



For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephen Sokolouski 651.292.4318

ssokolouski@spcomail.org

Swedish clarinet sensation Martin Fröst to become the SPCO's newest Artistic Partner through 2018-2019

Fröst to appear with SPCO in three-concert Cal Performances residency at the University of California Berkley in March 2015

Fröst and Sony Classical recently announced a long-term exclusive recording collaboration

Twin Cities audiences were wowed by performances with Fröst this October

“ . . . if you're lucky, you'll sometimes encounter a performance . . . so full of imagination, spirit and technical skill that simply standing and applauding enthusiastically seems faint praise. If only a leaping or flying ovation were possible.” – *The St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Fröst exhibited a virtuosity and a musicianship unsurpassed by any clarinetist — perhaps any instrumentalist — in my memory.” – *The New York Times*

“Seamlessly and with a velvety tone, he strides through the huge range of his instrument, and on the borders of silence, there are windows to the soul opening up.” – *Leipziger Volkszeitung*

“He makes himself at home at each genre – baroque and romantic, modern and postmodern, klezmer and jazz, country and rock, song and showpiece – and he plays it all with a clear timbre, amazing fingers, dazzling articulation, exquisite color changes, an occasional but tasteful vibrato, and most important of all, soul.” – *American Record Guide*

SAINT PAUL, MN, November 12, 2014 – The SPCO announces today that internationally celebrated clarinetist Martin Fröst has been named the orchestra’s newest Artistic Partner. Fröst will join Artistic Partners Roberto Abbado, Jeremy Denk, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Christian Zacharias and Thomas Zehetmair. The SPCO is the first major international orchestra outside of Scandinavia to engage Fröst as an artistic leader.

Fröst’s Artistic Partnership will effectively begin immediately as part of the SPCO’s Cal Performances residency at the University of California Berkeley in March, and will formally extend through the 2018-2019 season.

The SPCO will be a principal partner in the development of Martin Fröst’s *Genesis Project*, devised by Fröst and performed with a number of partners worldwide. The *Genesis Project* explores the religious and folk origins and development of classical music through a combination of original compositions, new commissions, well-known core classical works and traditional dance and folk music tunes.

Recording, commissioning new works, and international touring, including a major Far East tour, will also figure prominently in Fröst’s Artistic Partnership with the SPCO. The Cal Performances residency in March will feature the SPCO and Fröst performing Anders Hillborg’s *Peacock Tales* (which incorporates elements of mime and dance) and the Mozart Clarinet Concerto.

About the appointment, SPCO President Bruce Coppock said, “In seeking Artistic Partners for the SPCO, we first look for artists who have an inordinate capacity to inspire our audiences and musicians alike. Martin Fröst’s concerts with the SPCO last month were perhaps the most kinetic, awe-inspiring performances SPCO audiences have ever experienced, and the energy Martin released into our musicians was the very definition of leadership through inspiration. It is an enormous credit to the musicians of the SPCO that an artist of such international caliber and reputation would so readily choose the SPCO as his partner for many important media, touring and creative projects. We welcome Martin to our already extraordinary group of Artistic Partners, and look forward to many years of joyous music-making with Martin and the musicians of the SPCO.”

About becoming an Artistic Partner, Fröst said, “I’m really happy to become part of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra family and to have the opportunity to work with such an incredible group of talented musicians. I feel my creative ideas will have a natural home with the orchestra and I really look forward to having a very stimulating few years together as their Artistic Partner.”

Fröst has been praised world-wide for his “kinetic play[ing]... vivid interpretive imagination and sharply focused, warm tone.” (*The New York Times*) His repertoire spans the history of the clarinet, from Baroque and Classical to a number of new commissions or re-interpretations of

modern masterworks. Fröst's extensive discography includes two recent releases on BIS featuring the works of Mozart and Brahms, both of which received substantial critical acclaim.

