

THE SAINT PAUL
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra announces its 2019-20 season

Highlights include:

- **New Artistic Partner Rob Kapilow**, composer and commentator, who will lead audiences on an exploration of **Beethoven's iconic Seventh Symphony** in his *What Makes it Great*® format
- A multitude of uncondacted programs **led by SPCO musicians**, with **nine SPCO musicians** featured as soloists
- SPCO performance as season finale of **Lincoln Center's Great Performers Series** in May
- **Mozart's Requiem** led by **Artistic Partner Richard Egarr** performed at the Ordway Concert Hall and the Cathedral of Saint Paul with the world-renowned **St. Olaf Choir**
- **Premieres of six new works** and performances of music by numerous **living composers**
- Exciting programs led by **returning Artistic Partners**: pianist **Jeremy Denk**, conductor and keyboardist **Richard Egarr**, violinist **Pekka Kuusisto**, and conductor, keyboardist and cellist **Jonathan Cohen**
- SPCO debuts of violist **Tabea Zimmermann**, conductor **Ruth Reinhardt**, oboist/conductor **François Leleux**, conductor/harpsichordist **Jory Vinikour**, and vocalists **Benjamin Bliss**, **Theo Hoffman**, **Liv Redpath**, **Abigail Levis** and **Andrew Stenson**
- Return performances by pianist **Leif Ove Andsnes**, former SPCO Artistic Partner **Thomas Zehetmair**, violist **Ruth Killius**, conductor **Chia-Hsuan Lin** and vocalists **Yulia Van Doren**, **Reginald Mobley** and **Dashon Burton**
- **Celebrate the Northside**, a collaborative program presented in partnership with the Capri Theater in North Minneapolis, featuring a Northside community choir and led by acclaimed composer, arranger and pianist Sanford Moore
- The SPCO celebrates **10 years of partnership** with the **Capri Theater in North Minneapolis** with a three-concert series and family programming, held at Sanctuary Covenant Church in North Minneapolis while the Capri Theater undergoes renovations and expansion

- Third year of the SPCO's partnership with Saint Paul's West Side community, with a three-concert series at Humboldt High School and free family and education programming at Riverview Elementary and other community venues
- A co-presentation with The Arts Partnership (Schubert Club, Minnesota Opera, the Ordway and the SPCO) of **Sphinx Virtuosi**, an ensemble comprised of the nation's top Black and Latinx classical string soloists
- Annual holiday performances of **Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos*** and **Handel's *Messiah***
- Several **live concert video streams** throughout the season and expanded on-demand concert videos in the SPCO's **free online Concert Library**
- **Fourth year of the New Generation Initiative**, offering **free tickets for children and students**, along with additional efforts to share music with more young people
- **SPCO at Turf Club** and **SPCO at Icehouse** series
- A series of **Ordway Happy Hour Concerts** featuring food trucks and free beer from local breweries before a one-hour concert
- A continuation of the SPCO's **Free Family Music** programming, including Start the Music!, xplorchestra! and Family Concerts sponsored by Target®, held at the Ordway and Ted Mann, as well as in North Minneapolis and on Saint Paul's West Side

SAINT PAUL, MN, APRIL 17, 2019 – Today The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces its 2019-20 season – the 61st concert season for the organization. Led by SPCO musicians and a dynamic roster of Artistic Partners, the 2019-20 season features over 124 performances at 17 venues throughout the Twin Cities.

