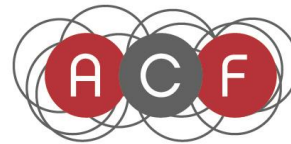




THE SAINT PAUL  
**CHAMBER**  
ORCHESTRA

**99.5**  
classical  
MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO



AMERICAN  
COMPOSERS  
FORUM

**For Immediate Release**

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## **The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Classical Minnesota Public Radio, and American Composers Forum announce new season of “Music in the Making” (formerly “Composer Conversation Series”)**

2015.16 Music in the Making conversations feature Michael Hersch, Derek Bermel, Meredith Monk, Steven Mackey and special guests at MPR’s UBS Forum, Amsterdam Bar & Hall, Walker Art Center’s William and Nadine McGuire Theater and Guthrie Theater

**SAINT PAUL, MN, September 22, 2015** — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO), Classical Minnesota Public Radio (MPR), and American Composers Forum (ACF) are pleased to announce the fourth season of Music in the Making. Formerly known as “Composer Conversation Series,” the new name “Music in the Making” emphasizes the series’ shift from a focus on composition to a broader, more collaborative conversation between composers and artists about music-making as a whole. Intended for music lovers of all stripes, this season’s events allows audiences to engage directly with the most original, prominent and prestigious voices in composition. The 2015.16 season will feature live interviews with distinctive creators Michael Hersch (with violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja), Derek Bermel, Meredith Monk and Steven Mackey (with composer/percussionist Jason Treuting & director Mark DeChiazza). The events will take place at venues across the Twin Cities and feature time devoted for audience Q&A and informal post-show receptions.

This season welcomes two new hosts: Classical MPR’s Steve Seel and the Walker Arts Center’s Director and Senior Curator of Performing Arts Philip Bither. Previous seasons featured live interviews with distinguished guests such as Kevin Puts, Bryce Dessner, Caroline Shaw, Richard Reed Parry, Fred Lerdahl, Missy Mazzoli, John Luther Adams, Vivian Fung, John Harbison, Timo Andres, Gabriel Kahane, Shawn Jaeger, Dawn Upshaw, Laurie Anderson and Sufjan Stevens among others.

**Music in the Making events are FREE but reservations are encouraged.**

Details at [thespc.org/musicmaking](http://thespc.org/musicmaking).

## 2015 .16 SEASON SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### [Michael Hersch and Patricia Kopatchinskaja](#)

**Wednesday | Nov 4, 2015 | 7:00pm**

Minnesota Public Radio's UBS Forum

Hosted by Classical MPR's Steve Seel

"Hersch, now in his second decade as one of the most prominent composers in the country, writes masterly modernist music of implacable seriousness." – *The New Yorker*

"Works that are often startling in their complexity, beauty and demonic fury." – *The New York Times*

"A blazing comet...Kopatchinskaja's unconventional perspective proved itself to be a key into a fascinating cosmos." – *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

Michael Hersch and Patricia Kopatchinskaja kick off the first Music in the Making conversation of the 15.16 season in anticipation of the [world premiere of Hersch's Violin Concerto](#), commissioned by and for the SPCO and Kopatchinskaja. Hersch, as a leading composer of his generation and an accomplished concert pianist, and the vibrant and compelling Kopatchinskaja, a familiar face to SPCO followers, are sure to challenge and inspire both the musicians and audience of the SPCO. In this intimate and open conversation, Hersch and Kopatchinskaja detail the making of the four movement work and elaborate on their collaborative and creative processes.

### [Derek Bermel](#)

**Wednesday | Jan 20, 2016 | 7:00pm**

Amsterdam Bar & Hall

Hosted by Classical MPR's Steve Seel

"Bermel's music is intricate, witty, clear-spoken, tender and extraordinarily beautiful." — *San Francisco Chronicle*

Derek Bermel joins us for the second conversation of the Music in the Making season, bringing his signature and vibrantly assorted musical influences to Saint Paul. The SPCO will be performing [Bermel's Murmurations \(an SPCO co-commission\)](#) a piece inspired by the mesmerizing flocking movements of starlings. Bermel's diverse background in ethnomusicology and the study of various folkloric music traditions in addition to his prolific composition and clarinet career are sure to make for an insightful and colorful conversation.

## **Meredith Monk**

**Thursday | Apr 14, 2016 | 7:00pm**

Walker Art Center's William and Nadine McGuire Theater

Hosted by WAC's Director and Senior Curator of Performing Arts, Philip Bither

"...She is at once fearless, unique, uncompromising and yet builds human values into work that is never polemical, and has communicated across genre boundaries long before 'crossover' was even a term."

—*The Washington Post*

"A composer, singer and theater artist for whom experimentation has led to wondrous discovery, Monk conjures up a spectrum of colorful and evocative sounds from her one-of-a-kind vocal instrument."

