CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIXTH SEASON

Friday, November 27, 2026, at 7:30
Saturday, November 28, 2026, at 7:30
Sunday, November 29, 2026, at 3:00

Nicholas Buc Conductor

POWELL *How to Train Your Dragon 2*

There will be one intermission.

Movies in concert are generously sponsored by Megan and Steve Shebik.

Chicago Symphony acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.



DREAMWORKS ANIMATION SKG PRESENTS

"HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2"

MUSIC BY
JOHN POWELL

BASED UPON THE
"HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON" BOOK SERIES BY
CRESSIDA COWELL

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
DEAN DEBLOIS CHRIS SANDERS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
KRISTINE BELSON TIM JOHNSON

PRODUCED BY
BONNIE ARNOLD

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
DEAN DEBLOIS

This program is a presentation of the complete film **How to Train Your Dragon 2** *with a live performance of the film's entire score, including music played by the orchestra during the end credits. Out of respect for the musicians and your fellow audience members, please remain seated until the conclusion of the music.*

How to Train Your Dragon 2 © 2014 DreamWorks Animation LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Chicago Symphony is grateful to

Megan and Steve Shebik

for their support of the Movies series.

John Powell Composer



A native of East Sussex, England, John Powell began his career writing music for commercials and assisting composer Patrick Doyle before moving to the United States, where he was mentored by Hans Zimmer and worked alongside Stephen Schwartz on the songs for *The Prince of Egypt.* His first film was John Woo's *Face/Off,* followed by *Endurance, Antz, Chicken Run,* and *Shrek* with Harry Gregson-Williams.

Powell was catapulted to the A-list with *The Bourne Identity* and went on to score a host of acclaimed animated films. He has written more music for animation than any modern composer—twenty-five films so far—including *Robots, Rio 1 & 2, Happy Feet 1 & 2, Bolt, The Lorax, Ferdinand, Thelma the Unicorn, That Christmas,* and three of the *Ice Age* films. He scored the animated *How to Train Your Dragon* trilogy, which earned him his first Academy Award nomination.

Powell's other credits include *Hancock, Green Zone, Stop Loss, Mr. & Mrs. Smith, The Italian Job, Two Weeks Notice, Drumline, Rat Race, X-Men: The Last Stand, United 93, Solo: A Star Wars Story, The Call of the Wild,* and the live-action adaptation of *How to Train Your Dragon.*

In 2023 he won his first Emmy for *STILL: A Michael J. Fox Movie* and, in 2024, received an Oscar nomination for co-scoring *Wicked.* His most recent Hollywood release is the highly popular *Wicked: For Good.*

Nicholas Buc Conductor



Nicholas Buc is a conductor with a dynamic international career spanning the symphonic, film, and cross-genre worlds. Recognized for his collaborative leadership on the podium, he appears regularly with major orchestras across North America, Australia, Europe, and Asia.

A leading figure in live film concerts, he has conducted the world premieres of *Star Wars: The Last Jedi, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, The Lion King, Beauty and the Beast, Shrek 2, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2, Field of Dreams,* and *How to Train Your Dragon 2.*

His cross-genre work includes collaborations with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Nick Cave and Warren Ellis, Chris Botti, Ben Folds, and the Cat Empire. He has served as conductor and arranger for Tina Arena on six Australian tours and has created arrangements for Diana Ross, Passenger, Birds of Tokyo, Lake Street Dive, Missy Higgins, and the Whitlams. His television credits include *Junior MasterChef Australia* (2020), five seasons of *The Voice Australia,* and the 2021 Australian Football League Grand Final.

Buc is also an award-winning composer. His oratorio *Origins,* a 100-minute work for soloists, choir, and orchestra on the beginnings of science, premiered at the Melbourne Recital Centre in 2023 and was performed with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

Photos by Joel Barhamand, courtesy of the artist

in 2026. His original live animation concert, *Daughter of the Inner Stars,* premiered with the Sydney Symphony in 2024. Recent projects include a new arrangement of the Australian Open theme, recorded with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for the 2025 tournament, and a new sonic identity for ABC Classic, commissioned to mark fifty years on the airwaves.

Nicholas Buc studied composition at the University of Melbourne and completed a master's degree in scoring for film and multimedia at New York University, where he received the Elmer Bernstein Award for Film Scoring.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

***How to Train Your Dragon 2* in Concert** is produced by Film Concerts Live!, a joint venture of IMG Artists, LLC and The Gorfaine/Schwartz Agency, Inc.

