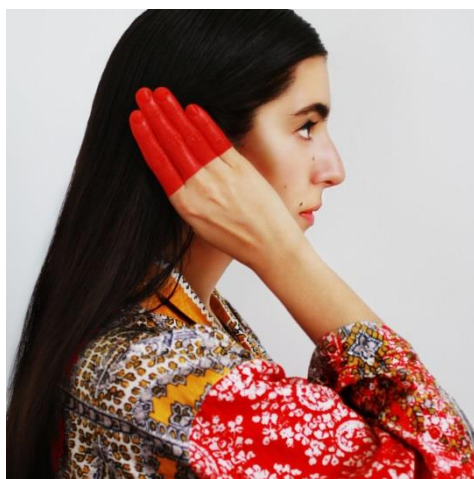


The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's

# LIQUID MUSIC



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA'S LIQUID MUSIC SERIES ANNOUNCES ITS 2016.17 SEASON**

Performances and premieres by

**Tunde Adebimpe, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Colin Stetson, David Lang, Ambrose Akinmusire, Roomful of Teeth, Caroline Shaw, Nick Zammuto, Shara Nova (My Brightest Diamond), Pekka Kuusisto, Mariam Wallentin, Valgeir Sigurðsson, Sam Amidon, Daníel Bjarnason, Poliça, s t a r g a z e, Nathalie Joachim, Musicians of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and more**

**Continued partnership with Walker Art Center, along with new presenting partners, American Swedish Institute, The Current, Ecstatic Music Festival and Schubert Club Mix**

*"Best of Classical." – The New York Times*

*"Ready for an aural workout? The SPCO's border-crossing series offers an unmatched introduction to the rising generation of musical creators, in spaces traditional and un-." – Star Tribune*

— more —



**Saint Paul, May 31, 2016** – The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra’s pioneering Liquid Music Series announces today the full schedule of events for its 2016.17 season. Entering its fifth season this fall, Liquid Music expands the world of chamber music through innovative new projects and iconoclastic artists in unique presentation formats. Each program features new works, world or regional premieres, and new collaborations including many artists working together for the first time. *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine* calls Liquid Music “the epitome of experimental music making,” and the *Star Tribune* hails it a “runaway success.” In addition to facilitating these transformational performances, last season saw the launch of Liquid Music Playlist, a podcast featuring interviews and conversations with Liquid Music artists and the launch of Liquid Music’s virtual residency program.



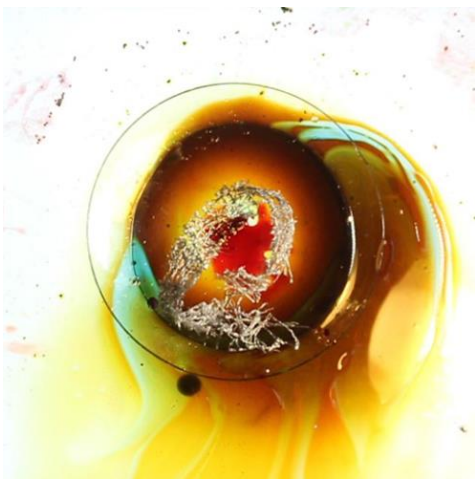
Liquid Music continues to stretch musical imaginations and facilitate the creation of emotionally-engaging contemporary chamber music projects featuring today’s most exciting and expansive artists. The 2016.17 season features four world premiere projects from artists with a diverse range of influences and musical perspectives. Minneapolis’s own **Poliça** join forces with Berlin’s pioneering **stargaze** for **Music For the Long Emergency**. This new work, copresented with The Current, is the culmination of Liquid Music’s first virtual residency and is inspired by *The Long Emergency*, a book that explores the potential long-term collapse of industrial society due to scarcity of oil and climate change. Liquid Music partners with **Kaufman Music Center’s Ecstatic Music Festival** in commissioning an expansive new chamber music work from trumpet virtuoso **Ambrose Akinmusire**, to be premiered with special guests at Saint Paul’s Amsterdam Bar & Hall. Vocal titans **Roomful of Teeth (Caroline Shaw)** and sonic tinkerer **Nick Zammuto (The Books)** prepare an explosive and explorative new work, copresented and co-commissioned with the **Walker Art Center** and **Schubert Club Mix**. Liquid Music, **The Current** and the Walker come together at the close of the 2016.17 season to commission and present an ambitious narrative multimedia experience called *A Warm Weather Ghost*, conceived by TV on the Radio’s **Tunde Adebimpe**. “Getting *A Warm Weather Ghost* together for the series has provided me with the opportunity to weave together several elements of what I do as a visual artist, musician and filmmaker and present it all in a live setting, which is something I’ve wanted to do for a long while now,” says Adebimpe.



