



For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephen Sokolouski 651.292.4318

ssokolouski@spcomail.org

Spellbinding, genre-bending violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja to become the SPCO's newest Artistic Partner

2014 Grammy-nominated "Bartók, Eötvös & Ligeti" CD also named Gramophone Recording of the Year in 2013

"Patricia Kopatchinskaja's fiddling is part Gypsy princess, part Stephane Grappelli, part Paganini" - *The Australian*

"Her playing is sovereign and animalistic, tender and sassy" - *Tagesspiegel* (Berlin)

"If anyone thought classical music was stuffy or corseted, here was the riposte"
- *Financial Times*

"A fearless violinist who enjoys jolting audiences" – *Musical America*

SAINT PAUL, MN, January 30, 2014 – The SPCO announces today that internationally celebrated violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja has been named the orchestra's newest Artistic Partner. Kopatchinskaja will begin her tenure in the 2014-15 season where she will be joining current Artistic Partners Roberto Abbado, Edo de Waart, Christian Zacharias and Thomas Zehetmair.

The SPCO will be the first major American orchestra to present Kopatchinskaja in concert. SPCO President Bruce Coppock proudly said, "One of the great joys of our work at the SPCO is to introduce Twin Cities audiences to sparkling and effervescent artists, musicians previously unknown to our patrons, but who will shortly become household names and favorites of SPCO audiences. Kopatchinskaja is the most ravishingly intense and virtuosic musician I have heard in a very long time, and she is sure to be one of those discoveries. She assimilates the earthiness

of her Eastern European roots, her rigorous traditional training and a seemingly limitless imagination to create performances that are completely convincing, utterly compelling and downright spectacular.”

Kopatchinskaja has been praised world-wide for her “irresistible,” “unpredictable,” and “wonderfully imaginative” performances (*The Times*). Her repertoire spans from Baroque and Classical to a number of new commissions or re-interpretations of modern masterworks. She regularly collaborates with the London Philharmonic and has toured extensively throughout Europe, making appearances in Berlin, Munich, Vienna, Paris, Brussels, Luxembourg and Stuttgart in the 2013-14 season alone. Her recordings have been well-received by critics, consistently garnering nominations and awards. She was recently nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best Classical Instrumental Solo for her “Bartók, Eötvös & Ligeti” CD, a recording already named Gramophone Recording of the Year in 2013. Chamber music is also important to Kopatchinskaja's artistic life; she is a founding member of the newly formed *quartet-lab*, a string quartet with Pekka Kuusisto, Lilli Maijala and Pieter Wispelwey.

"As an interpreter I am most interested in communicating the meaning and inner workings of the music I play. Curiosity drives me to explore many different musical frontiers and I'm ready to take the risks that this process entails," said Kopatchinskaja. On her appointment as an artistic partner with the orchestra, she commented, "I am thrilled and eager to make music with the SPCO and look forward to exploring new worlds and frontiers with these wonderful musicians."

Kopatchinskaja's first major project with the SPCO will take place in the fall of 2014, and will focus on interweaving traditional folk music with classical works emanating Eastern European influences. The violinist has said, "Eastern European folklore is my blood, contemporary music is the air I breathe and classical music is the skeleton which holds all this together" (*Telegram*). In a series of concerts spanning November 20-30, 2014, Kopatchinskaja will make her SPCO debut [joined by her parents](#), Emilia Kopatchinskaja (violin) and Viktor Kopatchinsky (cimbalom), both popular folk musicians who have toured extensively throughout Europe. The program will include traditional Eastern European music along with [Ravel's Tzigane](#), Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances*, and Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in D Minor.

Kyu-Young Kim, the SPCO's senior director of artistic planning and principal second violinist, looks forward to what this new partnership will bring to the SPCO. "In this age of great young violinists, Patricia Kopatchinskaja really stands out to me as one of the most electrifying artists to emerge in decades. Her music making has an intensity and power that just grabs you and doesn't let you go. Her affinity for the core Classical and Baroque repertoire, combined with her voracious appetite for contemporary music in wildly varied forms makes her a perfect artistic partner for the SPCO. I know her partnership will be a great adventure for the orchestra and for our audiences."