Announcing the SPCO's new Artistic Partner: Rob Kapilow, composer and commentator

The SPCO announces a new kind of Artistic Partnership for the 2019-20 season with the appointment of composer and musical commentator **Rob Kapilow** as the orchestra's newest Artistic Partner. Kapilow is known throughout the music world for his special concert format, **What Makes It Great?®** “the kind of enlightening musical seminar in which you hang on to every word and note” (*The New York Times*). Kapilow helps audiences listen with new ears, taking them deeply inside music from the composer's point of view to hear what makes it tick and what makes it great. He joins the SPCO in March for an in-depth exploration of Beethoven's iconic Seventh Symphony. As the SPCO looks to share dynamic concert experiences with our audiences and more deeply engage them with the music we play, Kapilow will illuminate both the inner workings of the music and the process by which the SPCO musicians work together as a conductorless ensemble. SPCO musicians, many of whom have worked extensively with Kapilow in chamber music formats, felt that an Artistic Partnership with such a dynamic and charismatic host would build an even stronger bond between the orchestra and our audience.

About the partnership, Kapilow said, “I am eager to help the orchestra connect in new ways with its audience and with the Twin Cities community. The ensemble’s remarkable ability to create an extraordinary “we” out of gifted individual “mes” without a conductor is a unique process I am looking forward to celebrating and sharing. I am thrilled and excited to be the orchestra’s new Artistic Partner and to see the connections we can create together.”

Programs led by SPCO musicians

The SPCO’s collaborative artistic model is unique in the orchestra world. SPCO musicians are deeply involved in choosing the repertoire they perform each season and the artists who join them. Performing without a conductor for more than half of its performances, musicians in the orchestra work together to form compelling interpretations of a wide variety of repertoire.

“The core of the SPCO season is built around the talents of our own SPCO musicians and their ability to turn on a dime from soloist to chamber musician to orchestral player,” said SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. “In particular, our SPCO-led performances this season feature a new generation of incredible wind players who have joined the orchestra recently, demonstrating the depth and versatility of their music making. We’re excited for our audiences to get to know these players and their artistry on a whole new level.”

Nine SPCO musicians featured as soloists

In addition to numerous uncondacted, musician-led performances, the 2019-20 season also features nine SPCO musicians in solo roles with the orchestra.

- September 19-29, [violinist Eunice Kim](#) will perform Saint-Saëns’ Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso for Violin and Orchestra
- November 1-2, [Principal Bassist Zachary Cohen](#) will give the US premiere of Missy Mazzoli’s Contrabass Concerto, *Dark with Excessive Bright*
- [Principal Flutist Julia Bogorad-Kogan](#) will perform Mozart’s Andante for Flute and Orchestra November 7-17
- November 29-December 1, [flutist Alicia McQuerrey](#) will perform John Corigliano’s *Voyage* for Flute and Strings
- [Principal Clarinetist Sang Yoon Kim](#) will be featured as soloist on two separate programs: on Copland’s Clarinet Concerto November 29-December 1, and on Rossini’s Variations for Clarinet and Orchestra June 5-7
- December 5-7, [Principal Cellist Julie Albers](#) will perform Haydn’s First Cello Concerto
- [Associate Concertmaster Ruggero Alliffranchini](#) will solo on two works by Vivaldi: *The Four Seasons* January 31-February 2 and the *Echo* Concerto February 28-29
- [Principal Horn James Ferree](#) will be featured as soloist on two separate programs, as well, performing Messiaen’s *Interstellar Call* February 28-29 and Mozart’s Fourth Horn Concerto April 17-21
- April 30-May 3, [Concertmaster Steven Copes](#) will take the spotlight as soloist on Prokofiev’s Violin Sonata No. 1, arranged for orchestra by former SPCO Artistic Partner Stephen Prutsman.

Lincoln Center's Great Performers Series

The SPCO will perform in New York City in May 2020 as part of Lincoln Center's 54th Great Performers Series. Since its inception, the series has showcased many of the world's most accomplished and inspirational musicians in the concert halls and performance spaces that span the Lincoln Center campus. On May 16, 2020, the SPCO concludes the Great Performers Series with violinist and Artistic Partner Pekka Kuusisto, who performs the New York premiere of Anders Hillborg's *Bach Materia*, a concerto for violin and strings inspired by and responding to Bach's *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 3, which opens the program. Composed as part of a project by the Swedish Chamber Orchestra in which six composers were commissioned to write works inspired by and responding to each of the six *Brandenburg* Concertos, *Bach Materia* received its US premiere by the SPCO and Kuusisto in 2017. The orchestra, led from within the ensemble, performs Haydn's Symphony No. 99 on the second half of the program, after which Kuusisto returns to lead Prokofiev's *Classical* Symphony.

