

THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

SPCO CONCERTS CANCELED THROUGH END OF THE 2019.20 SEASON (JUNE 14)

SAINT PAUL, MN, April 16, 2020 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today that it will cancel all concerts through the end of the 2019.20 Season (June 14) in an effort to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). This decision has been made in accordance with guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Amid these challenging times we remain very optimistic about the future of the SPCO,” said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. “We will get to the other side of this crisis and we will get there with a renewed determination to share the music we perform with everyone in our community. From our perspective, this difficult and uncertain time period has highlighted the special power of this music to bring joy, to engender reflection and to provide solace.”

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. Audience support helps keep the SPCO healthy and continually able to serve the community. When ticketholders turn back their tickets, they allow the SPCO to immediately put those dollars to work.

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 to be used next season or they can have the value of their tickets refunded by contacting the Ticket Office. The Ticket Office walk-up window will be closed during this time. Ticket holders may contact the Ticket Office via phone 651.291.1144 Monday through Friday, 12pm–5pm and Saturday 11am–3pm or email at tickets@spcomail.org.

CONCERT LIBRARY AND DIGITAL MEDIA OPTIONS DURING THIS TIME

During these unprecedented times, the SPCO’s digital capabilities give the organization an opportunity to continue serving people in Minnesota and beyond while live concerts aren’t possible. The SPCO recently [announced](#) four live video events in its free online Concert Library (thespco.org/music) during the month of April. These video events include new material such as [performances from SPCO musicians at home](#) and Q&A’s with musicians. After two weekends of streams — featuring a Live Release of Mozart’s Symphony No. 29 and two Live Rebroadcasts of Bach’s *Saint John Passion* — the Concert Library has seen a vast increase in viewership. More than 2,000 people watched the live video events each weekend, and since the COVID-19 crisis began in mid-March, the overall Concert Library audience has increased eightfold.

To make it even easier to access the Concert Library during the COVID-19 crisis, visitors are not currently required to register to watch free video concerts.

Upcoming streaming events with additional SPCO concert material

- **Saturday, April 18 at 8pm:**
Live Rebroadcast: SPCO 60th Anniversary Concert: Ruth Reinhardt Conducts Schubert's Fifth Symphony
- **Saturday, April 25 at 10am:**
Live Rebroadcast: Family Concert — *Race for the Reef*

Even more concerts are available on demand anytime

Launched in 2017, the Concert Library was created to serve more people in the community, especially those who would otherwise be unable to attend concerts in person. The orchestra's free online [Concert Library](#) offers both live and on-demand videos of concerts that can be viewed anytime, anywhere, completely free of charge. The library has 18 full-length video concerts for free on-demand viewing, including two concerts designed for children and their families, and dozens of audio concerts for streaming through the SPCO's partnership with Classical Minnesota Public Radio.

In addition to the website (thespco.org/music), the free Concert Library is also available as a mobile app for Apple and Android devices via the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

Resources to enhance engagement for children and students

The Concert Library has two acclaimed Family Concert videos for on-demand streaming: *Race for the Reef* and *A Nighttime Story*, both geared towards children ages 6–12, but enjoyable by people of any age. The live rebroadcast event of *Race for the Reef* will be augmented with new material and will be accompanied with activities designed to extend and enhance the concert viewing experience.

In addition to the live rebroadcast, the SPCO will provide engagement resources for parents, guardians and educators to help spark the imagination and explore even more videos on the Concert Library. These resources will feature listening lessons and supplementary materials for students and children to engage with the music.

"We believe that the Concert Library is a place for everyone — including children and students," said Chief Community Value Officer, Erin Jude. "Whether you are a parent or guardian looking for engaging online content for the young people in your life or an educator looking for listening activities to supplement distance learning or instrument instruction, we are proud to be able to offer options to the community. And if you're just looking for something to sit down and watch as a family, we have you covered there too!"

Viewers will be able to access these additional resources by visiting thespco.org/resources as they become available.

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 61st 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 dynamic roster of [Artistic Partners](#), currently including British Baroque specialists Jonathan Cohen and Richard Egarr, American pianist Jeremy Denk, American composer and musical commentator Rob Kapilow, and Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto. Past Artistic Partners include Roberto Abbado, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Joshua Bell, Douglas Boyd, Martin Fröst, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, 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 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 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 \$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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