

THE SAINT PAUL
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

SPCO CONCERTS CANCELED THROUGH DECEMBER 2020

SAINT PAUL, MN, AUGUST 6, 2020 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today it will cancel all concerts September–December 2020 in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. This decision was made with the health and safety of SPCO audiences, musicians, staff and the Twin Cities community in mind, and in close consultation with a team of medical experts.

The SPCO is committed to sharing music digitally during this time through the [Concert Library](#), which includes recordings of 62 concerts and 122 compositions, and will continue to be available free of charge. Additionally, the SPCO will continue to release encore streams (rebroadcasts of past performances) this fall and is exploring the possibility of streaming new performances from the Ordway Concert Hall.

“While it is disappointing that we cannot gather with our audience for live performances this fall, we will continue to share the orchestra and the music digitally during this time,” said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. “In addition to our free online Concert Library and planned series of encore streams, we are exploring the possibility of developing new material to share digitally, including live performances streamed from the Ordway Concert Hall. Our most important consideration in developing new performances will be the health and safety of our musicians and staff.”

“We want to reiterate that all of our digital concerts will continue to be provided completely free of charge,” said Limbacher. “This is an important element of our ongoing commitment to share the orchestra and the music with as many people as possible in our community.”

The organization will share specific plans for upcoming free concert video streams from the Ordway Concert Hall in the coming weeks.

Amid uncertainty as to what the winter will bring, SPCO concerts from January–June 2021 are currently planned to go on as scheduled. The organization will continue to work with medical consultants and follow recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention while making decisions regarding future concerts. Ticket holders will be notified if any further concert cancellations become necessary.

TICKET HOLDER INFORMATION FOR CANCELED CONCERTS

Ticket holders are encouraged to consider turning back their tickets as a tax-deductible contribution to the SPCO at thespco.org/turnback. The global COVID-19 crisis represents a significant financial challenge for the SPCO, and the organization is relying on support from the SPCO audience and Twin Cities community to keep the SPCO healthy and continually able to serve the community.

If ticket holders are unable or do not wish to turn back their tickets at this time, the value of tickets for canceled concerts will be automatically banked in their accounts to be used to purchase tickets this spring or in the following concert season. Alternatively, ticket holders may request to have the value of tickets for canceled concerts refunded by contacting the Ticket Office by phone at 651.291.1144 or by email at tickets@spcomail.org. The SPCO offices are currently closed and all staff members are working remotely, including Ticket Office staff. Ticket Office hours are Monday through Friday, 12pm–5pm.

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 62nd 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 dynamic roster of Artistic Partners, whose engagements with the orchestra have been postponed until the 2021.22 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The virtuoso musicians of the SPCO present more than 100 concerts and educational programs in the Twin Cities each year. The orchestra's free online Concert Library receives more than 80,000 visits annually and offers both live and on-demand videos of concerts that can be viewed anytime, anywhere, completely free of charge. Through its partnership with Classical Minnesota Public Radio, the SPCO is regularly heard on public radio programs that reach nearly 1 million listeners each week on over 250 stations. Additionally, the SPCO has released 67 recordings, including the 2018 Grammy Award-winning recording of Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* with violinist and former 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 and its innovative audience engagement efforts. 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 ticket prices 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 \$9 per month to attend unlimited concerts. The SPCO's award-winning CONNECT education program reaches over 3,000 students and teachers annually in 10 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.

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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