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The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra balances budget for 2017-18, wins Grammy® Award and serves record high audience

- Organization served a record high number of unique households
- Young audience attendance increased by 10% from previous year
- SPCO provided live video streams of six concerts, bringing performances to thousands in Minnesota and worldwide through its free online Concert Library
- Contributions from individuals to the Annual Fund reached an all-time high
- The SPCO won a Grammy for its recording of Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* with Artistic Partner Patricia Kopatchinskaja
- The SPCO expanded its Neighborhood Series with a new three-concert series on Saint Paul's West Side at Humboldt High School
- The orchestra returned to the Cal Performances Orchestra Residency at University of California, Berkeley with pianist Jonathan Biss
- Organization balanced FY18 budget with a surplus of \$152,696 and continued to build Rainy Day Fund

Saint Paul, MN, December 12, 2018 — At its Annual Meeting of Members today, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announced a balanced budget with an operating surplus of \$152,696 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 (FY18). This balanced budget – the 23rd in the past 25 years – continues a long history of financial discipline for the SPCO. Total operating expenses for the period were \$10,042,409 and net assets increased to \$47,523,514.

An operating surplus in the previous year (FY17) eliminated the accumulated deficit the organization carried since 2012 as a result of the Great Recession and allowed the SPCO to create a Rainy Day Fund to protect against future economic downturns. As part of its most recent strategic plan, adopted in 2016, the SPCO is building a Rainy Day Fund intended to provide funds to maintain salary and benefit levels for musicians and staff in the event of a recession or other economic shock that reduces the SPCO's ability to generate revenues. The

surplus from FY18 was added to the Rainy Day Fund, bringing the fund total to \$465,550, nearly halfway to the total fund goal of \$1 million, which represents 10% of the organization's budget.

The SPCO once again served a record high number of unique attendees throughout the 2017-18 season, surpassing the all-time high achieved the previous season. While institutional giving to the organization continued to decline in FY18, continuing a long-term trend taking place across the arts, individual giving to the Annual Fund reached an all-time high for the third consecutive year, and the total amount contributed to the Annual Fund increased by one percent from the previous year. In total, \$6,263,752 was contributed as operating support to the SPCO by individuals, foundations, corporations and institutions. 5,603 donors contributed to the SPCO in the fiscal year, with more than 850 making recurring monthly gifts as Sustainers.

"With the help of our generous donors, the SPCO was able to serve more people in this community than ever before, while maintaining our commitment to financial responsibility," said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. "The orchestra gave 148 great concerts, won a Grammy Award, reached the largest audience in our history, and achieved our financial goals. It is difficult to imagine that it could have been a better year."

SERVING AN EXPANDING AUDIENCE

Continued Audience Growth

The SPCO continued to build upon its long history of audience growth in the 2017-18 season, serving a record high number of unique attendees (13,373 unique households) and surpassing the all-time high achieved the previous season. Nearly 115,000 people attended its 148 concerts in 24 different venues throughout the metro area, and more than 14,000 of these attendees were children, students or young adults. Thousands more experienced the SPCO through its free online Concert Library, which received over 135,000 visits in the 2017-18 season. The orchestra also shared music with several thousand people through its additional community engagement and education programs, including *Music Moves*, which brings free chamber music performances to those who are unable to attend traditional concerts, such as those living in assisted living facilities, as well as patients and their families at children's hospitals and cancer treatment and recovery centers. The SPCO engaged over 5,000 students through its CONNECT music education program in 12 Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools. In addition, the SPCO provided 11 free concerts for families and children through its Free Family Music Series, generously supported, in part, by Target®. The SPCO also presented 13 performances of its celebrated Liquid Music Series, which is helping to expand the landscape of contemporary chamber music by developing new projects with iconoclastic artists in unique presentation formats.

The strong attendance in the 2017-18 season represents another year of continued audience expansion for the SPCO and progress toward two audience goals established in its most recent strategic plan: to expand the number of people who experience SPCO performances, both in-person and digitally, and to increase the number of young audience members. The chamber orchestra's audience has grown by more than 50 percent in the last 14 years, during which time the SPCO has maintained its commitment to broad community accessibility, offering the most affordable ticket prices of any major American orchestra.

Neighborhood Series Expansion

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra was thrilled to expand its Neighborhood Series to Saint Paul's West Side in the 2017-18 season with a new 3-concert series at Humboldt High School Auditorium. These hour-long, family friendly concerts provided opportunities for young musicians from Humboldt High School and the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies' Harmony violin instruction program to join the SPCO in performing on stage for their community. Tickets for this series are free for children, students, West Side residents, and West Side school students and their families.

