



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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## **CSO'S *RIVERS* FESTIVAL CONCLUDES WITH "SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER"**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9 AT  
CHINATOWN'S PING TOM MEMORIAL PARK**

### **Music Director Riccardo Muti, CSO Brass and Chicago Children's Choir Highlight an Afternoon of Free Musical Performances and Family Activities**

CHICAGO— On Sunday, June 9, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's month-long *RIVERS* Festival culminates with "[Shall We Gather at the River.](#)" a free and open to the public celebration of the river as the center of Chicago's life at Chinatown's Ping Tom Memorial Park (300 W. 19th St., Chicago).

Family activities run by the Chicago Park District begin at the park at 2 p.m. and include making fish kites and fish prints, investigating aquatic invertebrates, and fishing. Friends of the Chicago River will lead paddling lessons. At 3 p.m., musical performances begin featuring such diverse groups as the Civic Orchestra of Chicago brass ensemble, blues performers Corky Siegel and Eddie "The Chief" Clearwater, the Chicago Children's Choir, Chinese Lion Dancers, Mucca Pazza, and a drum circle led by Lenny Marsh.

While the activities and performances are taking place, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass travel by boat from Michigan Avenue downtown to the park, serenading the plazas and bridges along the way. When the boat arrives at Ping Tom Memorial Park at approximately 4:45 p.m., the CSO Brass perform for the crowd and CSO Music Director Riccardo Muti will lead the Chicago Children's Choir in a special performance of Verdi's "Va, pensiero" from *Nabucco*, which is widely regarded as the unofficial anthem of modern Italy and references the banks of the Jordan River.

The day's festivities coincide with the opening of the park's new boathouse, designed by Johnson & Lee Architects.

Parking is limited at the event, so attendees are encouraged to take public transportation or bike. Due to construction, the Cermak Red Line stop is currently closed. Water taxi service is available directly to the park from downtown Chicago. For more information, visit [chicagowatertaxi.com](http://chicagowatertaxi.com).

RICCARDO MUTI  
Music Director

JAY L. HENDERSON  
Chairman

DEBORAH F. RUTTER  
President

YO-YO MA  
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

“Shall We Gather at the River” is presented in conjunction with the Chicago Park District, the City of Chicago, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Chicago’s First Lady Cruises, Choose Chicago, the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Children’s Choir, Friends of the Chicago River, and Redmoon Theater.

Running from May 9 to June 9, 2013, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s *RIVERS* Festival is an examination of the significance of rivers in music and culture, the impact they have had on civilizations throughout history, and their importance for the future of our planet. As an institution living in a city that was formed by the Chicago River, it is important for the CSO to show the connections between our natural environment and our cultural heritage.

Inspired by CSO Music Director Riccardo Muti’s passionate concern for the environment and shaped by the work of CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, the Festival is a powerful opportunity for the CSO to convene artists, scholars and citizens to discuss one of the most pressing issues of our day. For more information, visit [cso.org/rivers](http://cso.org/rivers).

Complete program details follow:

***Rivers: Nature. Power. Culture.***  
**Ping Tom Memorial Park**  
300 W. 19th St., Chicago

**Sunday, June 9, 2013, 2 p.m.**  
**“Shall We Gather at the River”**  
**Riccardo Muti**, conductor  
**Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass**  
**Civic Orchestra of Chicago Brass**  
**Chicago Children’s Choir**  
**Josephine Lee**, artistic director  
**Corky Siegel and Eddy “The Chief” Clearwater**  
**Mucca Pazza**  
**Chinese Lion Dancers**  
**Lenny Marsh**

Free and open to the public. Tickets not required.

**Tentative schedule of events:**

- 2:00 p.m. – Family activities begin
- 3:00 p.m. – Corky Siegel and Eddy “The Chief” Clearwater
- 3:30 p.m. – Civic Orchestra brass ensemble
- 4:20 p.m. – Chicago Children’s Choir
- 4:45 p.m. – Performances by:
  - CSO Brass
  - CSO Music Director Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Children’s Choir
  - Chinese Lion Dancers
- 5:30 p.m. – Mucca Pazza
- 6:00 p.m. – All-instrument drum circle led by Lenny Marsh

*The RIVERS Festival is supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.*

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