



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The SPCO and former Artistic Partner Christian Zacharias to perform at 2019 Casals Festival in Puerto Rico March 5**

**In conjunction with its Casals Festival performance, the SPCO invites members of its organization and its audiences to support hurricane relief and recovery efforts in Puerto Rico by contributing to El Fondo Boricua**

**SAINT PAUL, MN, February 25, 2019** – The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra announces today a performance in Puerto Rico on March 5, 2019 as part of the 2019 Casals Festival. Since its founding in 1957 by Spanish composer, cellist and conductor Pablo Casals, the Festival has brought some of the world’s leading artists to San Juan every year. For the 2019 Festival, the SPCO joins artists such as renowned Spanish early music master Jordi Savall, French pianist Rémi Geniet, Israeli cellist Amit Peled, American pianist Noreen Polera, the Díaz Trio and the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra.

Pianist and former SPCO Artistic Partner Christian Zacharias joins the orchestra to perform Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 27 and to conduct Beethoven’s Second Symphony. SPCO musicians Ruggero Alliffranchini (violin) and Hyobi Sim (viola) will be featured as soloists on Jörg Widmann’s Aria for String Orchestra.

Twin Cities audiences can hear the SPCO’s festival program locally this weekend as the orchestra performs the same program at the Ordway Concert Hall in downtown Saint Paul on Friday (11am and 8pm), at Carleton College in Northfield on Saturday (8pm), and at Ted Mann Concert Hall on the U of M campus on Sunday afternoon (2pm). Limited tickets for these Casals Festival preview performances are available [here](#). Tickets start at \$11 for adults and are free for children and students.

“We are thrilled at the invitation and opportunity to perform for the people of San Juan at this historic music festival that has been the pride of Puerto Rico for 63 years,” said SPCO Artistic Director Kyu-Young Kim. “We look forward to performing Mozart, Beethoven, Bruckner and Widmann with the incredible pianist and conductor Christian Zacharias.”

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To support continued recovery efforts in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria devastated the island in 2017, the SPCO is inviting members of its organization and its audiences to contribute to El Fondo Boricua, a donor advised fund of the Saint Paul Foundation dedicated to hurricane recovery and enhancing sustainability of life on the island in the aftermath of this catastrophic natural disaster. To learn more about the fund and the work it is doing, visit [www.elfondoboricua.org](http://www.elfondoboricua.org).

Those wishing to support these efforts can contribute to the fund in two ways:

- 1) Mail a check to:  
El Fondo Boricua of The Saint Paul Foundation  
101 Fifth Street East, Suite 2400  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
*Please note "SPCO" in the memo line*
- 2) Give online at [givemn.org/story/El-Fundo-Boricuas-Hurricane-Relief](http://givemn.org/story/El-Fundo-Boricuas-Hurricane-Relief)  
*After selecting the amount you wish to give, click the "Add a dedication" button, then click "Donate now." In the next box, use the drop down to select "On behalf of" and indicate "SPCO."*

"As we planned for our performance at this festival, we wanted not only to share music with the people of Puerto Rico, but to do something meaningful to benefit those recovering from the devastating effects of hurricanes Irma and Maria," said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. "We hope that the SPCO family and SPCO audiences will consider supporting El Fondo Boricua to help those in need."

## **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

### **The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra at Casals Festival**

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 | 8:00pm

Sala Sinfónica Pablo Casals, Centro de Bellas Artes Luis A. Ferré  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Bruckner:** Adagio from the Quintet in F for Strings (arr. Skrowaczewski)

**Mozart:** Piano Concerto No. 27

**Widmann:** Aria for String Orchestra

**Beethoven:** Symphony No. 2

Christian Zacharias, conductor and piano

Ruggero Alliffranchini, violin

Hyobi Sim, viola

Mozart's autumnal farewell to the piano concerto, the medium that brought him the most success in his lifetime as a composer and performer, is beautifully paired with Anton Bruckner's gorgeous Adagio for Strings, arranged from the original string quintet version by the late Stanislaw Skrowaczewski. Another elegiac work, Jörg Widmann's Aria, opens the second half, before the sunny D Major of Beethoven's Second Symphony brings the concert to a joyous conclusion.

**Tickets: \$45-\$75**

[Purchase tickets for SPCO at Casals Festival online](#)

## **PHOTOS**

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

## **VIDEOS**

[Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2: SPCO and Christian Zacharias](#)

## **ABOUT CHRISTIAN ZACHARIAS**

With his distinctive combination of integrity, unique style, surpassing linguistic expressiveness, deep musical insight and assured artistic instinct paired with his charismatic and captivating personality, Christian Zacharias has made a name for himself as one of the world's leading pianists, conductors and musical thinkers. Beginning as a pianist and later moving on to work as a conductor as well, his international career burgeoned through numerous widely acclaimed concerts with the world's leading orchestras.

In the 2017.18 season, Zacharias took over as first guest conductor of the Orquesta y Coro de la Comunidad de Madrid for the next three seasons and presents among other projects its Schumann Festival. A former Artistic Partner at the SPCO, he also maintains close ties with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Kammerorchester Basel, the Konzerthausorchester Berlin and the Bamberger Symphoniker.

### **ABOUT CASALS FESTIVAL**

The Casals Festival of Puerto Rico, founded by the famous cellist, conductor, and composer Pablo Casals, brings the most outstanding musical talent in the world to San Juan annually. Casals moved to Puerto Rico in the 1950s and by 1957 he had founded the prestigious music event that bears his name. Maestro Casals led the Festival, sharing his music with the world, until his death in 1973. For the past 63 years, the Casals Festival has brought to Puerto Rico many international artists, originally attracted by the aura and charisma of the Maestro and then by the prestige and international reputation the Festival rapidly acquired.

### **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'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 professional 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 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.