In addition, Liquid Music presents deeply moving and insightful projects from new music masterminds **Sarah Kirkland Snider**, **David Lang** and **Colin Stetson**. Each of these projects poses exciting challenges and unique forms of expression that are perfectly suited to Liquid Music’s strengths. David Lang’s intentionally understated piece, **darker**, “is at the same time almost static and relentlessly active, both soft and very hard,” explains Lang. “It needs really great musicians, and I am very happy and very honored to be on Liquid Music with members of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.” **Snider’s** renowned song cycle, **Unremembered**, draws on poetry and imagery from poet **Nathaniel Bellows**, and features an all-star cast of special guests including **Shara Nova (My Brightest Diamond)**, **Padma Newsome (Clogs)**, **DM Stith (Sufjan Stevens)** and musicians of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. The season starts with a Walker Art Center copresentation featuring saxophonist and composer **Colin Stetson’s** reworking of Henryk Górecki’s harrowing 3rd Symphony into **Sorrow**. Stetson translates Górecki’s lush symphonic language to the constraints of a uniquely constructed contemporary ensemble, employing electric guitars, synthesizers, drums and woodwinds to lend new insight and energy to the work.







Photos from top to bottom:  
Mariam Wallentin; Ambrose  
Akinmusire; Sarah Kirkland Snider;  
Nathalie Joachim; Colin Stetson; Poliça;  
artwork by Suzanne Bocanegra for  
David Lang's *darker*; Tunde Adebimpe;  
Roomful of Teeth

Liquid Music's trendsetting virtual residency program continues in 2016.17, tracking the artistic process of flutist and composer **Nathalie Joachim** as she prepares *Fanm d'Haiti*, a Liquid Music commissioned project exploring Haitian song and the role of women's voices in Haitian music culture. In May 2017, **The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra** presents *Where Words End*, a festival that explores themes of immigration and cultural identity through the lens of Nordic music and culture. As part of the festival, Liquid Music and Iceland's **Bedroom Community** partner with the **American Swedish Institute** for a one of a kind performance at the Historic Turnblad Mansion, featuring Bedroom Community artists **Daniel Bjarnason**, **Sam Amidon** and **Valgeir Sigurðsson** alongside special guests **Mariam Wallentin** and SPCO Artistic Partner **Pekka Kuusisto**.

In the 2016.17 Liquid Music season, musicians of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra will play a larger role in the series than ever before, performing in David Lang's *darker*, Sarah Kirkland Snider's *Unremembered* and Liquid Music's portion of the *Where Words End* festival. In addition, SPCO Artistic Partner Pekka Kuusisto will make his Liquid Music debut.

Liquid Music Curator Kate Nordstrum, celebrated by *MinnPost* as "the most adventurous curator in town," is thrilled to share the coming season. "The 2016.17 announcement is, to me, a celebration. Liquid Music is entering its fifth season with unparalleled momentum because of loyal and expanding audiences, a growing and dedicated artistic network and consistent community partnerships, most notably with the Walker Art Center, all stemming from a solid home with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. We are building projects together and the energy that emanates from this work is infectious. I am deeply in love with every Liquid Music project in the 2016.17 season and the significant artists behind them – many U.S. and world premieres, and many hard won. It is my privilege to share these projects with Twin Cities audiences, and from here, the world."

Flutist **Nathalie Joachim** shares her excitement for developing a new work through Liquid Music's virtual residency, "I am so looking forward to becoming a part of the community that defines Liquid Music. Kate Nordstrum and the SPCO have done a real service to new music in creating a safe haven of expression for genre bending artists, and stretching audiences to welcome exciting and unique sound worlds with open arms. There is something truly magical about developing this particular project, *Fanm d'Haiti*, through a Liquid Music virtual residency, because it is an artistic endeavor that is deeply connected to my personal history and the rich culture that surrounds my Haitian and Afro-Caribbean heritage. I can't wait to invite the public on that journey with me."

"Liquid Music has become synonymous with presenting the avant-garde of contemporary music's collaborative practices evolving in the 21st century." says conductor **André de Ridder** of s t a r g a z e. "I've been following their pioneering programming from Europe, long before I got involved personally. What's so special about the series though is that it's not just about concerts but about initiating new projects, fostering relationships and facilitating the process of creating new music that wouldn't otherwise have been made and heard. It's the breeding ground of a new scene, as well as its showcase!"

