

THE SAINT PAUL
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra announces its 2020.21 season

Highlights include:

- An expansion upon the “**Led by SPCO Musicians**” model with an unprecedented number of unperformed programs curated by a broad group of orchestra members
- **15 SPCO musicians** featured as soloists throughout the season
- **Premieres of six new works** and performances of music by numerous **living composers**
- The SPCO celebrates **11 years of partnership** with the **Capri Theater in North Minneapolis** and the Capri’s grand re-opening with a three-concert series
- Annual holiday performances of **Bach’s *Brandenburg Concertos*** and **Handel’s *Messiah***
- **Fifth year of the New Generation Initiative**, offering **free tickets for children and students**, along with additional efforts to share music with more young people
- Expanded concert videos in the SPCO’s **free online Concert Library**
- New digital **engagement resources** for children, families and educators to **expand and enhance the online Concert Library** experience
- Upcoming **special encore video streams** during the COVID-19 pandemic

SAINT PAUL, MN, MAY 13, 2020 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today its 2020.21 season — the 62nd concert season for the organization. Led by SPCO Musicians, the 2020.21 season features over 101 performances at 11 venues throughout the Twin Cities.

Expanding upon the “Led by SPCO Musicians” model in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The SPCO has a long history of stable financial stewardship, achieving balanced budgets in 24 out of the last 26 years. However, like all arts organizations around the world, the SPCO is facing an unprecedented financial situation due to the current global pandemic. The SPCO is taking proactive steps to significantly reduce expenses so it can reach the other side of this crisis as a strong and healthy organization. In order to achieve this goal and to ensure the SPCO continues to serve the Twin Cities community next season and for generations to come, the organization will not be bringing its Artistic Partners or other guest artists to perform with the orchestra during the 2020.21 season, focusing programming and resources instead on its own musicians. The SPCO remains committed to the Artistic Partner model for the long term, and the 2021.22 season will see their welcomed return.

Recognizing the need to adapt in the 2020.21 season, the SPCO’s collaborative artistic model was unleashed as never before. The COVID-19 pandemic created the opportunity for the SPCO musicians to come together to curate a truly special season of concerts. The orchestra’s members gathered virtually to work as an ensemble and create a new season of programs that bare the heart, soul and creativity of the SPCO musicians. The resulting 2020.21 season is almost fully unperformed — containing concerts that highlight the versatility of the SPCO’s world-class musicians as top-flight orchestral members, sensitive chamber musicians and virtuosic soloists. The 2020.21 season is truly “Led by SPCO Musicians.”

“During this crisis we are committed to taking care of our musicians and staff and protecting the financial health of the organization,” said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. “At the same time, we will provide our community with a satisfying and dynamic season that deeply reflects the artistic passions of our musicians. More musicians were involved in constructing the programming than ever before. They have captured musically the profound and contradictory impulses and emotions of this extraordinary time in our history.”

“My colleagues in the orchestra rallied around the idea that the 2020.21 season presented a unique opportunity for the SPCO to take its audience on a journey of musical discovery, one that will be guided by your very own SPCO musicians,” said SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. “As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, we seized the opportunity for our own musicians to step up, not just in leading more concerts and playing more chamber music, but in planning a season that explores all the facets of the SPCO’s artistry, from intimate chamber music to full orchestral works. We expanded our programming committee to include more than half of the orchestra, and the programs that resulted are a true team effort. We’re thrilled to share this special season with you, one which reflects the times we are living in and the music that we most wanted to share with our audiences during this unprecedented crisis.”

15 SPCO musicians featured as soloists

In addition to numerous unperformed, musician-led performances, the 2020.21 season also features 15 SPCO musicians in solo roles with the orchestra.

- October 16–18, [Principal Cellist Julie Albers](#) will perform Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme*
- November 6–8, [cellist Sarah Lewis](#) will perform Offenbach's *Les Larmes de Jacqueline* (*Jacqueline's Tears*)
- [Violinist Nina Tso-Ning Fan](#) will perform *Vox Amoris*, Fantasy for Violin and Strings by Pēteris Vasks
- November 13–15, [Concertmaster Steven Copes](#) will take the spotlight as soloist on Prokofiev's Violin Sonata No. 1, arranged for chamber orchestra by former SPCO Artistic Partner Stephen Prutsman
- [Principal Oboist Cassie Pilgrim](#) will perform Barber's Canzonetta for Oboe and Strings November 27–29
- [Principal Horn James Ferree](#) will perform Mozart's Fourth Horn Concerto January 8–10
- February 4–6, [Principal Flutist Julia Bogorad-Kogan](#) will perform Debussy's *Syrinx* for Solo Flute
- February 19–21, [violinist Maureen Nelson](#) will perform Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*
- [Cellist Richard Belcher](#) will perform Boccherini's Cello Concerto May 6–9
- May 6–9, [flutist Alicia McQuerrey](#) will perform Vivaldi's Flute Concerto No. 2, *The Night*
- [Principal Clarinetist Sang Yoon Kim](#) will be featured as a soloist in two programs, performing Hartmann's Chamber Concerto for Clarinet and String Quartet March 12–13 and Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A Major May 14–18
- [Principal Violinist Kyu-Young Kim](#) and [violinist Daria Adams](#) will be featured as soloists on Bach's Double Violin Concerto May 28–June 6
- May 28–June 6, [trumpeter Lynn Erickson](#) will perform Handel's *Water Piece* from Suite in D Major
- [Violinist Eunice Kim](#) will perform Pärt's *Fratres* for Violin, Strings and Percussion June 11–13.

Six premieres and music by living composers

The SPCO remains steadfastly committed to presenting a wide range of music by living composers, illuminating classical music through contemporary lenses. The SPCO will premiere six commissioned works and will perform numerous additional works by living composers throughout the season.