Mozart's Requiem with the St. Olaf Choir

Artistic Partner Richard Egarr and the world-renowned St. Olaf Choir join the SPCO for very special performances of Mozart's Requiem at the Cathedral of Saint Paul and Ordway Concert Hall. Shrouded in mystery and controversy, Requiem is one of Mozart's most famous works. Unfinished at the time of his death, the piece was finished shortly after by Franz Süssmayr, who worked as a copyist for Mozart at the end of his life. The St. Olaf Choir will share its incomparable artistry at the Cathedral of Saint Paul with the audience on additional choral works to be announced, while famous unfinished works by Schubert and Bach round out the program at the Ordway Concert Hall. These performances mark the first collaboration between the SPCO and the St. Olaf Choir since 2003.

Six premieres and music by living composers

Renowned for its vigorous advocacy for new music, the SPCO will premiere six commissioned works and will perform numerous additional works by living composers throughout the season.

"The juxtaposition of new work with music from the past is core to the SPCO's approach to programming and allows our audiences to experience classical music as a living and breathing art form," said Kim

The SPCO continues its tradition of presenting American music over Thanksgiving weekend, with three pieces by iconic American composer Aaron Copland, including *Appalachian Spring*, along with [John Corigliano's](#) *Voyage* for Flute and Strings and the world premiere of former Artistic Partner [Stephen Prutsman's](#) *Godspeed* for String Orchestra, commissioned by the SPCO.

The SPCO will present premieres of five additional works throughout the season, including music by [Missy Mazzoli](#) and [Cindy Cox](#) and SPCO commissions by [Nico Muhly](#), [Jessie Montgomery](#) and [Sky Macklay](#). Music by several living composers will also be performed, including works by [Dobrinka Tabakova](#), [Chen Yi](#), [Andrea Tarrodi](#), [Anders Hillborg](#), [Valerie Coleman](#) and [TJ Cole](#), several of whom will be on hand for pre-concert talks accompanying the performances of their work.

Exciting programs led by Artistic Partners

- **Jeremy Denk** has endeared himself to SPCO audiences with his distinctive and refreshing interpretations of the Classical repertoire. In our opening concert of the 2019-20 season, Denk and the SPCO will perform the great Romantic piano concerto of Robert Schumann, which Denk will direct from the piano.
- **Richard Egarr's** Artistic Partnership begins officially in the 2019-20 season with three spectacular programs, beginning with Bach harpsichord concertos and capped by special performances of Schubert's *Unfinished* Symphony and Mozart's Requiem with the world-renowned St. Olaf Choir and a stellar cast of vocal soloists in May 2020.
- In addition to his performance with the SPCO at Lincoln Center in May 2020, **Pekka Kuusisto** will join the orchestra for Twin Cities performances of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, the U.S. premiere of a new violin concerto by Nico Muhly and a world premiere by Cindy Cox.
- **Jonathan Cohen's** versatility is on full display as he brings the 2019-20 season to a rousing conclusion with a program spanning three centuries of music featuring virtuosic concertante works by Haydn and Michael Tippett. Beethoven's sunny Fourth Symphony caps off the season finale with Cohen as conductor.

World-renowned guest artists

"We are proud to welcome an exciting array of guest artists to work with the SPCO in the 2019-20 season," said Kim. "All of them have a special affinity for the collaborative and dynamic music making style of the SPCO and we expect some magical chemistry to unfold."