"The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's Liquid Music Series is visionary, inspired, and exquisitely attentive to detail, making it one of today's most consistently inventive and widely-admired events in new music," says composer **Sarah Kirkland Snider**. "I'm honored and thrilled to have Liquid Music give the U.S. premiere of my song cycle, *Unremembered*, next season: spiritually and artistically I can think of no more fitting partner or home for this music."

The most recent Liquid Music season featured electric projects from Laurie Anderson, Devendra Banhart, Steven Mackey with Mark DeChiazza and Jason Treuting, Kid Koala, Saul Williams, Mivos Quartet, Daniel Wohl, Harold Budd, Hecuba, Miranda Cuckson, Vicky Chow, Tristan Perich, Wye Oak and William Brittelle.

# LIQUID MUSIC SERIES 2016.17 FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## **Colin Stetson: Sorrow**

Copresented with the Walker Art Center

Fri, Sep 30, 2016

Doors at 7:30pm | Music at 8:00pm

The Walker's William and Nadine McGuire Theater, Minneapolis

"As the consumer becomes more sophisticated, there's an appetite for traditional classical music being stretched into unfamiliar shapes. *Sorrow* takes its place in this new pantheon." – *The Guardian*

Henryk Górecki's iconic 3rd Symphony made a major impact on listeners in the early 90s and was a musical touchstone for virtuosic saxophonist Colin Stetson. Celebrated for the way he "demolishes clichés to unleash fresh, unexpected energies," (*Pitchfork*) Stetson takes on the mammoth task of reimagining Górecki's symphony for an expansive and contemporary sonic palate. *Sorrow*, Stetson's imaginative new interpretation of the work, has been lauded as "both traditional and playful, timeless and of the moment" (*PopMatters*) and draws on a uniquely constructed ensemble, employing electric guitars, synthesizers, drums and woodwinds to create transformative extensions of the emotional core of the piece.

**Tickets:** \$25 (\$20 for Liquid Music subscribers and Walker Art Center members)

## **Polica & s t a r g a z e: Music for the Long Emergency (World Premiere)**

Copresented with The Current

Fri, Nov 18, 2016

Doors at 7:00pm | Music at 8:00pm

Fitzgerald Theater, Saint Paul

"Orchestral support can often feel self-indulgent and egotistical with the orchestra only there to serve the band. But here it feels entirely equal; two like-minded musical entities fluidly playing and communicating with each other." – *Huffington Post* on the work and philosophy of s t a r g a z e

"The sheer volume of [Polica's] sound almost takes physical form and yet it's never overdone." – *DIY Magazine*

Throughout the 2015.16 season Liquid Music tracked the artistic collision of two innovative ensembles: Berlin's vibrant and forward-thinking s t a r g a z e and hometown favorites Polica, internationally renowned for their "dark conviction" (*Pitchfork*) and "beautifully melancholic" (*The Guardian*) sound. Dubbed a "renegade new classical ensemble" (*Boiler Room*), s t a r g a z e was founded by prominent European conductor André de Ridder and has become known for its focus on collaboration, specifically with artists and ensembles who work with dissimilar musical language and materials. This unparalleled transatlantic partnership culminates with a world premiere performance at the historic Fitzgerald Theater, marking s t a r g a z e 's U.S. debut.

**Tickets:** \$30 (\$25 for Liquid Music subscribers and MPR members)

## **David Lang: darker**

Copresented with the Walker Art Center

Featuring musicians of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and visual artist Suzanne Bocanegra

Sat, Dec 3, 2016

Doors at 7:00pm | Music at 8:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

“Lang, once a post minimalist enfant terrible, has solidified his standing as an American master.” – *The New Yorker*

David Lang, one of America’s preeminent living composers and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for music, brings his contemplative work *darker* to Saint Paul for its Midwest premiere. Scored for 12 strings, *darker* is more of an object than a piece of music, weaving together intricate solo lines into a delicate and subtly emotional fabric. “My piece, like life, expends a lot of effort to go a very short distance,” says Lang. “From beautiful to a little less beautiful, from a little light to something a little darker.” The score to *darker* invites performers to add a live visual or lighting design to their performance, choosing from elements created by New York based visual artist Suzanne Bocanegra.