Producers: **Steven A. Linder** and **Jamie Richardson**
Director of Operations: **Rob Stogsdill**
Production Manager: **Sophie Greaves**
Production Assistant: **Katherine Miron**
Worldwide Representation: **IMG Artists, LLC**
Technical Director: **Mike Runice**

Music Composed by **John Powell**

Music Preparation: **Jo Ann Kane Music Service**
Film Preparation for Concert Performance: **Ramiro Belgardt, Epilogue Media**
Technical Consultant: **Laura Gibson**
Sound Remixing for Concert Performance: **Chace Audio by Deluxe**
The score for *How to Train Your Dragon 2* has been adapted for live concert performance.

With special thanks to: Universal Pictures, DreamWorks Animation, Bonnie Arnold, Dean DeBlois, Chris Sanders, John Powell, Chris DeFaria, Lawrence Liu, Chuck Nilsen, Mike Pastrano, Alex Levy, Mark Graham, Emily Graham, Bethany Brinton, and the musicians and staff of Chicago Symphony.

www.FilmConcertsLive.com



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Now in its 136th season, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is a global artistic leader, hailed as one of the most esteemed ensembles in classical music.

The ensemble's history began in 1889, when Theodore Thomas, the leading conductor in America and a recognized music pioneer, was invited by Chicago businessman Charles Norman Fay to establish a symphony orchestra. Thomas's aim to build a permanent orchestra of the highest quality was realized at the first concerts in October 1891 in the Auditorium Theatre. Thomas served as music director until his death in January 1905, just three weeks after the dedication of Orchestra Hall, the Orchestra's permanent home designed by Daniel Burnham.

Frederick Stock, recruited by Thomas to the viola section in 1895, became assistant conductor in 1899 and succeeded the Orchestra's founder. His tenure lasted thirty-seven years, from 1905 to 1942. Stock founded the Civic Orchestra of Chicago—the first training orchestra in the U.S. affiliated with a major orchestra—in 1919, established youth auditions, organized the first subscription concerts especially for children, and began a series of popular concerts.

Three conductors headed the Orchestra during the following decade: Désiré Defauw was music director from 1943 to 1947, Artur Rodziński in 1947–48, and Rafael Kubelík from 1950 to 1953. The next ten years belonged to Fritz Reiner, whose recordings with the CSO are still considered hallmarks. Reiner invited Margaret Hillis to form the Chicago Symphony Chorus in 1957. For five seasons, 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. His arrival launched one of the most successful musical partnerships of our time. The CSO made its first overseas tour to Europe in 1971 under his direction and released numerous award-winning recordings. Beginning in 1991, Solti held the title of music director laureate and returned to conduct the Orchestra each season until his death in September 1997.

Daniel Barenboim became ninth music director in 1991, a position he held until 2006. His tenure was distinguished by the opening of Symphony Center in 1997, appearances with the Orchestra in the dual role of pianist and conductor, and twenty-one international tours. Appointed by Barenboim in 1994 as the Chorus's second director, Duain Wolfe served until his retirement in 2022.

In 2010 Riccardo Muti became the Orchestra's tenth music director. During his tenure, the Orchestra deepened its engagement with the Chicago community, collaborated with visionary musicians and composers, and realized many notable performances of operas in concert. In September 2023, Muti became music director emeritus for life.

In April 2024, conductor Klaus Mäkelä was announced as the Orchestra's eleventh music director and will begin an initial five-year tenure as Zell Music Director in September 2027. In July 2025, Donald Palumbo became the third director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus.

Carlo Maria Giulini was named the Orchestra's first principal guest conductor in 1969, serving until 1972; Claudio Abbado held the position from 1982 to 1985. Pierre Boulez was appointed as principal guest conductor in 1995 and was named Helen Regenstein Conductor Emeritus in 2006, a position he held until his death in January 2016. From 2006 to 2010, Bernard Haitink was the Orchestra's first principal conductor. Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet is the Chicago Symphony artist-in-residence for the 2026–27 season.

The Orchestra first performed at Ravinia Park in 1905, later helped to inaugurate the Ravinia Festival in 1936, and has been in residence nearly every summer since. Listeners enjoy the weekly CSO Radio Broadcast series as well as releases from the ensemble's extensive commercial discography. Recordings by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have earned sixty-five Grammy awards from the Recording Academy.