PHOTOS

[Link to Hi-Res photos \(.zip file\)](#)

PERFORMANCE VIDEOS

Rapsodia: [Patricia Kopatchinskaja & Family](#)

Ravel: [Tzigane](#)

Bartók: [Sonata for Violin Solo, Third Movement](#)

Beethoven: [Violin Sonata No. 9, Kreutzer](#)

Brahms: [Violin Sonata No. 3 in D Minor](#)

PATRICIA KOPATCHINSKAJA

Violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja's repertoire ranges from Baroque and Classical (often played on gut strings) to a number of new commissions or re-interpretations of modern masterworks.

The 2013-14 season sees Kopatchinskaja continue her regular collaboration with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Vladimir Jurowski - they undertake a major European tour together including concerts in Vienna, Paris, Brussels, Luxembourg and Stuttgart. She also performs with the Philharmonia Orchestra and makes her debut with the NHK Symphony Orchestra - both with Vladimir Ashkenazy. Other debut appearances include the Akademie für alte Musik Berlin under René Jacobs and Musica Aeterna ensemble with Teodor Currentzis.

As part the Musica Viva Festival in Munich in spring 2014, Kopatchinskaja will perform Peter Eötvös' violin concerto *DoReMi* with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks conducted by the composer. Additional highlights include a play/direct program with the Britten Sinfonia at London's Barbican Centre and a residency at the 2013 Beethovenfest Bonn, the latter featuring a number of chamber concerts as well as a performance of the Beethoven Violin Concerto with the Bamberger Symphoniker and Jonathan Nott.

Working with conductors such as Pablo Heras-Casado, Neeme Järvi and Andrés Orozco-Estrada, highlights of the last season included performances with the Cologne (WDR) Radio Symphony Orchestra, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and Mahler Chamber Orchestra. She also toured the Netherlands with the Orchestre des Champs-Élysées, Amsterdam Sinfonietta and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and led a twelve-concert tour of Australia with the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Chamber music is of immense importance to Kopatchinskaja's artistic life and her regular chamber partners include Fazil Say, Sol Gabetta, Markus Hinterhäuser and Polina Leschenko as well as members of her own family. She is also a founding member of the newly formed quartet-lab, a string quartet with Pekka Kuusisto, Lilli Majjala and Pieter Wispelwey. In autumn 2013 the quartet undertook a European tour including performances at London's Wigmore Hall, and Berlin's Konzerthaus among others to great critical acclaim.

Patricia Kopatchinskaja records exclusively for Naïve Classique. Releases for the label include Beethoven's Violin Concerto with Philippe Herreweghe and the Orchestre des Champs-Élysées, and more recently, her multi award-winning disc featuring concerti by Bartók, Ligeti and Peter Eötvös' *Seven* in collaboration with Frankfurt Radio Orchestra and Ensemble Modern. The disc was named as Gramophone's 'Recording of the Year' 2013 and has also been awarded Echo Klassik and ICMA prizes. Her latest CD - a recording of violin concerti by Prokofiev and Stravinsky with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Vladimir Jurowski – was released in

autumn 2013. In addition, she has recorded works by Tigran Mansurian and Ustvolskaya for ECM Records.

The winner of numerous prizes over the course of her career to date, Patricia Kopatchinskaja was announced as the recipient of the 2012 Praetorius Musikpreis Niedersachsen Award in the category of innovation.

Patricia Kopatchinskaja plays a violin made by Giovanni Francesco Pressenda in 1834. She is a goodwill ambassador for the charity Terre des Hommes, through which she supports projects for children in Moldova.

ABOUT THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, now its 55th season, is widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. In collaboration with four artistic partners – Roberto Abbado, Edo de Waart, Christian Zacharias and Thomas Zehetmair – the virtuoso musicians present more than 130 concerts and educational programs each year, and are regularly heard on public radio's *Performance Today* which reaches 1.2 million listeners each week on 256 stations, and *SymphonyCast* reaching 230,000 listeners each week on 126 stations nationwide. The SPCO has released 67 recordings, commissioned 133 new works, and performed the world premiere of 49 additional compositions. The SPCO has earned the distinction of 16 ASCAP awards for adventurous programming. Renowned for its artistic excellence and remarkable versatility of musical styles, the SPCO tours nationally and internationally, including performances in premier venues in Europe, Asia and South America. Launched in 1994, the SPCO's award-winning CONNECT education program reaches over 5,000 students and teachers annually in 12 Minneapolis and St. Paul public schools. For more information, visit www.thespco.org.

#