**Tickets:** \$20 (\$15 for Liquid Music subscribers and Walker Art Center members)

### **Ambrose Akinmusire (World Premiere)**

Wed, Feb 15, 2017

Doors at 7:00pm | Music at 7:30pm

Amsterdam Bar & Hall, Saint Paul

“For a jazz trumpet player, you couldn’t be more on top of the world than Ambrose Akinmusire.” – *NPR*

Jazz trumpet virtuoso Ambrose Akinmusire, known for his “unfurling lines that confound expectation” (*Chicago Tribune*) and “strong aesthetic compass” (*The New York Times*), reveals a brand new chamber music work co-commissioned by Liquid Music and the Ecstatic Music Festival. Akinmusire’s projects “[blend] art song and social justice with nu-bop rhythms and endless lyricism to create a hefty emotional impact” (*The Village Voice*). With special guest collaborators, he will craft a uniquely explorative and expressive musical experience during a Twin Cities based residency, building to its world premiere at Saint Paul’s Amsterdam Bar & Hall.

**Tickets:** \$20 (\$15 for Liquid Music subscribers)

### **Sarah Kirkland Snider: Unremembered (U.S. Premiere)**

Featuring vocalists Shara Nova (My Brightest Diamond), Padma Newsome and DM Stith  
Poetry and visual art by Nathaniel Bellows

Sat, Mar 11, 2017

Doors at 7:00pm | Music at 8:00pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

“The work [attests] to Ms. Snider’s thorough command of musical mood setting, organically integrating the structural economy and direct impact of pop songs with deft, subtle orchestrations that lent emotional gravity and nuance.” – *The New York Times*

Sarah Kirkland Snider's *Unremembered*, “one of the most significant and harrowing releases of [2015]” (*Thought Catalog*), explores the fragility and nuance of memories and emotions in an hour-long, 13-part song cycle inspired by poems and illustrations by Nathaniel Bellows. Musicians of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra join Snider’s all-star ensemble including vocalists Padma Newsome (Clogs), DM Stith (Sufjan Stevens) and Shara Nova (My Brightest Diamond) to perform the U.S. premiere of *Unremembered*. Each movement of *Unremembered* is accompanied by video projections featuring Bellows's hand-drawn illustrations interleaved with photography and videography of his poetry’s rural New England setting, augmenting the “intricately magical landscape” (*New York Magazine*) that Snider crafts with her “genre erasing” (*The New Yorker*) compositional skill.

**Tickets:** \$20 (\$15 for Liquid Music Subscribers)

## **Roomful of Teeth with Special Guest Nick Zammuto (World Premiere)**

Copresented with the Walker Art Center and Schubert Club Mix

Wed, Apr 5, 2017

Doors at 7:00pm | Performance at 7:30pm

Aria, Minneapolis

“Experimentation may be this group’s calling card, but its essence is pure joy.” – *The Boston Globe*

“Dexterous musicianship and catchy pop writing are upgraded to hyper-reality... Zammuto blasts us with musical particles in narrow, swarming beams” – *Pitchfork*

Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth and sonic experimentalist Nick Zammuto, known for his “dexterous musicianship and catchy pop writing” (*Pitchfork*), assemble a custom-built evening of sound explorations in a world premiere collaboration. In addition, the vocal ensemble performs the Minnesota premiere of *Partita for 8 Voices*, group member Caroline Shaw’s mesmerizing and thoroughly delightful Pulitzer Prize-winning composition.

**Tickets:** \$30 (\$25 for Liquid Music and Schubert Club Mix subscribers and Walker Art Center members)

## **Where Words End**

**A celebration of Nordic music and culture**

“For me, music begins where words end.” - Jean Sibelius

In May 2017 The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra presents *Where Words End*, a festival that explores the themes of immigration and cultural identity through the lens of Nordic music and culture, with programs that bring together artists of various disciplines and backgrounds. The festival includes specially tailored SPCO concerts featuring Artistic Partners Martin Fröst and Pekka Kuusisto, Liquid Music programming with Iceland’s Bedroom Community, American Swedish Institute activities and more. Learn more about the entire festival at [thespco.org/wherewordsend](http://thespco.org/wherewordsend).

### **Where Words End: Bedroom Community and Friends**

Copresented with the American Swedish Institute

Tue, May 9, 2017

Doors at 6:00pm | Performance at 7:30pm

Turnblad Mansion, American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis

Bedroom Community, “a creative hub of sonic geniuses that continues to evolve and produce incredible work” (*BlackBook Magazine*) operates out of Iceland as a collective and record label dedicated to the musical innovations of a close knit group of composers and performers including Daníel Bjarnason, Sam Amidon and Valgeir Sigurðsson. Celebrated as “a lightning rod at the juncture where the ambition of classical music meets the aesthetics of indie music” (*Pitchfork*), the collective teams up with Liquid Music, Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto, primordial songstress Mariam Wallentin (*Wildbirds & Peacedrums*, *Mariam the Believer*) and the American Swedish Institute for a one of a kind performance on the grounds of the beautiful and historic Turnblad Mansion. Visitors can also experience *The Weather Diaries*, an art exhibition exploring fashion from Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands.