In addition to a regular concert series on the West Side, the SPCO is more deeply engaging with the community by expanding its CONNECT education program to the West Side's Riverview Elementary, presenting its free Start the Music! program for young children and their families at Humboldt High School, and building relationships with the community that will allow West Side residents input into the SPCO's activities in the neighborhood.

The New Generation Initiative

The SPCO announced its New Generation Initiative in 2016, a series of programs designed to dramatically expand access to classical music for young people in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metro area. Through generous funding from a small group of donors, the SPCO is making it easier than ever for young people to experience SPCO concerts with free tickets for children and students, as well as special concerts geared toward young people. Special performances for young audiences in the 2017-18 season included a 3-concert series at Icehouse in Minneapolis, a series of happy hour concerts at the Ordway, and a 3-concert series at Turf Club in Saint Paul. After child and student attendance quadrupled in the first season of the New Generation Initiative, the 2017-18 season saw further growth, with 10% more children and students attending regular SPCO concerts than in the previous year (not including Free Family Music performances).

Free Online Concert Library

In addition to those who experienced the SPCO in person by attending performances, the SPCO also shared its music via its free online Concert Library (www.thespco.org/music), which received nearly 29,000 visits from Minnesotans and over 135,000 visits from listeners worldwide

in 2017-18. In the most recent step in the organization's history of bold moves toward greater accessibility for the community, the orchestra announced a major new video initiative in June 2017, adding full-length concert videos to the Concert Library and presenting its first ever live video stream of a performance in the season's closing weekend. In the 2017-18 season, the SPCO offered free live video streams of six concerts, adding each to the Concert Library for free unlimited on-demand viewing. SPCO concerts are offered as full HD video, with the accompanying audio mix provided by the SPCO's long-time broadcast partner Classical Minnesota Public Radio. In the current season, the SPCO has presented live streams of three concerts, with several more planned for the remainder of the season, including an upcoming live stream of Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, December 23 at 2:00pm (www.thespco.org/live).

The Concert Library allows The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra to share transformational performances with more and more people in our community and beyond and allows those who cannot attend live concerts in-person the opportunity to experience the SPCO's music. The SPCO has received numerous notes from viewers expressing their appreciation for the Concert Library and sharing the impact it has had in their lives, including this note from a thankful viewer:

"I am disabled by a stroke and to go out to concerts and the like is difficult. I spend the entire day in a chair with my laptop beside me, operated by one hand on a keyboard or mouse. With SPCO I can be in my own concert chamber, in the front row, near to accomplished performers. Please accept my sincere gratitude."

"It's our mission to enrich the lives of the people in this community by sharing the music we play with the broadest possible audience," said Limbacher. "We believe everyone in our community deserves the opportunity to experience this music and we will continue striving to make our performances as accessible and inclusive as possible."

ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS

SPCO Musician-led Performances

Firmly established as a primarily uncondacted ensemble led by its own musicians, the SPCO presented 75 uncondacted, musician-led performances in the 2017-18 season. Eleven SPCO musicians were featured as soloists with the orchestra and many musicians performed in small ensembles for SPCO at Icehouse, SPCO at Turf Club, and the Chamber Music Series.

Premieres and Commissions

The SPCO performed premieres of numerous new works, including *The Dream of Stradella*, a new piano concerto by Salvatore Sciarrino as the third installment in its five-year *Beethoven/5* Project with pianist Jonathan Biss, which pairs newly commissioned piano concertos with one of

Beethoven's five piano concertos that inspired it. Additional works by SPCO Music Alive composer-in-residence Lembit Beecher, Anders Hillborg, Jessie Montgomery, Hannah Lash, Jacob Mühlrad, Martin Fröst and Goran Fröst were premiered, along with the premiere of Jesper Nordin's *Emerge* for Clarinet and Orchestra, which features an app invented by Nordin that allowed clarinetist and SPCO Artistic Partner Martin Fröst to control sound and create sound sculptures in real time with his physical gestures.

The SPCO's Liquid Music Series presented the world premiere of *Come Through*, a commissioned collaboration by Bon Iver and Saint Paul contemporary dance troupe TU Dance. It premiered with four sold-out performances at Saint Paul's Palace Theater in April 2018, and since has been performed at Hollywood Bowl and Seattle's Paramount Theatre. The collaboration travels to Washington DC in March for a performance at the Kennedy Center. The Liquid Music season also featured premieres of works by Rafiq Bhatia, Emily Wells, Anna Meredith, Nathalie Joachim, Missy Mazzoli, Vijay Iyer and Teju Cole.

