

THE SAINT PAUL
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

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The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra announces November tour to Europe, with concerts in Rome, Siena, Bologna, Berlin and Vienna

Tour marks SPCO's first performances in Europe since 2008, and the first time the SPCO will tour Europe as an uncondacted ensemble, led by SPCO musicians and Artistic Partner and violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja

Tour repertoire to be performed in the Twin Cities September 16-18 and featured on recording released by Alpha Classics on October 28

SAINT PAUL, MN, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 – Today The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces a concert tour to Europe in November 2016, its first performances in Europe since 2008. The SPCO will be joined on tour by Artistic Partner and “most exciting violinist in the world” (*Strings Magazine*) Patricia Kopatchinskaja for an uncondacted program featuring Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* Quartet, arranged for string orchestra by the SPCO and Kopatchinskaja. A meditation on the medieval fascination with death as seducer, friend and redeemer, the SPCO and Kopatchinskaja's unique exploration of Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* intersperses music on the same theme from many centuries, including an ancient Byzantine chant on Psalm 140, a Renaissance pavan by John Dowland, and late 20th century works by György Kurtág.

Kopatchinskaja will alternate between two concertos on tour – Mendelssohn's youthful D Minor Violin Concerto, written when the composer was just thirteen, and Armenian composer Tigran Mansurian's Second Violin Concerto, *Four Serious Songs*. The tour program opens with Gideon Klein's Partita for String Orchestra, led by SPCO Concertmaster Steven Copes. Klein wrote the work (originally a string trio that was later arranged for string orchestra by Vojtěch Saudek) in 1944 as a prisoner at the Theresienstadt concentration camp during the Holocaust, and just days after completing the work was transferred to Auschwitz where he was murdered by the Nazis.

“We are excited to be sharing the SPCO’s distinctive artistry with European audiences, with a musician-led program that is emblematic of the kind of adventurous and engaging performances for which the SPCO is known,” said Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. “We seek to provide transformational musical experiences and this program certainly packs an incredible emotional punch that we hope will leave an impact on European audiences.”

About developing this program with the SPCO, Kopatchinskaja said, “This project with the SPCO has enlarged our dimensions of hearing and together we approach the music as a soloist would, individually, but all souls mystically linked to an intuitive whole that does not need a conductor.”

The tour opens in Rome with a performance in the Aula Magna at La Sapienza University on Saturday, November 19. On Monday, November 21, the orchestra will perform at Bologna’s renowned Teatro Comunale, one of Europe’s most important opera houses, followed by a concert on Tuesday, November 22 at Siena’s Accademia Musicale Chigiana. The orchestra then departs Italy for Germany, with a performance on Thursday, November 24 (Thanksgiving Day) at Berlin’s Konzerthaus, followed by the final performance of the tour on Saturday, November 26 at the Konzerthaus in Vienna.

“International touring is one of the most powerful ways to elevate the artistic quality of the orchestra,” said Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. “Touring allows the orchestra to work intensively together to hone their artistry, which translates into a better orchestra for our Twin Cities community.”

Twin Cities audiences can hear a preview of the SPCO’s tour program during performances at the Ordway Concert Hall in downtown Saint Paul September 16-17 and at the University of Minnesota’s Ted Mann Concert Hall on September 18. Limited tickets are still available starting at \$10 each. Visit www.thespco.org or call our Ticket Office at 651.291.1144 for more information or to purchase tickets.

***Death and the Maiden* recording to be released October 28**

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra’s *Death and the Maiden* project with Patricia Kopatchinskaja can also be heard on a new recording to be released on October 28 by Alpha Classics. The album was recorded March 27-29, 2015 at the Ordway Concert Hall. A limited number of CDs will be available for sale at the SPCO’s September 16-18 concerts in advance of the October 28 public release.

SPCO’s return to New York City

In addition to touring Europe in November, the SPCO will also perform two concerts on the East Coast this fall with pianist and Artistic Partner Jeremy Denk. The orchestra will perform at Dartmouth College’s Hopkins Center for the Arts on October 14, followed by a performance in

New York City on October 15 to open 92nd Street Y's 2016-17 season, which represents the SPCO's first performance in New York City since a 2011 concert at Carnegie Hall. The program for these concerts features uncondacted performances of Schubert's Second Symphony and the world premiere and New York premiere of *O Mikros, O Megas (The small world, The huge world)*, a newly-commissioned work by American composer George Tsontakis, led by SPCO musicians. Jeremy Denk will lead the orchestra from the piano as soloist on Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23.

Ticket information

To purchase tickets for the SPCO's European tour performances, visit www.thespco.org, which will direct you to the websites of each tour venue or presenter to purchase tickets.

