Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. In March 1993 he conducted the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra for the first time in almost thirty years and he led the orchestra at a Webern festival at the 1994 Berlin festival. Boulez is also co-founder of Cité de la Musique, the recently created music center in Paris.

Boulez's numerous compositions are widely performed, including Le marteau sans maître, Piè selon pli, three piano onatas, Eclat/Multiples, Le visage nuptial, Épîons, and Notations. His ... explosante-fixe. was premiered in Paris in 1991 and in New York in 1993. Boulez also has published five books about music. His many awards and honors include honorary doctorates from Leeds, Cambridge, Basel, and Oxford universities, among others; Commander of the British Empire; and Knight of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Pierre Boulez's discography includes prize-winning recordings of Parsifal from Bayreuth and Berg's Lulu (world premiere recording). In 1989, he signed an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon to record a broad range of twentieth-century masterworks with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Berlin Philharmonic as well as contemporary repertoire, including his own works, with the Ensemble Intercontemporain. Boulez has won twenty-three Grammy Awards since 1967; five of those were with the Chicago Symphony.


Elzbieta Szmytka
Soprano

Elzbieta Szmytka has performed in the United States, Canada, and in many European capitals, including Vienna, Geneva, Salzburg, and Paris. In Brussels, she has appeared with the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, with whom she made her New York debut in The Pretended Garden Girl at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Last season's engagements included Gorecki's Third Symphony with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia and at Carnegie Hall in New York. She appeared in The Abduction from the Seraglio, Elektra, and Idomeneo across Europe, and sang in Pelleas and Melisande with the Canadian Opera Company of Toronto.

Additional career highlights include Susanna in The Marriage of Figaro and Constanze in The Abduction from the Seraglio at the Los Angeles Music Center Opera. At the Salzburg Festival, she sang Mozart arias, appeared in Mozart's Lucia Silla, and sang Despina in Cosi fan tutte conducted by Christoph von Dohnányi. Szmytka sang Mahler's Fourth Symphony with the Israel Philharmonic; Violetta in La traviata in Brussels, where she made subsequent appearances as Lauretta in Gianni Schicchi and Oscar in A Masked Ball; Susanna in Lyon and Paris; Lucia Silla in Frankfurt; and Nanetta in Falstaff at the Aix-en-Provence Festival.

Szmytka has recorded Despina in Cosi fan tutte with Sir Neville Marriner conducting; Szymanowski's Stabat Mater with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Simon Rattle conducting; Janáček's Glagolitic Mass; and King Roger, again with Rattle.

A native of Poland, Elzbieta Szmytka attended the College of Music in Cracow, where she studied with Helena Lazarzka. She performed at the opera houses in Bytom and Wroclaw, and frequently participated in concerts and oratorios with orchestras. In 1983 she toured West Germany and Luxembourg with the Breslau National Opera as Blonde in The Abduction from the Seraglio. She subsequently participated in radio and television productions and sang in major theaters in the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Austria. Szmytka currently resides in Brussels.

These concerts mark Elzbieta Szmytka's debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.