Grammy Award-winning Recording

The SPCO and Artistic Partner Patricia Kopatchinskaja recorded an original program centered around Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* during live performances in Saint Paul and the album from the recording session was released in October 2016 to critical acclaim. *The New York Times* included the recording in its list of the year's best classical releases and it won a Grammy award in the "Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance" category in January 2018.

Prestigious Berkeley Residency

After a successful week-long residency in Berkeley, California during the 2014-15 season with Artistic Partner Martin Fröst, the SPCO returned to the prestigious Cal Performances Orchestra Residency at University of California, Berkeley in February 2018. The SPCO and pianist Jonathan Biss performed three programs, each including a Beethoven Piano Concerto and a recent SPCO commission. Two of the commissions from the *Beethoven/5* project (Timo Andres' *The Blind Banister* and Salvatore Sciarrino's *The Dream of Stradella*) and George Tsontakis's *O Mikros, O Megas* saw their West Coast premieres during the three-day residency. "Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra shines with or without a conductor," proclaimed Joshua Kosman of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "Wherever the downbeat was coming from, the results were spot-on — and even more notably, they gave evidence of a crackerjack instrumental ensemble that can work together as a single tightly knit entity."

No Fiction Festival: True stories and personal histories told through music

Music's ability to get to the emotional heart of a story was the inspiration for The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's *No Fiction* Festival, held in March 2018. Programming included SPCO chamber music concerts at the Capri Theater, Turf Club and Saint Paul Academy on the theme of sisterhood, featuring works by intrepid composers Amy Beach, the Boulanger sisters (Nadia

and Lili), and Dame Gillian Whitehead. The festival also featured Liquid Music presentations of *Fanm d'Ayiti*, spotlighting women of Haitian song, and *Shawnee, Ohio*, illuminating life in a small Appalachian mining town, and additional events with partners On Being, Macalester College and Carleton College. Additional educational and auxiliary events for the festival included partnership programming with the Capri Theater, a panel discussion/talk-back following the *Shawnee, Ohio* presentation and a virtual residency with Nathalie Joachim in the SPCO's CONNECT schools through the premiere of *Fanm d'Ayiti*.

“After several seasons as a primarily unconduted ensemble led by our own musicians, we were able to delve more deeply than ever before into exploring and developing our own distinctive interpretations of our repertoire in the 2017-18 season,” said SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. “We were able to search for new avenues and take artistic risks with our Artistic Partners, as well as in programs led by SPCO musicians, which resulted in more distinctive and transformational performances for our community. The Grammy Award was welcome recognition of both our artistic excellence and our daring programming, and we were thrilled to bring the Grammy home and share it with our community that has so generously supported us!”

ARTS PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION

In October 2017, the SPCO joined fellow members of the Arts Partnership (the Ordway, Minnesota Opera and Schubert Club) in presenting Sphinx Virtuosi, a chamber ensemble comprised of the nation's top Black and Latinx string soloists, at the Ordway Concert Hall. The Sphinx Organization is dedicated to transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts, and the Arts Partnership was pleased to collaborate with Sphinx for the second consecutive year in its work to address the underrepresentation of people of color in classical music. The SPCO teamed up again with its fellow Arts Partnership organizations in April 2018 to launch the inaugural Family Arts Blast, a free family event that welcomed hundreds of families to the Ordway Center to participate in a plethora of arts activities and performances. The partnership worked to make the event as inclusive as possible, presenting artists of color, providing event materials in multiple languages, and providing translators to interpret the performances and activities for non-English speaking attendees.

In addition to our collaboration on programming, the members of the Arts Partnership also began an annual fundraising campaign in the 2017-18 season. Together, the Partners raised \$541,146 for the new Arts Partnership Fund, which on an annual basis provides resources to reduce rent costs for each organization, invest in the upkeep of the Ordway facility, and support co-presentations like the Sphinx Virtuosi and the Family Arts Blast.

The mission of the Arts Partnership is to strengthen its member organizations in service to the community through growing collaboration and stewardship of its shared assets. The SPCO looks forward to continued collaboration with the Arts Partnership to expand access to the Ordway, to deepen the community's engagement with the art that is created and performed there, and to develop the resources to sustain this beloved community asset for generations to come.

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 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's free online Concert Library receives more than 135,000 visits annually and offers both live and on-demand videos of concerts that can be viewed anytime, anywhere, 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 12 Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools, and its Free Family Music program, generously supported, in part, by Target®, 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.

MISSION OF THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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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