



THE SAINT PAUL
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

British conductor, keyboardist and early music expert Richard Egarr to become the SPCO's newest Artistic Partner

Egarr's tenure will begin in the 2019.20 season, and he will lead the SPCO in this weekend's performances of English Baroque masterworks.

"Egarr has an engaging stage presence, undeflectable focus and an infectious enthusiasm for the music he plays...luminous...riveting...serious, haunting..." *The Washington Post*

"Egarr showed why he is celebrated: he is a motivator, an instigator and yet always a collaborator. He is clearly a man who loves musical adventures. With enthusiasm and indeed eagerness he carries his musicians along with him on his musical explorations.... Always exciting and peppered with effects; energetic, tender, humorous, transparent, magnificent." *Norddeutscher Rundfunk*

"Richard Egarr must be one the best advocates for early music." *Herald Scotland*

"Mr. Egarr's playing was as entertaining as his palaver, showing a cleanliness, refinement and style all too rare among harpsichordists, but never at the cost of bountiful fantasy. Rich embellishments seem to flow naturally from his mind and fingers with little need for calculation..." *The New York Times*

"...an excellent pathfinder through the subtleties (and not-so-subtleties) of the works at hand, making it possible to hear worlds of difference that we might have missed." *The Boston Musical Intelligencer*

"Egarr favours the unpredictable, lives his music in the fast lane, puts panache on a level pegging with stylistic integrity..." *The Scotsman*

SAINT PAUL, MN, November 27, 2018 – The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today that celebrated British conductor, keyboardist and early music expert Richard Egarr has been named the orchestra's newest Artistic Partner. Although his tenure as an SPCO Artistic Partner does not officially begin until September 2019, Egarr will lead the orchestra this week (November 29-December 2) as both conductor and harpsichordist in highly anticipated performances of English Baroque music, including works by Purcell, Locke and Avison, as well as Handel's beloved *Water Music*. In future seasons, the SPCO plans to feature Egarr's virtuosity as a keyboard soloist, as well as his complete command as a conductor of Baroque, Classical, and early Romantic repertoire.

Richard Egarr brings a joyful sense of adventure and a keen, enquiring mind to all his music-making - whether conducting, directing from the keyboard, giving recitals, playing chamber music, or talking about music at every opportunity. Since 2006, Egarr has been Music Director of the Academy of Ancient Music, a renowned period instrument ensemble based in Cambridge, England, founded by former SPCO Music Director Christopher Hogwood. Egarr was recently appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the Residentie Orkest in The Hague and was Associate Artist of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra from 2011 to 2017. He has conducted major symphonic orchestras such as the London Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw and Philadelphia Orchestra, has frequently performed with leading Baroque ensembles such as Philharmonia Baroque and the Handel and Haydn Society, and regularly gives solo harpsichord recitals at Carnegie Hall, London's Wigmore Hall, and elsewhere.

Egarr received great acclaim from audiences and critics alike during his most recent performances with the SPCO in March 2017. Reviewing a performance where Egarr conducted and played both fortepiano and harpsichord, Saint Paul *Pioneer Press* critic Rob Hubbard said, "His spirit and energy were palpable," and "Egarr made it all not just enlightening but fun." Of his performance of Mozart's 12th Piano Concerto on the fortepiano, Hubbard said "Egarr made it quite expressive on the absorbing Andante and imaginatively bridged the movements with improvised interludes."

"Richard made one of the most exciting SPCO debuts in recent memory with a revelatory performance of a Mozart Concerto on pianoforte and a Haydn *Trauer* Symphony that made the orchestra want to just jump out of our seats," said the SPCO's Artistic Director and Principal Violinist Kyu-Young Kim. "We couldn't wait to get him back and are so excited to have a chance to delve into an Artistic Partnership with a musician with such a sense of adventure and boundless curiosity."

