

THE SAINT PAUL
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

Capri
★★★ Theater

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Capri Theater present:

**Northside Celebration
January 24 & 25
Ordway Concert Hall & North Community High School**

**A collaborative concert celebrating North Minneapolis
through music**

- Celebration builds upon 10 years of partnership between the SPCO and the Capri Theater
- Project celebrates the Northside community by bringing together local artists and residents to express a message of love for North Minneapolis through music
- Three performances on Friday, January 24 and Saturday, January 25, at the Ordway Concert Hall and North Community High School
- This unique performance brings gospel choir music, orchestral music and spoken word together under the thoughtful direction of Sanford Moore, Dennis Spears, Kevin West, Courtland Pickens and Sherri Orr
- Performances from the Northside Celebration Choir, Courtland Pickens Community Youth Choir, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Greta Oglesby, soloist.
- Tickets for the North Community High School performances are free, but reservations are required and can be made at www.thespco.org/northside or by calling the SPCO Ticket Office at 651.291.1144.

Saint Paul, MN, January 7, 2020 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) and the Capri Theater proudly present Northside Celebration at 8 p.m. Friday, January 24 at the Ordway Concert Hall and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, January 25 at North High School, 1500 James Avenue North, Minneapolis, 55411.

The three collaborative concerts will celebrate the North Minneapolis community through music. Tickets for the North Community High School performances are free, but reservations are required and can be made at www.thespco.org/northside, or by calling the SPCO Ticket Office at 651.291.1144. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for all performances.

This season also marks 10 years of community partnership for the SPCO with the Capri Theater and members of the North Minneapolis community. The Capri presents a three-concert SPCO chamber music series each season and hosts two SPCO programs specifically designed for families with young children. These concerts are free for Northside residents.

This is the second iteration of the Northside Celebration and new to this year's celebration, one performance will take place at the Ordway Concert Hall, the SPCO's home in downtown Saint Paul, in addition to two performances in North Minneapolis.

Music will be performed by the Northside Celebration Choir — a choir formed especially for this event — the Courtland Pickens Community Youth Choir, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Greta Oglesby, soloist. Co-presented by the Capri Theater, this unique performance brings the gospel choral tradition, orchestral music and spoken word together under the thoughtful direction of Sanford Moore, Dennis Spears, Kevin West, Courtland Pickens and Sherri Orr.

“We deeply value our partnership with the Capri Theater and all the incredible artists that we are privileged to work with on this special event,” said SPCO Chief Community Value Officer Erin Jude. “We are delighted that, with the addition of the Ordway performance this year, even more people will be able to experience the spirit and talent that flows out of the Northside.”

The Northside Celebration will feature familiar works like *The Storm Is Passing Over* and several arrangements for choir and orchestra together, under the direction of Dr. Kristina Boerger. Many pieces on the program have been arranged by Sanford Moore, including *The Dream* and *Jesus Lover of My Soul (Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring)*. It will also feature original spoken word by Northside students, teachers and artists.

The inspiration for this concert originated five years ago during a luncheon with Northside community residents and representatives from the SPCO and the Capri. Amidst avid support for a continued SPCO presence at the Capri, several themes surfaced during the discussion, including intense community pride in the face of adversity, a desire for opportunities to collaborate and feature local artists, and a desire to emphasize connection and strengthen relationships in the community.

In response to this feedback, Dennis Spears, Artistic Director of the Capri's *Legends* series, suggested that the Capri and the SPCO take their partnership to the next level by collaborating to make music together, with the community, and with the support of acclaimed composer, arranger and pianist Sanford Moore. Understanding the power of music and coupling this with themes of hope, pride, collaboration and strong community connections, the Northside Celebration was born.

The inaugural Northside Celebration in 2017 was a great success and a highlight of the SPCO 2016.17 season. For 90 captivating minutes, spoken word, stories and reflections were woven through musical selections. The Northside Celebration Choir, made up of singers from North Minneapolis churches and organizations, sang a mixture of traditional gospel pieces and newer works. The SPCO performed the

rousing piece *Strum* by American composer Jessie Montgomery and punctuated Master Storyteller Nothondo Zulu's stories of growing up on the Northside with the music of William Grant Still.

"The inaugural Northside Celebration in 2017 proved that there is power in community members coming together from many different walks of life and rejoicing," remarked Dennis Spears. "This year, in an even greater effort to foster unity, our concert will turn up the level of joy and togetherness with the presence of even more strong, beautiful voices from the Northside. It will be electric!"

More information:

www.thecapritheater.org or www.thespco.org.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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 unconducted 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 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.

ABOUT THE CAPRI THEATER

The [Capri Theater](#) in North Minneapolis is a dynamic and welcoming arts and learning venue for students, emerging artists, established performers and audiences.

Built in 1927, the Capri is the last remaining theater of the original 13 theaters that were once located in North Minneapolis. In the course of its 91-year history, the Capri has operated as a movie theater and a venue for live entertainment and youth programming. It was also the place where a young artist named Prince Rogers Nelson first performed as a solo artist in 1979.

Now, after nearly 10 years in the making, construction on the Capri Theater expansion and renovation has begun. The new Capri will feature a smartly renovated theater with new amenities, a Best Buy Teen Tech Center, a Great Hall performance and community space, classrooms, an outdoor plaza and more. The design blends and connects the old with the new; integrating enhancements to the current theater while creating a distinctive new structure wrapped around the west and south of the current building.

Capri programs continue at various Northside locations while the theater is closed for construction, including The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's Northside Chamber Music Series, First Thursday Films, and the Capri Glee! Adult Community Choir, among others.

The grand opening of the new Capri is scheduled for fall, 2020. For more information contact James Scott, Director of the Capri, 612.643.2024 or jscott@pcyc-mpls.org.

The Capri is owned and operated by PCYC, 2210 Oliver Avenue North in Minneapolis.

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