Violist extraordinaire **Tabea Zimmermann**, recently announced as Artist-in-Residence for the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, makes her SPCO debut as both soloist and director in October 2019 in her own viola transcription of Schumann's Cello Concerto. Conductor **Ruth Reinhardt** makes her SPCO debut in November and conductor **Chia-Hsuan Lin** returns to the podium Thanksgiving weekend. Also in November, oboe superstar and gifted conductor **François Leleux** leads a program of Haydn and Mendelssohn. Conductor and harpsichordist **Jory Vinikour** will lead the orchestra's *Messiah* performances with vocalists **Yulia Van Doren**, **Reginald Mobley**, **Benjamin Bliss** and **Theo Hoffman**, as well as renowned choral ensemble **The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists**. One of the greatest pianists of our time, **Leif Ove Andsnes**, returns to the SPCO after a long hiatus to play and direct two of Mozart's greatest concertos in February. In April, violist **Ruth Killius** returns with husband and former Artistic Partner **Thomas Zehetmair** for a rare performance of Britten's Double Concerto. Vocalists **Liv Redpath**, **Abigail Levis**, **Andrew Stenson** and **Dashon Burton** will join the SPCO and the **St. Olaf Choir** for performances of Mozart's Requiem in May.

Celebrate the Northside

North Minneapolis is a community rich with history, stories, talent and heart. The Capri Theater and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra have proudly partnered for over 10 years to bring SPCO performances to the Northside of Minneapolis. The second program in this year's Northside series will be a collaborative concert experience that celebrates the Northside community through music. Led by acclaimed composer, arranger and pianist **Sanford Moore**, this program will feature a Northside community choir — specially formed for this event — along with the SPCO and spoken

word artists, working together to bring the spirit of this important community to the stage. The first iteration of this collaborative concert experience, the 2017 Northside Celebration, included the world premiere of a newly commissioned choral work performed by the SPCO and a community choir from the Northside, which was met with overwhelming enthusiasm. Dennis Spears, Artistic Director of the Capri Theater's Legends Series, first voiced the goal of bringing people together, connecting them through the power of music and "...[shining] a powerful ray of hope and love across this community." Three years later, the Capri and the SPCO are thrilled to bring this community-driven concert concept to the Northside once again, as well as to the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts.

The SPCO's West Side Series

The 2019-20 season is the third year of the SPCO's partnership with Saint Paul's West Side community, with a three-concert series at Humboldt High School. These concerts are presented in both English and Spanish and frequently feature performances by West Side student musicians. Tickets are free for West Side residents, West Side students and their families. As part of this partnership, the SPCO also brings free family programming to the community and the West Side's Riverview Elementary is now a participating school in the SPCO's CONNECT music education program.

Sphinx Virtuosi co-presented with The Arts Partnership **(The SPCO, Schubert Club, Minnesota Opera and the Ordway)**

On March 1, The Arts Partnership will join forces once again for a co-presentation of [**Sphinx Virtuosi**](#). A chamber ensemble comprised of the nation's top Black and Latinx classical string soloists, the Sphinx Virtuosi returns to Saint Paul after acclaimed performances at the Ordway in 2016, 2017 and 2018, this time with [**soprano Elaine Alvarez**](#). The ensemble will perform works that show how justice and peace find their way into music without regard to time and place. Repertoire to be selected from music by Philip Herbert, John Williams, Michael Abels, Franz Schubert, Béla Bartók, Romero Aldemaro and more.

Free live and on-demand concert videos in the SPCO's online Concert Library

Expanding on its past streaming audio offerings, the SPCO launched the [**Concert Library**](#) in spring of 2017, offering full-length concert videos for live streaming and on-demand viewing, anytime, anywhere, completely free of charge.

Since the launch of the Concert Library, the SPCO has live streamed 13 performances, including two Family Concerts, and has added numerous videos to its on-demand library, with plans to live stream 7-10 concerts per season, as funding permits.

