

February 10, 2022

RAVINIA EXTENDS CHIEF CONDUCTOR MARIN ALSOP'S CONTRACT FOR THREE YEARS, THROUGH 2025

ALSOP'S THREE WEEKS OF PROGRAMS IN 2022 FEATURE NEW *BREAKING BARRIERS* WEEKEND FOCUSING THIS YEAR ON CELEBRATING WOMEN CONDUCTORS

HIGHLAND PARK, IL—Ravinia Festival CEO Jeff Haydon announced today that the festival has extended Marin Alsop's contract as Chief Conductor for three years, through the summer of 2025. The summer of 2021 marked Alsop's first actual season in the post, due to the pandemic closure in 2020; the extension will bring her tenure to five years in 2025. Alsop curates and leads three weeks of programs with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) each summer, including the festival's annual fundraising gala concert, and will work closely with Ravinia's Reach Teach Play education programs to inspire young Chicagoland musicians.

Also announced today: the creation of the annual *Breaking Barriers* Festival, curated by Alsop, which will celebrate the diverse artists and leaders in the vanguard of classical music today and in the future. This year's *Breaking Barriers* Festival takes place July 29–31, and focuses on women conductors. The weekend highlights the important role of mentors in breaking barriers for women conductors, and honors such arts leaders as Margaret Hillis (who founded and led the Chicago Symphony Chorus) with performances of major choral works; Leonard Bernstein (Alsop's primary mentor) through his music canonizing the female voice; and Alsop herself, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Taki Alsop Fellowship by featuring current and past winners.

“Marin Alsop’s leadership and mentorship continue to inspire a diverse range of artists to shape the future of classical music,” said Jeff Haydon, Ravinia’s President & CEO. “Ravinia is thrilled to extend Marin’s partnership and to expand her leadership of our presentations by establishing the annual *Breaking Barriers* Festival. We’re also eager to have her connect again with our education programs, Reach Teach Play.”

“I’m thrilled to continue this creative partnership with both the musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the visionary management and board of the Ravinia Festival,” said Marin Alsop. “Gender equality and representation in music are areas I’ve focused on during my entire career, and it’s gratifying to work with partners who support and champion positive change in our industry. Building on the legacy of Margaret Hillis during her 100th anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to look back and also look forward. I’m excited to introduce audiences to a new generation of artists this summer and in the coming years.”

The inaugural *Breaking Barriers* Festival features two CSO concerts led by Alsop, former Taki Alsop fellows Jeri Lynne Johnson and Laura Jackson, and newly named 2022 Taki Alsop fellow Anna Duczmal-Mróz; screenings of the documentary film about Alsop, *The Conductor*; a symposium, Forging Paths For Women Conductors, moderated by Wynne Delacoma; a special exhibit exploring the history of women conductors in Chicago; and a family performance of a new work by Jessie Montgomery adapted from *Because*, a book about a young girl who becomes a conductor, by award-winning children’s author Mo Willems. Education and family programming as part of this weekend, along with other ancillary programs, will be announced in the spring. Complete *Breaking Barriers* Festival programs are below.

In addition to *Breaking Barriers*, which concludes Alsop’s 2022 residency, her first two weeks with the CSO at Ravinia in 2022 include:

- pianist Stewart Goodyear on **July 15** in a program of music by Julia Perry, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, and Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky;
- a jazz/classical crossover featuring pianist and composer Marcus Roberts in his own music, spirituals, and Antonín Dvořák’s “New World” Symphony on **July 16**;
- music by Ludwig van Beethoven and Richard Strauss on **July 17**;
- Johannes Brahms’s German Requiem featuring the Chicago Symphony Chorus, soprano Yeree Suh, and baritone Matthias Goerne on **July 22**, paired with a piece by Grażyna Bacewicz; and



- Ravinia’s annual gala fundraising evening starring Tony Award–winning singer Leslie Odom Jr. on **July 24**.

Tickets to all Ravinia performances go on sale to donors starting on March 30 and to the public on May 4. Patrons can visit Ravinia.org for information and to sign up for updates.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Friday, July 15

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Marin Alsop, conductor
Stewart Goodyear, piano

JULIA PERRY	Study for Orchestra (CSO premiere)
NIKOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV	<i>Sheherazade</i>
PETER ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY	Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor

Saturday, July 16

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Marin Alsop, conductor
Marcus Roberts Trio

MARCUS ROBERTS	Rhapsody in D for jazz trio and orchestra (CSO premiere)
Traditional spiritual	“Home Again”
ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK	Symphony No. 9 in E minor (“From the New World”)

Sunday, July 17

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Marin Alsop, conductor

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 6 in F major (“Pastoral”)
RICHARD STRAUSS	<i>Eine Alpensinfonie</i>

Friday, July 22

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Symphony Chorus
Marin Alsop, conductor
Yeree Suh, soprano (CSO debut)
Matthias Goerne, baritone

GRAŻYNA BACEWICZ	Music for Strings, Trumpets, and Percussion (CSO premiere)
JOHANNES BRAHMS	<i>Ein deutsches Requiem</i>

Sunday, July 24

Gala Evening Benefiting Reach Teach Play
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Marin Alsop, conductor
Leslie Odom Jr., vocalist (CSO debut)



Breaking Barriers: Women on the Podium

Curated by Marin Alsop

Friday, July 29:

Time TBD - Panel discussion featuring women business leaders in Chicago

8 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Marin Alsop, Anna Duczmal-Mróz, Laura Jackson, Jeri Lynne Johnson, conductors

A Celebration of the Taki Alsop Fellowship's 20th Anniversary

JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Source Code

MICHAEL DAUGHERTY

Time Machine for Three Conductors and Orchestra

SERGEI PROKOFIEV

Romeo and Juliet Suite (assembled by Marin Alsop)

Saturday, July 30:

11 a.m. Symposium— *Forging Paths For Women Conductors*

with Marin Alsop, Cheryl Frazes Hill, Anna Duczmal-Mróz, and Jeri Lynne Johnson

Moderated by Wynne Delacoma

5:30 p.m.

Film: *The Conductor*

7:30 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Marin Alsop, conductor

Musicians from the Silk Road Ensemble

Janai Brugger, soprano

Jaye Ladymore, narrator

OSVALDO GOLIJOV

Rose of the Winds

LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Symphony No. 3 ("Kaddish")

Sunday, July 31:

1 p.m. – Family Concert

Chicago Sinfonietta

Jeri Lynne Johnson, conductor

Program to include:

JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Because

Adapted from the book by Mo Willems

Time TBD

Film: *The Conductor*

7:30 p.m.

Esperanza Spalding



[About Marin Alsop](#)

[About Ravinia Festival](#)

Ravinia is grateful to Dinah Jacobs Castle for her Lead Sponsorship of the *Breaking Barriers Festival: Women on the Podium*.

Programs, times, and artists subject to change.

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#Ravinia



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