



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Cassie Pilgrim appointed as Principal Oboe of the SPCO**

**SAINT PAUL, MN, JUNE 5, 2019** — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today that Cassie Pilgrim has been appointed to the orchestra's Principal Oboe position effective at the beginning of the 2019.20 season.

A native of Chamblee, Georgia, Cassie Pilgrim has performed in The Philadelphia Orchestra and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. She has also appeared at multiple summer festivals including Festival Mozaic, Music from Angel Fire, the Aspen Music Festival and the Colorado College Summer Music Festival. Pilgrim was recently an Artist Diploma student of Robert Walters at the Oberlin Conservatory and she previously studied with Richard Woodhams at the Curtis Institute of Music and Elizabeth Koch Tiscione.

Pilgrim was unanimously chosen for the role of Principal Oboe at the SPCO by the musician-comprised audition committee. The 2019.20 season is a celebration of winds, showcasing a new generation of wind players who have joined the orchestra recently. Pilgrim will be featured throughout the season, and highlights include Rossini's beautiful oboe solo in *The Silken Ladder*, Telemann's Quartet in A Minor for winds, Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 1*, and the exciting *Serenade for Winds* by Dvořák. Pilgrim also joins the SPCO for the 2018.19 Season Finale this weekend with performances of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and *Prague Symphony* on June 7–9 at the Ordway Concert Hall.

"The musicians of the SPCO are thrilled to welcome Cassie Pilgrim as our new Principal Oboist," said SPCO Principal Flutist Julia Bogorad-Kogan. "This is such a key position for us,

and Cassie has a great combination of skills as ensemble player, leader and beautiful soloist. It will be a pleasure to make music with her and watch her blossom in this role.”

Regarding her appointment, Cassie Pilgrim said, “I have been a fan of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra for a long time; to think that I get to perform with the very orchestra whose recordings always charmed and inspired awe in me — I’m very grateful! I am beyond excited to make music with my world-class colleagues and engage with the Twin Cities.”

## **PHOTOS**

Attached

## **ABOUT CASSIE PILGRIM**

A native of Chamblee, Georgia, Cassie Pilgrim is the Principal Oboist of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. In addition, she has performed in The Philadelphia Orchestra and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. During the summer, she has appeared at Festival Mozaic, Music from Angel Fire, the Aspen Music Festival and the Colorado College Summer Music Festival. Recently an Artist Diploma student of Robert Walters at the Oberlin Conservatory, Cassie previously studied with Richard Woodhams at the Curtis Institute of Music and Elizabeth Koch Tiscione. She began studying the oboe from the age of 10. Aside from music, Cassie loves hammocking and eating dimsum.

## **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 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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