

Chicago *ball* Sinfonietta

Frequently Asked Questions

Juan Teague, Civic Chair & 2021 Ball Honoree, Dr. Helene D. Gayle
Leading Sponsors

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Chicago Sinfonietta, a professional orchestra that forms unique cultural connections through the universal language of symphonic music, is celebrating its 2021 Ball, and invites you to join us! Founded in 1987 by Maestro Paul Freeman, Chicago Sinfonietta is the nation's most diverse orchestra that champions equity, diversity, and inclusion, by presenting bold and daring symphonic music and experiences. Thank you for celebrating with us!

Q. When and where will the 2021 Ball take place?

A. October 9, 2021, 6:00pm, Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park, 200 North Columbus Drive, Chicago, IL 60601

Q. What are the safety protocols for the Ball?

A. Chicago Sinfonietta is committed to the health and wellness of our guests and staff. Masks are required for all guests, regardless of vaccination status. Guests are required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test (taken within 72 hours of event) upon arrival.

Q. Where in the hotel will our guests be checked for proof of vaccine or negative Covid test results?

A. The health and safety checks will take place on the 2nd Level of the Hotel outside the International Ballroom where the reception will be held; and on the Lower Level outside the Imperial Ballroom where the dinner program will occur. There will be signage placed on both levels directing guests to the check-in location. Those who have checked in and are eligible to join us for the evening will be given wristbands. There will also be spotters onsite to make sure everyone participating in our festivities are wearing a wristband.

Q. Is there a dress code?

A. Yes! The attire for the evening is Black Tie.

Q. Where do we park and how much is it?

A. Chicago Sinfonietta offers complimentary valet parking for our guests. The preferred entrance is the Circle Drive on Upper Columbus, but you may also valet at the Lower Columbus Entrance, where all vehicles should be collected at the end of the evening. Ticket validation is mandatory and will be available at check-in.

Q. What is the anticipated order of events for the evening?

A.	6:00pm	Reception in International Ballroom (2 nd Level) Hors d'oeuvres, Cocktails, and Entertainment
	7:15pm	Move from 2 nd Level to Lower Level
	7:20pm	Dinner Seating Begins in Imperial Ballroom (Lower Level)
	7:30pm	Dinner Served
	8:15pm	Auction Begins - Brief Welcome, Live Auction, Bid for A Cause
	9:30pm	Full Orchestra Performance
	10:00pm	After-Party with DJ

Q. If I cannot attend the reception at 6:00pm, can I still attend the dinner and the rest of the evening?

A. Absolutely! While we want all our guests to take advantage of all aspects of the evening, we understand that sometimes guests cannot attend the reception. Volunteers will be stationed at the Imperial Ballroom entrance to help

you find your table as needed. You may want to let staff know in advance to expect a late arrival. Email hderby@chicagosinfonietta.org or call 312.284.1559.

Q. What do I do if my guests or I have food allergies?

A. Chicago Sinfonietta will provide a wonderful meal with a meat and seafood duet. However, we can also accommodate most food preferences including vegetarian, gluten free, and low salt. Please alert staff to food preferences well in advance of the event. Please email us at hderby@chicagosinfonietta.org or call 312.284.1559.

Q. What are the opportunities to support the organization on the night of the event?

A. Chicago Sinfonietta offers a Live Auction featuring several exciting packages, and a Bid-For-A-Cause, providing guests the opportunity to support the Sinfonietta's extensive education programs at every level. Chicago Sinfonietta has received matching funds for a portion of what is raised night-of thanks to generous donors.

Q. Will you provide me a streamlined way to make purchases or donate to Chicago Sinfonietta?

A. Chicago Sinfonietta is working with Auction & Event Solutions to ensure your payment safety and encryption. You will have the opportunity to pre-register your contact and credit card information in advance of the event to make your check-in seamless. You will receive an email invitation to register from the Sinfonietta. You may also register on-site. Should you choose not to register a credit card for payment, you will be required to pay via check or credit card for any of your commitments before you leave the event on October 9, 2021. Simply proceed to our convenient check-out station located outside of the ballroom.

Q. For what purpose does the Ball raise money?

A. Chicago Sinfonietta is a unique cultural treasure in the city of Chicago, changing the face of classical music with its innovative programming and incredible education programs. The Ball is the single most impactful event of the year for the Sinfonietta to raise much needed funds to support its important work. A little-known fact is that concert ticket sales during the season only cover approximately 25% of our overall expenses. It is the generosity of our supporters and people like you that enable the Sinfonietta to have such a profound impact.

Q. Will I receive a physical ticket after I've purchased my reservation?

A. No. Chicago Sinfonietta will have a registration table on the 2nd level outside of the cocktail reception. You will simply check in with your name and from there you will be given your table assignment and your parking will be validated. Once you have made your reservation, you will receive an email from Chicago Sinfonietta with the opportunity for you and your guests (where applicable) to pre-register for the event to make check-in as smooth and convenient as possible. Please contact staff if you do not receive this email.

Q. Will there be coat check?

A. If needed, the Sinfonietta will provide a complimentary coat check on the second level, near registration. The coats will then be transferred to the lower level near the Imperial Ballroom for the guests' convenience at departure.

Q. Can you provide information about the After Party?

A. Directly after the close of the orchestral performance, Chicago Sinfonietta invites guests to stay for an after party in the Imperial Ballroom lobby. The party lasts for an hour and will have a DJ and open bar. It is a great time, where musicians, guests, and guest artists have a chance to mingle and to dance. We hope everyone can join us!

Q. What do I do if I am coming to the Ball alone?

A. Chicago Sinfonietta hosts many individual guests at the Ball every year. We have a host/hostess committee that will welcome all guests, talk you through the evening, and introduce you to other guests attending that night. The committee members make sure everyone has an amazing time! Please look for Chicago Sinfonietta host/hostess committee members wearing a special identifier in keeping with the evening's *One World One Sound Revelry* décor.

Q. How can I support the event if I cannot attend?

A. If you are unable to attend the Ball, you can still support our organization by donating. Each donation supports Chicago Sinfonietta's 34th anniversary season and its extensive education and outreach programs. A donation at any level is truly appreciated and makes a difference for our organization. Please visit <https://www.chicagosinfonietta.org/concerts-events/2021ball/> or call 312.284.1559 to donate. We also invite you to join our Virtual Celebration, linked on our website.

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