Last week, Fröst and Sony Classical announced a long-term exclusive recording collaboration, with an initial recording with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra set for release in January 2016. The album will be part of the three year *Genesis Project* described above.

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. "Martin is a supernaturally gifted performer, and he instantly raises the level of the players around him with his inspired music making. We are incredibly excited to partner with Martin to create unforgettable concert experiences for our audiences throughout the Twin Cities and all over the world."

Fröst received great acclaim from audiences and critics alike during his concerts with the SPCO in October 2014 featuring performances of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, Grieg's *Holberg Suite* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 1. *Pioneer Press* music critic Rob Hubbard reported, "...the Swedish clarinetist had such a sweet, smooth caramel tone and full sound across the ample range of his extended "A" clarinet that this became an exceptional interpretation, complemented splendidly by the SPCO's expertise with Mozart. Frost was a delight to watch, a physically expressive player who moves about like a snake charmer or dancing pied piper. He was equally graceful when conducting an involving interpretation of fellow Scandinavian Edvard Grieg's "Holberg" Suite and an urgently energetic take on Beethoven's First Symphony. Throw in an adrenaline rush of an encore — a breakneck-paced piece of klezmer — and you have a marvelously satisfying concert that might be one of the season's most memorable."

Currently artist in residence at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Gothenburg Symphony in Sweden, and at London's Wigmore Hall, Fröst has also toured extensively throughout his career. The year 2015 marks the tenth season of Vinterfest in Mora, Sweden, of which Fröst is artistic director. He serves as artistic director, as well, of the International Chamber Music Festival in Stavanger, Norway.

PHOTOS

[Photos available via Harrison Parrott website](#)

PERFORMANCE VIDEOS

Hillborg: [Peacock Tales \(excerpt\)](#)

Mozart: [Clarinet Concerto, 1st Mvt](#)

Feidman: ["Let's be happy" \(Klezmer tune for clarinet and string orchestra\)](#)

Interview: [Artist profile interview from Verbier Festival 2013](#)

MARTIN FRÖST

Winner of the 2014 Leonie Sonning Music Prize, the clarinetist Martin Fröst will make his debut this season with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich (Herbert Blomstedt), Orchestre de la Suisse Romande (Neeme Järvi), and Houston Symphony (Andrés Orozco-Estrada). The Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra has re-engaged him for a concert with the conductor Thomas Søndergård and he will return as well for performances with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, which he serves as artist in residence. Fröst is also currently artist in residence at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Gothenburg Symphony in Sweden, and at London's Wigmore Hall. High points of Fröst's 2013-14 season included debuts with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra (Xian Zhang), Orchestre National de France (David Zinman), National Symphony Orchestra Washington (Osmo Vänskä), and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. As a conductor he is appearing during the present season not only with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, but also with the Norrköping Symphony. Upcoming tours as clarinet soloist will include appearances with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig (Riccardo Chailly), Camerata Salzburg (Louis Langrée), and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. Fröst also undertakes tours to the U.S. with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and to Spain with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra (Thomas Dausgaard). Fröst's extensive discography includes two recent releases on BIS. One is an all-Mozart CD, and the other comprises works by Johannes Brahms: the Clarinet Quintet, Clarinet Trio, and Fröst's own transcriptions of six Brahms Lieder. The year 2015 marks the tenth season of Vinterfest in Mora, Sweden, of which Fröst is artistic director. He serves as artistic director, as well, of the International Chamber Music Festival in Stavanger, Norway.

ABOUT THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, now in its 56th season, is widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. In collaboration with a team of artistic partners, its virtuoso musicians present more than 130 concerts and educational programs each year, and are regularly heard on public radio's *Performance Today* which reaches 1.3 million listeners each week on 289 stations, and *SymphonyCast* reaching 250,000 listeners each week on 143 stations nationwide. The SPCO has released 67 recordings, commissioned 139 new works, and performed the world premiere of 49 additional compositions. The SPCO has earned the distinction of 17 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. For more information, visit thespco.org.

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