About becoming an SPCO Artistic Partner, Egarr said, "I am absolutely thrilled to become part of the musical family at The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. This amazing bunch of musicians embodies everything I hold dear when performing music. They have brilliance, vision and commitment, open musical borders and the ability to inspire and communicate their passion to the public. I am hugely excited and honored."

PHOTOS

[Link to hi-res photos \(via dropbox\)](#)

VIDEOS

Egarr leading Academy of Ancient Music from the harpsichord: **J.S. Bach: Orchestral Suites**

Egarr on harpsichord: **J.S. Bach: Prelude from English Suite No.3**

Egarr as conductor: **Mozart: "Dies Irae" from Requiem**

ABOUT RICHARD EGARR

Music Director of the Academy of Ancient Music since 2006, Richard Egarr was recently appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the Residentie Orkest in The Hague from 2019 and was Associate Artist of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra from 2011-2017. He has conducted major symphonic orchestras such as London Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw and Philadelphia Orchestra, has frequently performed with leading Baroque ensembles such as Philharmonia Baroque and the Handel and Haydn Society, and regularly gives solo harpsichord recitals at the Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall and elsewhere.

In the 2018.19 season, Egarr conducts Bruckner's *Nullte* and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony with the Residentie Orkest, Schumann's Second Symphony with the Utah Symphony, and Schubert's Ninth Symphony with the Handel and Haydn Society. He makes his debut with the Cincinnati Symphony and returns to the Seattle Symphony, the Kioi Hall Chamber Orchestra Tokyo, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Seoul Philharmonic. He will perform solo harpsichord recitals at the Wigmore Hall, Tokyo Spring Festival and at the Madrid Auditori. Season highlights with the Academy of Ancient Music at the Barbican Centre include Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (staged) and Handel's rarely-performed *Brockes Passion*, also his first collaboration with the Grange Festival (staged *Nozze di Figaro*).

Early in his tenure with the Academy of Ancient Music (AAM), Egarr established the Choir of the AAM; operas and particularly Handel's oratorios lie at the heart of his repertoire. He made his Glyndebourne debut in 2007 conducting a staged version of Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion*. He has directed *Mozart's La Finta Giardinera*, a Monteverdi cycle and Purcell operas with the Academy of Ancient Music at the Barbican, and staged productions of *La Clemenza di Tito*, *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Rossini's *Il Signor Bruschino* at the Netherlands Opera Academy. He has a long-standing teaching position at the Amsterdam Conservatoire and is Visiting Professor at the Juilliard school.

Egarr's extensive discography on Harmonia Mundi includes solo keyboard works by J.S. Bach, Handel, Mozart and Louis Couperin. His long list of recordings with the Academy of Ancient Music includes seven Handel discs (2007 Gramophone Award, 2009 MIDEM and Edison awards), and J.S. Bach's *Saint John* and *Saint Matthew Passions* on the AAM's own label. His latest recital disc of Byrd and Sweelinck appeared in May 2018 on Linn Records, who have also released his performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* live from the 2015 Edinburgh International Festival.

Egarr trained as a choirboy at York Minster, at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, and as organ scholar at Clare College, Cambridge. His studies with Gustav and Marie Leonhardt further inspired his work in the field of historical performance.

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 60th 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 uncondacted 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, including the 2017 Grammy® Award-winning recording of Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* with violinist and Artistic Partner Patricia Kopatchinskaja. The SPCO has commissioned 150 new works and tours nationally and internationally, including recent engagements in Europe and New York City, and a prestigious residency with Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley.

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 \$15 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 \$7 per month to attend unlimited concerts. The SPCO's award-winning CONNECT education program reaches over 5,000 students and teachers annually in 13 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.

THE SPCO'S MISSION

Our mission is to sustain a world-class chamber orchestra at the highest standards of artistic excellence that enriches the Twin Cities community by sharing dynamic, distinctive and engaging performances. We are actively committed to accessibility and intentional inclusivity in all aspects of our work and continually strive to provide all people in our community with opportunities to connect with the music we perform.

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