—*The Plain Dealer*

Recognized as one of the most unique and influential artists of our time, Meredith Monk is a pioneer in what is now called "extended vocal technique" and "interdisciplinary performance." In anticipation of her Vocal Ensemble's performance of [The Soul's Messenger, Celebrating 50 Years of New Music](#) at The O'Shaughnessy Theater in Saint Paul, copresented with the Walker, Monk joins Walker Art Center's Philip Bither for a rare and intimate conversation about her life and her art.

*Presented as part of the Gertrude Lippincott Talking Dance Series made possible by generous support from Judith Brin Ingber.*

## **Steven Mackey with special guests**

### **Jason Treuting and Mark DeChiazza**

**Monday | Jun 13, 2016 | 7:00pm**

Guthrie Theater, Endless Bridge

Hosted by Classical MPR's Steve Seel

"Mr. Mackey grew up immersed in rock music, and he has incorporated its alluring buzz into his best-known pieces, many of which include his primary ax, the electric guitar." – *The New York Times*

"Volatile and luminous beauty." – *Gramophone* on the music of Steven Mackey

For the final conversation of the Music in the Making season, composer Steven Mackey is joined by collaborators Jason Treuting of Sō Percussion and the prolific director, filmmaker, designer and choreographer Mark DeChiazza ahead of [Liquid Music's](#) world premiere of the wordless opera [Orpheus Unsung](#), a 21st century interpretation of the legendary ancient Greek myth. The integration of electric guitar into this work and *Physical Properties*—an early chamber work by Mackey also to be performed throughout his residency—serves as a launching point into a broader conversation on the exciting trajectory of contemporary concert music as a whole.

## Presenting Partners

**THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**, now in its 57th season, is widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. In collaboration with its group of artistic partners – Jeremy Denk, Martin Fröst, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, 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 289 stations, and *SymphonyCast* reaching 240,000 listeners each week on 143 stations nationwide. The SPCO has released 67 recordings, commissioned 142 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. 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 [thespco.org](http://thespco.org).

The **AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM** offers a broad range of innovative programs that support the artistic careers of composers, develop new opportunities for their work and engage audiences in meaningful ways. It serves a membership of 2,000 composers and performers in all fifty states, and is the home of the nationally recognized *innova*<sup>®</sup> recording label. The Forum also co-produces the *Composers Datebook*<sup>®</sup> radio show with Minnesota Public Radio. Other Minnesota partnerships include Minnesota Orchestra, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Vocalessence. It also partners with national organizations such as American Composers Orchestra, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and collaborates with chamber ensembles such as Zeitgeist, eighth blackbird and JACK Quartet.

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO**<sup>®</sup> (MPR) operates a 45-station radio network serving nearly all of Minnesota and parts of surrounding states. Reaching 900,000 listeners each week, MPR and its three regional services—[MPR News](#), [Classical MPR](#) and [The Current](#)—produce programming for radio, online and face-to-face audiences. Programs produced by MPR's parent company, American Public Media<sup>™</sup>, reach 19 million listeners on nearly 1,000 radio stations nationwide each week. A complete list of stations, programs and additional services can be found at [minnesotapublicradio.org](http://minnesotapublicradio.org). MPR meets all 27 of the Charities Review Council (CRC) Accountability Standards. *Source: Data are copyright Nielsen Audio. Data are estimates only.*

**LIQUID MUSIC** is a concert series presented by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra that creates a space for innovative new projects, iconoclastic artists, and unique presentation formats. Liquid Music performances invite adventurous audiences to discover the new and the fascinating within the flourishing landscape of contemporary classical music. [liquidmusicseries.org](http://liquidmusicseries.org)

## Project Partners

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*). The Walker actively commissions work from emerging and established artists and provides artists intensive residencies to develop their work and connect their art and ideas with its audiences and neighboring communities. During the past decade alone, the Walker has commissioned more than 100 works involving hundreds of performing artists that

have travelled to 270 venues in the U.S. and 30 countries. The Walker helped to establish now common national practices like commissioning work from leading artists (Merce Cunningham, Trisha Brown, Twyla Tharp and many more) and our commitment continues to this day with 5-8 new commissions and production residencies per year. The Walker has hosted multiple residencies from hundreds of artists over the years, including longstanding relationships with artists such as Cunningham, Brown, Philip Glass, and Meredith Monk, and more recently, vanguard artists such as Elevator Repair Service, Erik Friedlander, Cynthia Hopkins, So Percussion, and Ralph Lemon (who opened the 14/15 season with a new interdisciplinary work, *Scaffold Room*). 15/16 commission highlights include premieres like Sarah Michelson's *tournamento*; Wye Oak; Julian Crouch, Rinde Eckert, Paola Prestini's Aging Magician; and Trajal Harrell's *The Ghost of Montpellier Meets the Samurai*.

The **GUTHRIE THEATER**, founded in 1963, is an American center for theater performance, production, education and professional training. By presenting both classical literature and new work from diverse cultures, the Guthrie illuminates the common humanity connecting Minnesota to the peoples of the world. [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org)

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