**Tickets:** \$25 (\$20 for Liquid Music subscribers and American Swedish Institute members)

### **Tunde Adebimpe: A Warm Weather Ghost (World Premiere)**

Copresented with the Walker Art Center and The Current

Thu, May 18, 2017

Doors at 7:30pm | Music at 8:00pm

Fri, May 19, 2017

Doors at 7:30pm | Music at 8:00pm

Sat, May 20, 2017

Doors at 7:30pm | Music at 8:00pm

The Walker's William and Nadine McGuire Theater, Minneapolis

TV on the Radio's artistic polymath Tunde Adebimpe weaves together a universe of song, story and animation in the world premiere of *A Warm Weather Ghost*, a new work commissioned by the Walker Art Center, Liquid Music and The Current. Conceived of as a hero's narrative pushed through a psychedelic fever dream, the surreal work unravels and bewilders as a crew of special guest musicians and vocalists, visual art by Adebimpe, and narration coalesce into a magically disorienting and unforgettable performance.

**Tickets:** \$30 (\$25 for Liquid Music subscribers, Walker Art Center members and MPR members)

### **Nathalie Joachim: Fanm d'Haiti**

**Liquid Music artist in virtual residence 2016.17**

"This project is an attempt to celebrate the women of Haitian song and to explore their individual stories as they relate to Afro-Caribbean culture, society, history and music, by giving them a long deserved international platform." – Nathalie Joachim

"Critics hail the Brooklyn born Haitian-American artist for creating a unique blend of classical music, hip-hop, electronic programming and soulful vocals reminiscent of neo-R&B stars like Erykah Badu." – *The Wall Street Journal*

Flutist and composer Nathalie Joachim (eighth blackbird, Flutronix), "an edgy multi-genre performance artist who has long been pushing boundaries with her flute" (*The Washington Post*), joins Liquid Music as the second virtual artist in residence for the 2016.17 season. Throughout the year the virtual residency tracks the development of Joachim's Liquid Music-commissioned project exploring Haitian song and the role of women's voices in Haitian music culture. The virtual residency allows for unparalleled online creative intimacy via regular updates on the Liquid Music blog, as well as videos and cross-country events. The fruits of the residency will be premiered in the Twin Cities the following year as part of Liquid Music's 2017.18 season.

Project documentation, blog posts, video coverage and process insights at [liquidmusicseries.org](http://liquidmusicseries.org) beginning fall 2016.

### **PRESS PHOTOS:**

Hi-res photos of all 2016.17 Liquid Music artists can be found [here via dropbox](#).

### **ABOUT LIQUID MUSIC:**

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's Liquid Music Series creates a space for innovative new projects and iconoclastic artists in unique presentation formats. Liquid Music performances invite adventurous audiences to discover the new and the fascinating within the flourishing landscape of contemporary chamber music. Visit [liquidmusicseries.org](http://liquidmusicseries.org) to learn more.

### **ABOUT WALKER ART CENTER (copresenting partner):**

The Walker Art Center is one of the top-five most visited contemporary art centers in the U.S. expressly dedicated to be a catalyst for the creative expression of artists and the active engagement of audiences that examines the questions that shape and inspire us as individuals, cultures, and communities. Focusing on the visual, performing, and media arts of our time, the Walker takes a global, multidisciplinary, and diverse approach

to the creation, presentation, interpretation, collection, and preservation of art. Its 16-acre campus includes the intimate 385-seat McGuire Theater – home to one of the largest museum-based performing arts programs in the U.S. annually presenting 40 to 50 performances of innovative work from emerging, mid-career, and internationally-renowned artists. A multi-disciplinary center with a long-held international reputation, the Walker is called “one of America’s foremost experimental art spaces” (UK’s *The Guardian*).

**TICKET INFORMATION:**

Subscription packages featuring all 2016.17 Liquid Music programs are available for \$160 per person. The complete Liquid Music series includes the May 18 performance of *A Warm Weather Ghost*. Packages and tickets to individual events can be purchased online at [liquidmusicseries.org](http://liquidmusicseries.org) or via phone at 651.291.1144 Monday through Friday, from 12:00-5:00pm.

**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS LIQUID MUSIC SPONSORS:**



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