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Horn player Matt Wilson joins the SPCO as permanent orchestra member

SAINT PAUL, MN, JUNE 28, 2017 – The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today that horn player Matt Wilson has been named the orchestra’s newest permanent member. Wilson will assume the position of Horn effective at the beginning of the 2017-18 season. The position of Horn is designed to primarily fill the second horn chair with opportunities for other assignments including chamber music and Principal Horn. The SPCO will continue its search for a permanent Principal Horn next season.

Matt has been performing with the SPCO as a substitute and Guest Principal Horn since 1999. As a guest musician in the 2016-17 season, he made impressive artistic contributions in such repertoire as Mozart’s Wind Serenade in C Minor and Nielsen’s Wind Quintet. In addition to being a frequent substitute with the Minnesota Orchestra, Wilson has been the Principal Horn with the Minnesota Opera Orchestra since 2012. He also served as Principal Horn for 5 years with the Crested Butte Music Festival in Crested Butte, Colorado. Wilson received his undergraduate degree from the University of Northwestern in Saint Paul, Minnesota and his Masters of Music degree from the University of Minnesota.

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Regarding the appointment, SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim said, "Matt Wilson has proven to be an extraordinary musician and colleague in his years as a guest musician. He received a unanimous vote from the musicians on the Horn Audition Committee. His versatility as both a high horn and low horn player and as a gifted chamber musician makes him a perfect fit for the SPCO, and we feel very fortunate to have been able to bring him into the orchestra as a full-time member."

"After having played with the SPCO as a guest musician for 17 years I am very excited to be a member," said Matt Wilson. "Making music with this orchestra is incredibly thrilling and enriching. I am so glad to be part of the team!"

ABOUT MATT WILSON

Matthew Wilson is joining The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra as a member after playing as a guest musician for many years. He has been Principal Horn of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra for the last 5 seasons. He recently acted as Associate Principal Horn with the Minnesota Orchestra on their 2016 European tour and has been a frequent guest Principal Horn with them and the SPCO. He has also been guest Principal Horn with the Florida Orchestra and the South Dakota Symphony and has had engagements with the Colorado Symphony and The Phantom of the Opera Broadway touring company. He has been Principal Horn of the Crested Butte Musical Festival for several years and will be performing at the Festival of the Lakes in Alexandria, MN this August. A Southern California native, he started playing horn at the age of 9. His primary teachers were George Cable (San Diego Symphony), Herb Winslow and Kendall Betts. Wilson received his undergraduate degree from University of Northwestern in Saint Paul, Minnesota and his Masters of Music degree from the University of Minnesota. He is currently Horn Instructor at University of Northwestern Saint Paul.

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. Entering its 59th season in September, 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 uncondensed 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 and Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto. Past Artistic Partners include Roberto Abbado, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Joshua Bell, Douglas Boyd, Nicholas McGegan, Stephen Prutsman, Dawn Upshaw, Christian Zacharias and Thomas Zehetmair.

The virtuoso musicians of the SPCO present more than 130 concerts and educational programs in the Twin Cities each year. The orchestra also reaches more than 250,000 listeners annually through its free online Concert Library, and has recently begun offering both live and on-demand videos of concerts that can be viewed anytime, anywhere, on any device, completely free of charge. The SPCO is regularly heard on public radio programs that reach more than 2

million listeners each week on over 300 stations. Additionally, 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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