The musicians of the Orchestra are deeply involved in the Chicago Symphony Negaunee Music Institute, which reaches students, families, and early-career musicians through free and low-cost programming and world-class training.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Klaus Mäkelä Zell Music Director Designate ■ **Riccardo Muti** Music Director Emeritus for Life
Jean-Yves Thibaudet Artist-in-Residence

VIOLINS

Robert Chen Concertmaster
The Louis C. Sudler Chair, endowed by an anonymous benefactor
Stephanie Jeong
Associate Concertmaster
The Cathy and Bill Osborn Chair
David Taylor*
Assistant Concertmaster
The Ling Z. and Michael C. Markovitz Chair
Yuan-Qing Yu*
Assistant Concertmaster
So Young Bae
Cornelius Chiu
Gina DiBello
Kozue Funakoshi
Russell Hershow
Qing Hou
Youngji Kim
Gabriela Lara
Matous Michal
Simon Michal
Sando Shia
Susan Synnestvedt
Rong-Yan Tang

Baird Dodge Principal
Danny Yehun Jin Assistant Principal
Lei Hou ‡
Ni Mei
Hermine Gagné
Rachel Goldstein
Mihaela Ionescu
Jasmine Mengjia Lin
Wendy Koons Meir
Florence Schwartz

VIOLAS

Teng Li Principal
The Paul Hindemith Principal Viola Chair
Catherine Brubaker ‡
Youming Chen
Sunghee Choi
Paolo Dara
Wei-Ting Kuo
Danny Lai
Weijing Michal
Diane Mues
Lawrence Neuman
Jikun Qin
Max Raimi

CELLOS

John Sharp Principal
Kenneth Olsen Assistant Principal
The Adele Gidwitz Chair
Karen Basrak
The Joseph A. and Cecile Renaud Gorno Chair
Richard Hirschl
Olivia Jakyoung Huh
Daniel Katz
Katinka Kleijn
Brant Taylor
The Ann Blickensderfer and Roger Blickensderfer Chair

BASSES

Alexander Hanna Principal
The David and Mary Winton Green Principal Bass Chair
Alexander Horton Assistant Principal
Chair sponsored by Mr. Giff Zimmerman and Ms. Jennifer Christensen
Dan Carson
Ian Hallas
Robert Kassinger
Mark Kraemer
Stephen Lester
Bradley Opland
Andrew Sommer

FLUTES

Emma Gerstein
Jennifer Gunn

PICCOLO

Jennifer Gunn
The Dora and John Aalbregtse Piccolo Chair

OBOES

William Welter Principal
Lora Schaefer Assistant Principal
The Gilchrist Foundation, Jocelyn Gilchrist Chair
Scott Hostetler

ENGLISH HORN

Scott Hostetler

CLARINETS

Stephen Williamson Principal
John Bruce Yeh Assistant Principal
The Governing Members Chair
Gregory Smith
Pavel Vinnitsky

E-FLAT CLARINET

John Bruce Yeh

BASS CLARINET

Pavel Vinnitsky

BASSOONS

Keith Buncke Principal
William Buchman Assistant Principal
Miles Maner

HORNS

Mark Almond Principal
James Smelser
David Griffin
Oto Carrillo
Susanna Gaunt

TRUMPETS

Esteban Batallán Principal
The Adolph Herseth Principal Trumpet Chair, endowed by an anonymous benefactor
John Hagstrom
The Bleck Family Chair
Tage Larsen

TROMBONES

Timothy Higgins Principal
The Lisa and Paul Wiggin Principal Trombone Chair
Michael Mulcahy
Acting Assistant Principal
Charles Vernon

BASS TROMBONE

Charles Vernon

TUBA

Gene Pokorny Principal
The Arnold Jacobs Principal Tuba Chair, endowed by Christine Querfeld

TIMPANI

David Herbert Principal
The Clinton Family Fund Chair
Vadim Karpinos Assistant Principal

PERCUSSION

Cynthia Yeh Principal
Chair sponsored by an anonymous benefactor
Vadim Karpinos

LIBRARIANS

Justin Vibbard Principal
Carole Keller
Mark Swanson ‡

CSO FELLOWS

Ariel Seunghyun Lee Violin
The Michael and Kathleen Elliott Fellow
Alba Schoonmaker Violin
Brandon Xu Cello

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Robert Kahn

ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

John Deverman Director
Anne MacQuarrie Manager, CSO Auditions and Orchestra Personnel

STAGE TECHNICIANS

Christopher Lewis Stage Manager
Blair Carlson
Paul Christopher
Chris Grannen
Ryan Hartge
Peter Landry
Joshua Mondie

** Assistant concertmasters are listed by seniority.*

‡ *On sabbatical*

§ *On leave*

The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from Zell Family Foundation.

The Louise H. Benton Wagner and Erika and Dietrich M. Gross Principal Flute chairs are currently unoccupied.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Assistant Conductor position is sponsored by the Solti Foundation U.S.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra string sections utilize revolving seating. Players behind the first desk (first two desks in the violins) change seats systematically every two weeks and are listed alphabetically. Section percussionists also are listed alphabetically.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY







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