

# THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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**Contact:** Stephen Sokolouski

651.292.4318 | [ssokolouski@spcomail.org](mailto:ssokolouski@spcomail.org)

## Ordway Concert Hall to receive Honor Award from American Institute of Architects Minnesota

**SAINT PAUL, MN, December 4, 2015** — The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Minnesota announced the Ordway Concert Hall, the new downtown home of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) as one of eleven 2015 Honor Awards recipients at the 81st AIA Minnesota Annual Convention and Exhibition on Thursday, November 12. The Honor Awards jury, consisting of principals from three internationally recognized architectural firms, reviewed 78 submissions, all from Minnesota architectural firms. Submissions were reviewed within five categories (Architecture, Interiors, Restoration & Renovation, Urban Design and Master Planning, and Small Project) and the Ordway Concert Hall was honored in the category of Architecture.

AIA Minnesota Honor Awards are a tribute to architectural excellence. The award encourages a high level of architectural design, recognizes the clients and architects who have distinguished themselves, and informs the public of these important architectural contributions.

The idea for the Ordway Concert Hall came into being in 2006 as a solution to longstanding scheduling issues between the four organizations using the Ordway Music Theater. These four organizations—The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Opera, The Schubert Club and The Ordway—formed The Arts Partnership to devise a solution to this problem, ultimately landing upon the idea of converting the previously existing 300-seat McKnight Theatre into the 1,100-seat Concert Hall.

Opened in March 2015, the “inviting” and “acoustically ideal” (*The New York Times*) Ordway Concert Hall has been well-received by audiences and critics alike. The state-of-the-art facility is a “shoebox” style concert hall where there is no separation between the performance platform and the audience, and was specifically designed with the intimate artistry of the SPCO in mind. Architect Tim Carl was inspired by Ben Thompson’s original elegant design for the celebrated Ordway which opened in January 1985. The Concert Hall addition seamlessly integrates new and old by extending the second and third floor lobbies overlooking Rice Park, and connecting with the existing copper window detailing, monumental columns, water-struck brick and undulating façade.

One of the most innovative features of the Concert Hall is a spectacular sweeping ceiling made of 14.7 linear miles of mahogany-stained oak dowels of subtly varied spacing, which ensures vivid acoustical resonance, warmth and reverberation specifically designed for the sounds of unamplified instruments. The dowel ceiling ensures that the volumes above and below are acoustically coupled and that the sound is never diminished as it passes through the dowel screen.

The ingenious design, the breathtaking beauty of the ceiling, the ideal acoustics, and the intimacy of the space make the Ordway Concert Hall stand out as one of the great halls of the world and an absolutely ideal home for the SPCO,” said SPCO Principal Second Violin and Senior Director of Artistic Planning

Kyu-Young Kim. "Most importantly, the hall has allowed us to feel a deeper connection with our audience, creating a truly thrilling concert experience."

"We are thrilled that the Ordway has received an AIA Minnesota Honor Award," noted architect Tim Carl on behalf of HGA. "Not only am I proud of our team and what we were able to accomplish, but I also want to congratulate the members of the Arts Partnership and recognize their tenacity and creative leadership in realizing their vision."

AIA Minnesota Honor Awards will be presented to recipients on Friday, December 4, at the 2015 Awards Dinner at the Minnesota History Center, at 345 Kellogg Blvd W. in St. Paul. The dinner will also showcase AIA Minnesota's 2015 Firm Award recipient architectural firm BWBR of St. Paul.

For a complete list of 2015 Honor Award Winners, visit [www.aia-mn.org](http://www.aia-mn.org).

### **ABOUT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE MINNESOTA**

The American Institute of Architects Minnesota, founded in 1892, is dedicated to strengthening our communities, improving our built environment and providing exceptional design. For more information on the organization and Minnesota architectural firms, reference our Web site at [www.aia-mn.org](http://www.aia-mn.org). Pick up a copy of Architecture Minnesota, the award-winning architectural magazine of the Midwest.

### **ABOUT HGA ARCHITECT TIM CARL**

Tim has commanded a lead role on a wide range of project types in his 25 years of practice. His work has been recognized locally and nationally. In 1993 he was named by Progressive Architecture as one of the country's top emerging young architects. Since 1999 Tim's work has been honored with ten AIA Minnesota Honor Awards. In 2004 his work for General Mills was one of eleven international projects recognized in the *Architectural Record/Business Week* Awards. Tim's work has received the AIA National Housing Design Award and the SCUP/AIA-CAE Honor Award. His projects have been published in *Architectural Record*, *Architect*, *Contract* and *Dwell*. In 2013 and 2014 the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* identified Tim as one of the Twin Cities notable artists of the year and one of the most influential architects in the state of Minnesota. He has been with HGA for 17 years and most recently held the title of design principal, working with teams in each HGA office. Carl recently led design efforts for University of Minnesota's Northrop Auditorium renovation, the Nelson Cultural Center addition to the American Swedish Institute and the new concert hall at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts.

### **ABOUT THE ORDWAY CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS**

The Ordway is widely recognized as one of the nation's principal nonprofit performing arts centers and Saint Paul's most elegant and inviting performance space. The Ordway's Music Theater and Concert Hall present unsurpassed American musical theater, world music, dance and vocal performance. Education and community engagement are integral to the Ordway's mission, with major initiatives and education programs that serve more than 50,000 students annually. Together with Minnesota Opera, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and The Schubert Club, the Ordway is a member of the Arts Partnership and serves as the principal venue for their performances.

### **ABOUT THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Renowned for its artistic excellence, remarkable versatility of musical styles and adventurous programming, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, now in its 57th season, is widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. The SPCO has recently undergone transformational change, with the opening of their new home, the Ordway Concert Hall, the addition of a new generation of players, and significant changes in the scope of its artistic aspirations and profile. Committed to championing new music, the SPCO is primarily an uncondacted ensemble that works in close collaboration with a diverse series of Artistic Partners. The orchestra's current Artistic Partners are Jeremy Denk, Martin Fröst, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Pekka Kuusisto, Christian Zacharias and Thomas Zehetmair. Past Artistic Partners include Roberto Abbado, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Douglas Boyd, Joshua Bell, Nicholas McGegan, Stephen Prutsman and Dawn Upshaw.

The virtuoso musicians of the SPCO present more than 130 concerts and educational programs each year, and are regularly heard on public radio programs which reach 1.2 million listeners each week on 289 stations. The SPCO has released 67 recordings, commissioned 142 new works, and tours nationally and internationally, including performances in premier venues in Europe, Asia and South America. Recent engagements in Berkeley, CA, New York's Carnegie Hall, the Ojai Festival, and tours to Scandinavia and Central and Eastern Europe were met with great critical acclaim.

The SPCO is nationally recognized for its commitment to broad community accessibility, its innovative audience outreach efforts, and its educational and family programming. Regular subscription series are performed in a variety of different venues across the Twin Cities metropolitan area each season, a unique commitment to geographic accessibility for a major orchestra. The SPCO offers the most affordable tickets of any major orchestra in the United States, with over 50 percent of tickets available for \$12 or less. The orchestra also recently launched an innovative new ticket membership model in which members pay \$5 per month to attend unlimited concerts. The SPCO's award-winning CONNECT education program reaches over 5,000 students and teachers annually in 12 Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools, and its Target® Free Family Music program provides engaging and educational experiences for thousands of Twin Cities children and families each year. The SPCO's Liquid Music Series (named "Best of Classical" by *The New York Times*) presents innovative projects and inspired collaborations by emerging and iconoclastic artists and invites adventurous audiences to discover the new and the fascinating within the flourishing landscape of contemporary classical music.

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