemporary art from Goldsmiths University of London and has worked as an educator at Whitechapel Art Gallery and Tate Galleries.

OTHER DATES

CSO Chamber Music: *Rory McEwen: A New Perspective on Nature*

Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 6:30-8:30PM

CSO Chamber Music: *Tiffany: Beyond the Shade*

Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 6:30-8:30PM

ABOUT THE DRIEHAUS MUSEUM

The Driehaus Museum engages and inspires the global community through exploration and ongoing conversations in art, architecture, and design of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its permanent collection and temporary exhibitions are presented in an immersive experience within the restored Nickerson Mansion, completed in 1883, at the height of the Gilded Age, and the Murphy Auditorium, built in 1926. The Museum's collection reflects and is inspired by the collecting interests, vision, and focus of its founder, the late Richard H. Driehaus. For more information, visit driehausmuseum.org and connect with the Museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

ABOUT THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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 distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became Music Director Emeritus for Life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Daniil Trifonov is the CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2024/25 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 nationally, and since 1892, has made 64 international tours, performing in 29 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. Launched in 2007, [CSO Resound](#) is the ensemble's Grammy Award-winning independent 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 the Negaunee Music Institute. The [Chicago Symphony Chorus](#), founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919/20 Season, the

Civic Orchestra of Chicago is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. Symphony Center Presents features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The Negaunee Music Institute 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 Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute. For more information, visit cso.org.

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Photos by Todd Rosenberg

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