Top Ten

Symphony Ball
1. Conductor Riccardo Muti leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, as well as famed opera stars Barbara Frittoli and Luca Dall’Amico, in a celebration of Verdi. The evening includes a pre-concert reception and a post-performance dinner at the Palmer House Hilton. Sept. 21, 6PM. Tickets $52-$750. Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave., 312.294.3185, cs.org

Day on the Terrace
2. The Service Club of Chicago hosts its 27th annual charity luncheon and fashion show at The Peninsula Chicago. See local personalities stroll the catwalk in the freshest fall looks from local designers and retailers. Aug. 5, 11AM. Tickets $185. The Peninsula Chicago, 108 E. Superior St., serviceclubchicago.org

Shine & Dine
3. Mix and mingle on the red carpet at Step Up Women’s Network’s third annual Shine & Dine gala. Enjoy an evening filled with networking, philanthropy and mouthwatering cuisine from local restaurants, with proceeds benefiting Step Up’s programs for teen girls in underserved neighborhoods. Aug. 15, 6-10PM. Tickets $50 and up. River East Art Center, 435 E. Illinois St., shineanddine.org

Renaissance Society Gala and Art Auction
4. Join the University of Chicago’s Renaissance Society as it celebrates a new exhibition season and welcomes its new executive director and chief curator, Solveig Øvstebø. Enjoy cocktails, dinner, and live and silent auctions featuring avant-garde artwork and other luxe lots. Sept. 7, 6:30PM. Tickets $400. Block 37, 108 N. State St., 773.702.8670, renaissance.org

Green Tie Ball
5. Chicago Gateway Green’s signature fundraiser attracts nearly 3,000 of Chicago’s environmental supporters. Now in its 22nd year, the gala returns complete with a Willy Wonka theme, bites from the city’s top restaurants, cocktails and thrilling entertainment. Sept. 7, 6:30PM VIP reception; 8:30PM gala. Tickets $100-$250. A. Finkl & Sons, 2011 N. Southport Ave., 312.540.9930, gatewaygreen.org

Dance for Life

Celestial Ball
7. Calling all stargazers! The Women’s Board of the Adler Planetarium hosts its annual black-tie gala in support of the institution’s groundbreaking exhibitions and educational programs. The evening will include cocktails, dinner, a silent auction and dancing, all overlooking Lake Michigan and dramatic views of the Chicago skyline. Sept. 7, 6PM. Tickets $600. Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive, 312.322.0523, adlerplanetarium.org

RIC Medicine Ball
8. Join the Women’s Board of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago for its annual Medicine Ball benefiting the RIC’s programs and services. Sept. 7. Tickets $600. The Peninsula Chicago, 108 E. Superior St., 312.238.6023, ric.org

Riccardo Muti performs at the Palmer House Hilton Aug. 21.

Dance for Life
9. Chicago Gateway Green’s signature fundraiser attracts nearly 3,000 of Chicago’s environmental supporters. Now in its 22nd year, the gala returns complete with a Willy Wonka theme, bites from the city’s top restaurants, cocktails and thrilling entertainment. Sept. 7, 6:30PM VIP reception; 8:30PM gala. Tickets $100-$250. A. Finkl & Sons, 2011 N. Southport Ave., 312.540.9930, gatewaygreen.org

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Dance for Life

Jay Leno at Horseshoe Hammond
Get ready to laugh out loud when stand-up comedian and The Tonight Show host Jay Leno performs at the only Midwestern stop of his comedy tour. But come prepared—rumor has it his comedic gloves come off when the cameras aren’t rolling!

Aug. 23, 7PM. Tickets $56-$88. The Venue at Horseshoe Hammond, 777 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, Ind., 855.234.7469, horseshoehammond.com

Woody’s Wiffle Ball Classic
Former Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood hosts the Wood Family Foundation's inaugural Wiffle ball competition. Sixteen teams battle for the championship title in an all-day tournament, followed by a celebrity match and post-game celebration at John Barleycorn in Wrigleyville.

Aug. 10, 10AM kickoff. Tickets $8-$15; VIP tickets $1,000. Wrigley Field, 1060 W. Addison St., woodyswiffleballclassic.org