To purchase tickets for the SPCO's concerts in the Twin Cities, call the SPCO Ticket Office at 651.291.1144 or visit www.thespco.org. To request a brochure, email tickets@spcomail.org. The Ticket Office is open 12pm–5pm Monday through Friday and 11am–3pm Saturday. Season ticket packages for the SPCO's regular season start at just \$30 and individual tickets range from \$10–\$50 for adults. Starting this season, tickets are free for children ages 6–17 and students as part of the SPCO's New Generation Initiative.

ABOUT THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Renowned for its artistic excellence, remarkable versatility of musical styles and adventurous programming, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra is widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. Now in its 58th season, the SPCO has recently undergone transformational change with the opening of its new home, the Ordway Concert Hall, the addition of a new generation of players, and significant changes in the scope of its artistic vision. 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 Jonathan Cohen, Jeremy Denk, Martin Fröst, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Pekka Kuusisto and Thomas Zehetmair. Past Artistic Partners include Roberto Abbado, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Joshua Bell, Douglas Boyd, Nicholas McGegan, Stephen Prutsman, Dawn Upshaw and Christian Zacharias.

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 more than 2 million listeners each week on over 300 stations. Additionally, the SPCO reaches more than 200,000 listeners annually through its free online Listening Library. The SPCO has released 67 recordings, commissioned 148 new works, and tours nationally and internationally, including performances in premier venues in Europe, Asia and South America.

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, and has expanded accessibility even further by offering free tickets for children and students starting in the 2016-17 season as part of the New Generation Initiative. The orchestra also offers 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*) develops innovative new projects with iconoclastic artists in unique presentation formats and invites adventurous audiences to discover the new and the fascinating within the flourishing landscape of contemporary chamber music.

ABOUT PATRICIA KOPATCHINSKAJA

Violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja's versatility shows itself in her diverse repertoire, ranging from baroque and classical often played on gut strings, to new commissions and re-interpretations of modern masterworks.

Kopatchinskaja's 2016-17 season commences with the opening concerts of the new SWR Symphonieorchester with whom she performs Peter Eötvös' *DoReMi* Violin Concerto (with the composer himself conducting), and an appearance with NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra as part of the inaugural performances of the new Elbphilharmonie concert hall in Hamburg. She will also make her debuts with Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra performing Sibelius's Violin Concerto under the baton of Krzysztof Urbanski, and with Gothenburg Symphony - again with Peter Eötvös. Continuing her regular collaboration with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, she appears with them in London and New York under Vladimir Jurowski.

György Ligeti's Violin Concerto is a particular focus of Kopatchinskaja's current season; she will perform the work widely including with the Berliner Philharmoniker under Sir Simon Rattle, with Filharmonica della Scala under Andrés Orozco-Estrada, and with Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Teodor Currentzis.

This season Kopatchinskaja is Artist in Residence at three major European venues and festivals: at the Berlin Konzerthaus (where she will perform the Schumann and Sibelius Violin Concertos with the Konzerthaus Orchester under the baton of Iván Fischer and showcase a number of other chamber projects); at the Wigmore Hall in London; and at the Kissinger Sommer Festival (where she performs with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Sakari Oramo). She also embarks upon several major European tours; with Orchestre Philharmonique du

Luxembourg under Gustavo Gimeno in the autumn and with Wiener Symphoniker and Musica Aeterna in the spring – both with Currentzis.

Last season's highlights included a residency at the Laeiszhalle in Hamburg, performances with the Houston and Seattle symphony orchestras and several appearances in London – both with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Jurowski and as the central figure of the 'Changing Minds' weekend at the Southbank Centre, where she performed Schumann's Violin Concerto with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under the baton of Marin Alsop. Kopatchinskaja also toured with Camerata Salzburg under Langrée, with Chamber Orchestra of Europe and Thierry Fischer and with Jurowski and his State Academic Symphony Orchestra in Moscow.

Chamber music is immensely important to Kopatchinskaja and she performs regularly with artists such as Markus Hinterhäuser, Polina Leschenko, Anthony Romaniuk and Anu Komsu, appearing at such leading venues as the Berlin Konzerthaus, London's Wigmore Hall, Vienna Konzerthaus and Concertgebouw Amsterdam. Kopatchinskaja is also an Artistic Partner with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and performs with the ensemble regularly, both in Saint Paul and internationally. They will undertake a major European tour together in November 2016, to coincide with a new CD recording of Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* scheduled for release in October.

A prolific recording artist, the last few seasons have seen a number of major releases; an album of Kancheli's music with Gidon Kremer and the Kremerata Baltica, a disc of duos entitled *TAKE TWO* on Alpha Classics, a recording of Schumann's Violin Concerto and Fantasy with WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln under Heinz Holliger for Audite, and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with Teodor Currentzis and Musica Aeterna on the Sony label. Kopatchinskaja's release for Naïve Classique featuring concerti by Bartók, Ligeti and Peter Eötvös won *Gramophone's* Recording of the Year Award in 2013, an ECHO Klassik Award and a 2014 Grammy nomination.

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