



SOUND PATROL Celloist Yo-Yo Ma hits town for a three-night engagement.

Ma to the Rescue

Yo-Yo Ma hopes to spread music to the masses in Chicago

BY VICKI CRAIN / PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL O'NEIL

Music lovers get ready—classical guru Yo-Yo Ma is coming to town. Chicagoans are all abuzz with his recent appointment as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's first-ever Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, a three-year post where he'll focus on community outreach via music. And why shouldn't we be excited? He's recorded more than 75 albums and won 16 Grammys in his 30-year career with a genre-defying range of collaborations with artists like Alison Kraus, James Taylor and Sting. One of his favorite memories? Playing in a live quartet for President Obama's inauguration last year.

This month the 54-year-old Massachusetts resident heads to town for his second post-appointment appearance: A three-night concert series in which he'll play the premiere cello concerto by Dmitri Yanov-Yanovsky with the CSO (which will also be playing Shostakovich's Symphony No. 6 and a Suite from *Redes*—a Mexican film from the 1930s—conducted by rising-star Carlos Miguel Prieto). ■

YO-YO MA MAY 13-15, \$34-\$230, SYMPHONY CENTER,
220 S. MICHIGAN AVE., 312.294.3333