

THE SAINT PAUL
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

For Immediate Release

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The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Capri Theater and Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church announce *Northside Celebration*, a collaborative concert experience celebrating the North Minneapolis community through music

- Celebration builds upon longstanding partnership between the SPCO and the Capri Theater
- Project celebrates the Northside community by bringing together local artists and residents to express a message of love for North Minneapolis through music
- Two performances on Saturday, March 18, 2017 and Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 4:00pm at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in North Minneapolis
- Performances feature world premiere of work for choir and chamber orchestra by North Minneapolis resident Timothy C. Takach, with lyrics by spoken word and hip-hop artist Desdamona, inspired by writings of North Minneapolis youth
- Photography depicting life in North Minneapolis by Northside resident Bill Cottman will be on display in the atrium at both performances
- Tickets are free, but reservations are required and can be made at www.thespco.org/northside or by calling the SPCO Ticket Office at 651.291.1144

Saint Paul, MN, January 23, 2017 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO), the Capri Theater and Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church announce today the *Northside Celebration*, two collaborative concerts that will celebrate the North Minneapolis community through music.

The 90-minute concert events will feature performances by a specially formed *Northside Celebration* Choir, grounded by members of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church Choir along with members of other North Minneapolis church choirs, directed by Fellowship's Minister

of Music Sanford Moore. Performances will include *For Every Mountain* by Kurt Carr and other gospel works during which audience participation will be encouraged, and an ensemble of SPCO musicians will perform *Strum* by acclaimed American composer Jessie Montgomery.

The centerpiece of the concert will be the world premiere of *True North*, a work for choir and chamber orchestra commissioned by the SPCO for the *Northside Celebration*, composed by North Minneapolis resident Timothy C. Takach with lyrics by spoken word and hip-hop artist Desdamona. Desdamona's lyrics were inspired by writings of students in the Capri After School Theater (CAST) Program, as well as students from Plymouth Youth Center's Arts & Technology High School, which holds a variety of arts classes at the Capri. Narration and readings of stories, reflections and poetry by North Minneapolis artists will be woven throughout the musical selections. A reception will be held after each concert.

"The SPCO is thrilled to expand our partnership with the Capri Theater and join forces with Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church to create and premiere a new work that celebrates the vitality of the Northside," said SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. "Empowering communities to create new music together and tell their stories is one of the most powerful ways that the SPCO can serve our community."

From the artists to the caterers to design work and photography, this celebration seeks to feature Northside residents and businesses. For example, the atrium of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church will be illuminated with photography depicting life on the Northside by long-time Northside resident, photographer, writer and projectionist Bill Cottman.

COLLABORATIVE HISTORY

The collaboration between the SPCO and the Capri Theater began in 2009 and has developed into a multifaceted partnership that includes a regular concert series and free concert programming for children and families. Community input has been critical in shaping this partnership as the SPCO has worked to support the Capri in its mission to build community, develop youth, and establish the Northside as a regional cultural destination.

INSPIRATION

Three years ago, the Capri Theater and the SPCO held a luncheon with Northside residents to talk about the direction of the partnership between these two institutions. Amidst avid support for a continued SPCO presence at the Capri, several themes surfaced throughout the discussion, including intense community pride in the face of adversity, a desire for opportunities to collaborate and feature local artists, and a desire to emphasize connection and strengthen relationships in the community.

In response to this feedback, Dennis Spears, Artistic Director of the Capri's *Legends* Series, suggested that the Capri and the SPCO take their partnership to the next level by collaborating to make music together, with the community, enlisting the support of Sanford Moore and the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. Understanding the power of music and coupling this with themes of hope, pride, collaboration and strong community connections, the *Northside Celebration* was born.

"There are a number of different cultures living and thriving here in North Minneapolis," said Dennis Spears. "Through this concert, we will bring together a rainbow of residents and shine a powerful ray of hope and love all across this community. We will light up the Northside with songs, music, dance and spoken word!"

"This collaborative effort of bringing together artists, musicians, singers and audiences from different backgrounds and experiences is a testament to this community, this city, this state and this world that we can come together in one voice and demonstrate that respect, grace and appreciation of one another are something to celebrate," said Sanford Moore.

Tickets are free and are available at www.thespc.org/northside or by calling the SPCO Ticket Office at 651.291.1144.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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 its artistic vision. The SPCO is primarily an unconduted ensemble that performs a broad range of repertoire from Baroque to new music and works in close collaboration with a diverse series of artistic partners, including British Baroque specialist Jonathan Cohen, American pianist Jeremy Denk, Swedish clarinetist Martin Fröst, Moldovan violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto and Austrian conductor/violinist 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 that reach more than 2 million

listeners each week on over 300 stations. Additionally, the SPCO reaches more than 250,000 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 a part of the New Generation Initiative. The orchestra also offers an innovative 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 in collaboration with iconoclastic artists and invites adventurous audiences to discover the new and the fascinating within the flourishing landscape of contemporary chamber music.

ABOUT THE CAPRI THEATER

The Capri Theater delivers year-round arts programming that inspires young people, develops their skills, strengthens community connections, and draws thousands of people to the heart of North Minneapolis.

The theater is owned and operated by the Plymouth Christian Youth Center, a venerable community-based education, youth development and arts agency that's served the Northside for 62 years. PCYC purchased the Capri in 1987 and after renovations were completed in 2009 the theater became central to the success of PCYC's youth programming and community services, including their out-of-school-time program for K-5 youth and the PYC Arts & Tech High School, a contract alternative school located on the PCYC campus.

Capri-produced arts programs include the award-winning *Legends* concert series produced by Dennis Spears; *Camp Capri* for middle-school-age youth; the *Capri Apprentice Program*, *Media 612*, *Remix* and *Capri After School Theater (CAST)* for high school students; the *Freedom of Xpression* open mic hosted by Desdamona and the *Capri Glee!* vocal music program for youth and adults, directed by J.D. Steele and Dennis Spears.

The Capri also partners with a number of organizations to bring the power of the arts to the Northside including The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (*Chamber Music Series, Start the Music, xplorchestra*) and the Film Society of Minneapolis and St. Paul (*First Thursday Films @ the Capri*). In addition, affordable Capri Theater rental rates make it possible for artists of all ages and backgrounds to present music concerts, theater, visual art, film and other cultural experiences for the community.

The theater is currently in the midst of raising funds to expand and upgrade the Capri with appropriate amenities and more multi-purpose spaces. For more information on the *Capri Theater Renaissance Campaign Phase II* contact Anne Long, PCYC Executive Director, at 612.643.2053.

ABOUT FELLOWSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church was established in 1992 and has a membership of roughly 300 individuals and 600 families, totaling a membership of more than 1,000. FMBC's membership is predominantly made up of African Americans, but in a departure from the traditional Black Baptist Church, FMBC embraces the LGBTQ community and all races. FMBC's outreach ministries and biblical education, including the Cypher program, which allows female and male teens (separately) to discuss life issues in a safe, judgement free environment, have helped to establish FMBC as a pillar of the Northside community.

The mission of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church is to bring people into saving redemptive relationship with Jesus Christ. It is a spiritual body whose only foundation is the Word of God. FMBC seeks to be God's agents of healing and wholeness in a wounded and fragmented community. Furthermore, FMBC seeks to be a congregation that ministers to all of its members and values its youth by religiously educating them so that they may live balanced and fruitful lives.

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