



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

# News

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**Press Contacts:**

[Rachelle Roe](#)  
[Maggie Berndt](#)  
[Erin Dennis](#)

## **SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL ARTISTS FOR *UNITED SOUNDS OF AMERICA* LINEUP**

**June 10-12 and 16-18, 2011; Tickets on Sale Now**

CHICAGO — Symphony Center Presents, in association with Absolutely Live Entertainment, announces updates for the upcoming *United Sounds of America* series, [June 10-12 and 16-18, 2011](#), at Symphony Center.

These six unique concerts spotlight the immense variety of distinctly American sounds that have emanated from this country's musical capitals. Highlighting music from six U.S. cities and regions which boast rich cultural histories—Austin, Detroit, Memphis, New Orleans, New York City, and Route 66—these concerts bring together artists with varied and divergent musical styles in multigenre, multigenerational, and often unexpected collaborations.

Each of the six festival performances features a musical director—someone with deep connections to each of the six areas represented, as well as its various traditions—who understands not only the history of the area, but also that city's cultural fabric. Their selections of artists to perform the music from those places results in one-of-a-kind concert lineups and collaborations.

### **UPDATES / ARTIST ADDITIONS:**

**New York City (June 10):** Suzanne Vega's band members are guitarist **Gerry Leonard** and bassist **Mike Visceglia**.

**ROUTE 66 (June 11):** Arlo Guthrie's final special guest is singer-songwriter **Chris Smither**.

**Memphis (June 16):** Kirk Whalum has added vocalists **William Bell** and **Wendy Moten**, guitarist **Garry Goin**, and "The New Memphis Horns."

**Detroit (June 17):** Marshall Crenshaw has added special guest violinist **Regina Carter**. Bassist for this concert is **Ralphe Armstrong**. Previously announced drummers Karriem Riggins and Ali Jackson are no longer on the bill.

**Austin (June 18):** Alejandro Escovedo's special guests are guitarist and vocalist **Roky Erickson**, and guitarist and vocalist **Butch Hancock**. His all-star band includes guitarist and vocalist **David Pulkingham**, keyboardist and vocalist **Stephen Barber**, dobro and guitarist **Cindy Cashdollar**, accordionist and vocalist **Joel Guzman**, bassist **Glenn Fukunaga**, and drummer **Chris Searles**.

RICCARDO MUTI  
Music Director

WILLIAM A. OSBORN  
Chairman

DEBORAH F. RUTTER  
President

YO-YO MA  
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

Tickets are on sale now.

### **New York City (June 10)**

This portrait of New York's rich and varied musical history focuses on two distinct and important eras. First, Grammy Award-nominated jazz pianist **Bill Charlap** directs an all-star ensemble, including Chicago native and jazz vocalist **Kurt Elling**, on a journey through the music of the Roaring Twenties, Broadway, Ellington, Bernstein, Sinatra and be-bop. The second half features acclaimed singer-songwriter **Suzanne Vega** with band members guitarist **Gerry Leonard** and bassist **Mike Visceglia**. Her special guests are contemporary singer-songwriter **Richard Julian** and legendary folk singer, Chicago native and Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner **Tom Paxton** in a set celebrating the New York folk scene of the 1950s, '60s, and beyond.

### **"Route 66" (June 11)**

Inspired by America's "Mother Road," this performance is directed by legendary folk singer, **Arlo Guthrie**, and showcases the nostalgic songs and music of an era when this famous highway was the path of choice through the American west, uniting people on their journey from Chicago to Los Angeles. With its starting point adjacent to Symphony Center, at the corner of Michigan and Adams, Route 66 celebrates its 85th anniversary in 2011. Singer-songwriters **Vance Gilbert**, **Eliza Gilkyson**, and **Chris Smither** are this evening's special guests, joining Guthrie for this celebration of America's most famous highway.

### **New Orleans (June 12)**

New Orleans is the birthplace of the great American brass band tradition and also of one of the first black neighborhoods in America, Treme (truh-MAY), which is the heartbeat of New Orleans and the home to Congo Square. "***a night in Treme***" (***The Musical Majesty of New Orleans***), a national touring project produced in conjunction with HBO, features the legendary **Rebirth Brass Band** joined by Mardi Gras Indian Chief and alto saxophonist **Donald Harrison, Jr.**, clarinet virtuoso **Dr. Michael White**, funky trombonist **Big Sam Williams**, trumpeter **James Andrews**, and narrated by **Wendell Pierce**, star of HBO's *Treme*.

### **Memphis (June 16)**

From the early jug bands to today's crunksters, Memphis has given birth to some of America's most influential musical styles including blues, southern soul, gospel, and rockabilly. The renowned recording studios and record labels of Memphis have spread these sounds throughout the world. On this night, celebrated saxophonist and CEO of the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, **Kirk Whalum**, leads an ensemble of Memphis legends featuring guitarist **Garry Goin** and "**The New Memphis Horns**." His special guests include Stax/Volt pioneer **William Bell** and contemporary songstress **Wendy Moten**.

### **Detroit (June 17)**

While Detroit is synonymous with Motown Records, the city also boasts a rich history of jazz, rhythm & blues, gospel, rock & roll, hip-hop and techno. Singer-songwriter and guitarist **Marshall Crenshaw** developed this concert, focusing primarily on the jazz, rock and R&B scene of yesterday and today in Detroit, featuring special guest **Regina Carter** as well as the great lady of soul **Bettye LaVette**, **Brendan Benson** of the Raconteurs, and **Mick Collins** of the Dirtbombs.