“Performing contemporary works has been central to the SPCO’s artistic vision from its earliest days, and even in these challenging times, we have curated a season that includes new music and premieres by a fascinating and diverse group of composers,” said Kim.

The SPCO will present the U.S. premiere of a string orchestra work by [Thomas Adés](#) and the world premiere of Saint Paul local [PaviElle French's](#) second SPCO commission, *Sands of Time*. The world premiere of SPCO Principal Horn [James Ferree's](#) arrangement of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* for Chamber Orchestra is sure to be a highlight of the season.

Additionally, the SPCO will also present three premieres of pieces that were originally intended to be performed in the 2019.20 season but were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This

includes [Stephen Prutsman's](#) arrangement of Prokofiev's First Violin Sonata for Violin and Orchestra, *If a train leaves for New York* by [Sky Macklay](#), and *Shift, Change, Turn, and Variations* by [Jessie Montgomery](#).

Music by several more living composers will also be performed, including works by [TJ Cole](#), [Valerie Coleman](#), [Gabriela Lena Frank](#), [John Harbison](#), [Arvo Pärt](#), [Peter Schickele \(P.D.Q. Bach\)](#), [Pēteris Vasks](#) and [Jörg Widmann](#).

Free 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 start of the COVID-19 crisis, the Concert Library has been visited more than 80,000 times.

Since the launch of the Concert Library, the SPCO has live streamed 19 performances, including two Family Concerts, and has added numerous videos to its on-demand library, which will continue to be available throughout the 2020.21 season. While the SPCO aspires to continue live streaming additional concerts next season, its ability to do so will be dependent on raising special funding to cover the costs of these streams, as the organization has had to reallocate its limited resources to support general operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting financial crisis. Any plans for live streaming in the 2020.21 season will be announced at a later date if special funding becomes available.

“The Concert Library has proven to be a source of enrichment and joy for our community during the COVID-19 crisis, allowing thousands of Minnesotans to continue to enjoy transformational SPCO performances from the safety of their homes,” said Limbacher. “We’re looking forward to welcoming our audiences back to our live concerts next season and to sharing performances via the online Concert Library with those who are unable to attend concerts in person.”

Concert Library engagement resources for children, families and educators

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SPCO created an [engagement resources page for children, families and educators](#) to use at home in conjunction with the Concert Library. There are new materials to entertain, educate and extend the experience of viewing the two family concerts currently available on the Concert Library — *Race for the Reef* and *A Nighttime Story* — as well as other activities that will take children on an exploration through the rest of the SPCO Concert Library. The growing list of resources includes listening activities, coloring pages, musical scavenger hunts and more. It can be found at thespco.org/resources.

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 under the age of 17 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.

- **Continuation of club2030 program and new club2030 Concert Membership program**

In addition to free student and child tickets, 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 concerts in the 2020.21 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.

Announced this past February, the new club2030 Concert Membership program allows participants of the SPCO's club2030 program to attend an unlimited number of SPCO concerts for only \$5 per month. The new club2030 Concert Membership expands upon the original SPCO Concert Membership program, launched in 2012, by offering an even more affordable option for young people.

11 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 2020.21:

- 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
- The Capri Theater in North Minneapolis
- 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

Ticket information

Season ticket packages are now available for purchase. To learn about available packages and to 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 June 5) 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

2020.21 season will go on sale in August, with ticket prices ranging from \$11–\$55 for adults (free for children and students).

During the current pandemic, the SPCO offices are closed and all staff members are working remotely, including Ticket Office staff. While the walk-up window is closed, the Ticket Office is available via phone or email (see above for contact information).

Important statement: *The SPCO is continuing to monitor the quickly evolving situation around COVID-19, following guidelines and advice provided by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Amid the uncertainty surrounding the current pandemic, the SPCO remains hopeful that concerts will be performed this fall. The SPCO will continue to inform its audiences of any changes to future concerts, and will continue to offer the flexibility of free ticket exchanges and the ability to bank ticket value for future use if any concerts are changed or rescheduled, as well as the options to donate ticket value to the SPCO or request a refund. The SPCO will also share information regarding steps the organization is taking to ensure concerts are performed in a safe environment.*

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL STREAMING EVENTS IN MAY 2020

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 are not possible. After four successful special streaming events in the month of April, which featured rebroadcasts of past SPCO performances augmented with new materials, the SPCO will present three additional streaming events in May 2020. These upcoming digital concerts will be curated and hosted by different members of the orchestra, who have chosen their favorite pieces in the Concert Library and will discuss what the music means to them.

- **Saturday, May 16 at 8pm (CDT)**

Bridging the Distance | hosted and curated by Kyu-Young Kim, Artistic Director and Principal Violin

How can music help us remain connected during this period of isolation? This eclectic program shares music from the SPCO Concert Library that can provide comfort, but also doesn't shy away from the strange and emotional rollercoaster of our current times.

- **Saturday, May 23 at 8pm (CDT)**

Coping Through Music | hosted and curated by Daria Adams, violin

How do we use music to help us cope with difficult circumstances? This program will explore the various ways that music helps us manage and access our feelings. We will also look at how composers used their writing to cope with some of life's biggest challenges.

- **Saturday, May 30 at 8pm (CDT)**

A Musical Three-Course Meal | hosted and curated by Matthew Wilson, horn

A musical three-course meal with the SPCO featuring music by Brahms and Rossini.

In the coming weeks, the SPCO plans to continue to utilize the Concert Library and other digital media platforms to connect with its audience and the rest of the community during the COVID-19 crisis.

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 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, whose engagements with the orchestra have been postponed until the 2021.22 season.

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, 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.

###