"Since the founding of the SPCO 60 years ago, we've been committed to the belief that this orchestra belongs to everyone in this community," said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. "We've made our concerts increasingly accessible, bringing our music to numerous venues throughout the Twin Cities and offering the most affordable ticket prices of any professional American orchestra. With the recent addition of our free online Concert Library, we're making it possible for even more people in our community to experience the transformational performances of the SPCO."

Continuation of the New Generation Initiative

In August 2016, the SPCO announced the New Generation Initiative, a suite of programs designed to dramatically expand access to classical music for young people in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metro area. Through generous funding from donors, the SPCO has made it easier than ever for young people to experience SPCO concerts through free and reduced-priced tickets, as well as new concert formats and experiences, which will be continued next season.

- **Free tickets for children and students**

Building on its historical commitment to affordable ticket prices, the SPCO further expanded access to young people by offering free child and student tickets for all regular SPCO concerts starting in the 2016-17 season. Children and students can get free tickets to as many SPCO concerts as they would like, with nearly the entire season available for free ticket reservations. Child and student attendance has more than quadrupled since the launch of the New Generation Initiative.

- **SPCO at Icehouse and SPCO at Turf Club**

After highly successful three-concert series at Icehouse and Turf Club during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons, the SPCO will continue performing at both venues next season. Patrons will enjoy intimate chamber music performances, specialty cocktails and delicious food all at once in these inviting and eclectic venues.

Tickets for individual SPCO at Icehouse and SPCO at Turf Club events will be available one month before each concert for \$20. The ticket price includes a drink of choice at each of the three concerts. Food will also be available for purchase before, during and after the performance.

- **Happy Hour Concerts**

The SPCO continues its series of Happy Hour Concerts at the Ordway Concert Hall in May and June 2020. These one-hour concerts feature a shortened program and a special happy hour before the concert from 4:00–6:00pm with free beer from local breweries and food available for purchase from various Twin Cities food trucks.

- **Continuation of club2030 program**

In addition to free student and child tickets and new concert formats, the SPCO will continue to offer \$10 best available seats for club2030 members (the SPCO's free club for people in their 20s and 30s) at nearly all SPCO concerts in the 2019-20 season. The SPCO will also continue to offer post-concert after parties for club2030 members throughout the season. The SPCO introduced its club2030 program in 2007 and membership has grown to over 6,300 young people in their 20s and 30s to date.

15 regular performance venues throughout the Twin Cities

In addition to the Ordway Concert Hall, the SPCO will continue its regular concert series in Twin Cities suburbs and residential neighborhoods of Minneapolis and Saint Paul in 2019-20:

- Ordway Concert Hall in downtown Saint Paul
- Saint Paul's United Church of Christ in Summit Hill, Saint Paul
- Ted Mann Concert Hall at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- Temple Israel in Uptown Minneapolis
- Sanctuary Covenant Church in North Minneapolis (during Capri Theater renovations)
- Benson Great Hall at Bethel University, Arden Hills
- Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater
- Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi
- Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley
- Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie
- Wayzata Community Church in Wayzata
- Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University, Saint Paul
- Icehouse in Minneapolis
- The Turf Club in Midway Saint Paul
- Humboldt High School Auditorium on Saint Paul's West Side

Ticket information

Season ticket packages are now available for purchase. To learn about available packages and order tickets, call the SPCO Ticket Office at 651.291.1144 or visit www.thespco.org. To request a brochure, email tickets@spcomail.org. The Ticket Office is open 12pm – 5pm Monday through Friday (extended hours of 10am – 5pm through May 10) and 11am – 3pm on Saturday. Season ticket packages start at just \$30 for adults and are free for children and students. Individual tickets for the 2019-20 season will go on sale in August, with ticket prices ranging from \$11-\$55 for adults (free for children and students).

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 61st 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, currently including British Baroque specialists Jonathan Cohen and Richard Egarr, American pianist Jeremy Denk, Swedish Clarinetist Martin Fröst, American composer and musical commentator Rob Kapilow, 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 158 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 engagement 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.

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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