### **Austin (June 18)**

Austin boasts a diverse and vibrant live music scene. It is home to a thriving Tejano music community and to some of the finest songwriters in modern American music. The insightful and eclectic Chicago favorite, **Alejandro Escovedo**, serves as musical director for this exploration of the "Live Music Capital of the World." The distinguished lineup of guest artists includes guitarist and vocalist **Roky Erickson** and guitarist and vocalist **Butch Hancock** along with an A-list house band featuring guitarist and vocalist **David Pulkingham**, keyboardist and vocalist **Stephen Barber**, dobro and guitarist **Cindy Cashdollar**, accordionist and vocalist **Joel Guzman**, bassist **Glenn Fukunaga**, and drummer **Chris Searles**.

**Absolutely Live Entertainment** is a New York City-based festival, tour, and concert production company led by industry veteran Danny Melnick. Melnick served as the Artistic Director and a Senior Producer at impresario George Wein's Festival Productions, Inc., where he played a central role in producing almost 100 festivals including the JVC Jazz Festivals in NYC and Newport. ALE's past and current productions include tours celebrating Blue Note Records' 70th Anniversary and "Kind of Blue @ 50"; the North American touring project, "a night in Treme" (The Musical Majesty of New Orleans), in association with the acclaimed HBO series, *Treme*; and the Freihofer's Saratoga Jazz Festival in Saratoga Springs, NY. Melnick is the Artistic Director of "The Shape of Jazz," the annual jazz series held at Zankel Hall and presented by Carnegie Hall, now in its 8th season. His resume includes Artistic Director of the Newport Jazz 50th Anniversary Festival in 2004. More information can be found at [absolutelylive.net](http://absolutelylive.net).

Complete program details follow:

**Symphony Center Presents  
United Sounds of America:  
New York City**

[Friday, June 10, 2011, 8 p.m.](#)

**Bill Charlap**, piano  
**Kurt Elling**, vocals  
**Ken Peplowski**, clarinet  
**Jimmy Greene**, tenor saxophone  
**Jeremy Pelt**, trumpet  
**Peter Washington**, bass  
**Kenny Washington**, drums

**Suzanne Vega**, guitar and vocals  
**Tom Paxton**, guitar and vocals  
**Richard Julian**, guitar and vocals  
**Gerry Leonard**, guitar  
**Mike Visceglia**, bass

Tickets: \$25-\$70

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**Symphony Center Presents  
United Sounds of America:  
Route 66**

[Saturday, June 11, 2011, 8 p.m.](#)

**Arlo Guthrie**, guitar and vocals  
**Vance Gilbert**, guitar and vocals  
**Eliza Gilkyson**, guitar and vocals  
**Chris Smither**, guitar and vocals

Tickets: \$25-\$70

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**Symphony Center Presents  
United Sounds of America:  
New Orleans**

[Sunday, June 12, 2011, 7 p.m.](#)

***a night in Treme***  
**Rebirth Brass Band**  
**Donald Harrison, Jr.**, alto saxophone and vocals  
**Dr. Michael White**, clarinet  
**Big Sam Williams**, trombone and vocals  
**James Andrews**, trumpet  
**Wendell Pierce**, narrator

Tickets: \$25-\$70

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**Symphony Center Presents  
United Sounds of America:  
Memphis**

Thursday, June 16, 2011, 8 p.m.

**Kirk Whalum**, tenor saxophone  
**William Bell**, vocals  
**Wendy Moten**, vocals  
**Garry Goin**, guitar  
**"The New Memphis Horns"**

Tickets: \$25-\$70

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**Symphony Center Presents  
United Sounds of America:  
Detroit**

Friday, June 17, 2011, 8 p.m.

**Marshall Crenshaw**, guitar and vocals  
Special Guest **Regina Carter**, violin  
**Bettye LaVette**, vocals  
**Brendan Benson**, guitar  
**Mick Collins**, guitar and vocals  
**Wayne Kramer**, guitar  
**Amp Fiddler**, keyboards and vocals  
**Ralphe Armstrong**, bass

Tickets: \$25-\$70

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**Symphony Center Presents  
United Sounds of America:  
Austin**

Saturday, June 18, 2011, 8 p.m.

**Alejandro Escovedo**, guitar and vocals  
**Roky Erickson**, guitar and vocals  
**Butch Hancock**, guitar and vocals  
**David Pulkingham**, guitar and vocals  
**Stephen Barber**, keyboards and vocals  
**Cindy Cashdollar**, dobro and guitar  
**Joel Guzman**, accordion and vocals  
**Glenn Fukunaga**, bass  
**Chris Searles**, drums

Tickets: \$25-\$70

Consulting Producer for *United Sounds of America*: Absolutely Live Entertainment, LLC, Danny Melnick,  
President and Director

*Media sponsor: Time Out Chicago*

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**TICKETS** for all 2010/11 Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Center Presents, and Civic Orchestra of Chicago concerts can be purchased by calling CSO ticketing services at **312-294-3000** or **800-223-7114**, online at [cso.org](http://cso.org), or by visiting the Symphony Center box office at 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604. Discounted student tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040. Artists, programs, and ticket prices are subject to change.

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