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The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra announces the Concert Library, a new initiative featuring full-length concert videos available for live streaming and on-demand viewing, completely free of charge

THE SPCO CONCERT LIBRARY

- Initiative builds upon the SPCO's commitment to broad community accessibility, making transformational performances available free of charge to anyone with internet access
- Concert videos can be viewed for FREE anytime, anywhere, an unlimited number of times, on any internet-connected device for ultimate flexibility and accessibility
- No fees, donations or subscriptions required
- The SPCO will promote free viewing for those who are unable to attend concerts in person, such as hospital patients and those living in assisted living facilities
- Two full-length concerts and multiple additional concert excerpts are now available for on-demand viewing, including performances of Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto with Artistic Partner Jeremy Denk (recorded live March 24-25) and Mendelssohn's *Italian* Symphony led by SPCO musicians (recorded live April 28-30)
- The first live video stream of an SPCO concert will be held on Saturday, June 10 at 8:00pm, where the sold-out season finale performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, conducted by Artistic Partner Thomas Zehetmair, will be broadcast live via high quality HD video
- The SPCO intends to add 7-10 new concerts to the Concert Library per year, as funding permits, creating a significant library of concert videos for the community over time
- Learn more and watch videos at [**thespco.org/music**](https://thespco.org/music)

SAINT PAUL, MN, June 6, 2017 – Today The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces its new online Concert Library, an initiative that offers live and on-demand viewing of high definition, broadcast-quality videos of full-length SPCO concerts, free of charge. The SPCO is committed to serving the broadest possible audience in the Twin Cities, and the online Concert Library is the most recent step in the organization’s history of bold moves toward greater accessibility for the community.

“Sharing SPCO performances completely free of charge via live video streaming and on-demand viewing is the next step in our efforts to make classical music available to everyone in our community, “ said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. “Not only do we bring our music to numerous venues throughout the Twin Cities at extremely affordable ticket prices, but now we are bringing our music to people’s homes, offices, or right to the palms of their hands. Anyone with access to the internet can now experience transformational SPCO performances free of charge, which will dramatically expand the number of people we are able to serve in our community.”

Two recent full-length concerts and several additional concert excerpts are already available for on-demand viewing in the Concert Library, and the first live video broadcast of an SPCO concert will be held on Saturday, June 10 at 8:00pm with a live stream of the SPCO’s sold-out season finale performance featuring Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony, conducted by Artistic Partner Thomas Zehetmair, and SPCO concertmaster Steven Copes giving the world premiere of a new violin concerto by Pierre Jalbert. Additional concerts will be broadcast live and added to the on-demand video library throughout the 2017-18 season and beyond, with a goal of adding 7-10 new concerts to the library each year, as funding permits. These videos will be added to a collection of over 100 audio recordings available for free listening to create an extensive library of SPCO performances for the community to enjoy anytime, anywhere.

Starting today, users can access the Concert Library via web browsers on internet-connected devices, and this summer, the SPCO will release new Concert Library apps for iOS and Android, allowing for even easier access to concert videos on smartphones and tablets. The orchestra is also exploring the future development of TV apps for Roku, AppleTV and Chromecast.

SPCO concerts will be offered as full HD video, with the accompanying audio mix provided by the SPCO’s long-time broadcast partner Classical Minnesota Public Radio, using higher than typical data rates to deliver remarkably high-fidelity sound. Six broadcast-quality cameras were installed in the Ordway Concert Hall over the past year, each remotely operated with a robotic control system, minimizing the impact of the production on the experience of those attending the concert in the Concert Hall. Each camera is recorded separately to allow wider flexibility in editing the recorded material and choosing the most compelling concert footage.

“The concert videos in the Concert Library come as close as possible to replicating the experience of seeing and hearing the SPCO live in concert,” said SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. “The quality of the video system that we have installed in the

Ordway Concert Hall enables us to really capture the dynamic and engaged playing of the SPCO musicians and the chemistry we have with our Artistic Partners. Our repertoire and collaborative style of playing, often without a conductor, make for thrilling videos, with close-up shots allowing you to see the interaction between the musicians as they listen to and watch one another closely.”

“Sharing concerts via internet video at no charge further removes barriers to access and allows audiences to experience our performances according to their own needs and schedules,” said Limbacher. “Despite our commitment to continually lowering barriers to concert attendance via price and geographic accessibility, we recognize that many people are unable to hear us in-person: nursing home residents and homebound seniors, parents with young children at home, patrons who have moved away from the area, and others who may wish to experience SPCO performances but may be unable to attend or may not feel comfortable attending a live performance.”

The SPCO plans to find opportunities in the coming year to partner with organizations serving populations whose ability to attend concerts in-person is limited, encouraging free viewing of live and on-demand concert videos in health care facilities, community centers, assisted living facilities and libraries, among others. The orchestra will also seek opportunities to expand the ways the community can access concert videos through larger scale free viewing events in places such as public parks and other community gathering spaces.

The Concert Library is made possible by generous contributions from individual and foundation donors to the SPCO, and was developed, in part, thanks to a generous research and development fund established by The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. This fund allowed the SPCO to learn from other organizations while developing a video initiative that reflects the orchestra’s commitment to accessibility and its unique musician-led/unconducted artistic model.

The SPCO thanks the following donors for their generous support of this initiative, as well as those donors who prefer to remain anonymous:

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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 unconducted ensemble that performs a broad range of repertoire from Baroque to new music and works in close collaboration with distinguished 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 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 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 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.

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