IN CELEBRATION AND HONOR OF BLACK ARTISTS

As part of our efforts to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in our organization and in our field, we are using our platform to celebrate the work of Black artists during Black History Month and through the rest of the year.

Within our efforts to actively include a diverse range of voices in all that we do, the SPCO is committed to the continued commissioning of artists that have been historically underrepresented on our stage and in the works that we play.

From bold and contemplative solos to oral storytelling blended with music, we invite you to explore this collection of new and recent SPCO video performances featuring Black artists and composers, including pianist and composer Stewart Goodyear, actor H. Adam Harris, playwright Harrison David Rivers, and composers Ambrose Akinmusire, Billy Childs, Tyson Davis, Adolphus Hailstork and Jessie Montgomery.

Ambrose Akinmusire:
the river has its destination
(world premiere, SPCO commission)
Zachary Cohen, bass
October 2020

Billy Childs:
String Quartet No. 3, Unrequited
Led by SPCO musicians
October 2020

Tyson Davis:
Tableau No. X for Solo Trumpet
(world premiere, SPCO commission)
Lynn Erickson, trumpet
October 2020

Stewart Goodyear:
Piano Quartet
Stewart Goodyear, piano
October 2020

Adolphus Hailstork:
St. Paul’s Blues for Solo Flute (world premiere, SPCO commission)
Alicia McQuerrey, flute
October 2020

Jessie Montgomery:
Selections from Strum, Records from a Vanishing City, Banner and Source Code in A Nighttime Story
Christian Reif, conductor
H. Adam Harris, actor
October 2018

SPECIAL FEATURES

Go beyond the stage to learn more about the creative and collaborative processes behind two unforgettable performances. Follow along with composer and musician PaviElle French as she partnered with the SPCO in creating A Requiem for Zula, a symphony dedicated to her mother and to Saint Paul’s Rondo neighborhood. Experience the palpable joy of the “Northside Celebration” as over 100 artists shine a bright light on the North Minneapolis community through song and spoken word.

2020 Northside Celebration
Celebrating 10 years of community partnership, the Capri Theater and the SPCO co-presented the second Northside Celebration, which was an unforgettable testimony to the power of connecting people through music. This special feature shows moments on and off-stage as North Minneapolis artists, choirs and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra celebrate the spirit of the Northside community.

A Requiem for Zula (A TPT Original)

This PBS MN Original explores interdisciplinary artist PaviElle French’s first symphony A Requiem for Zula. French’s symphony is dedicated to the memory of her mother and was commissioned by the SPCO for a premiere at our Tapestry19 Festival in February of 2019.

ARE YOU A PARENT OR EDUCATOR?

In addition to the SPCO’s free online Concert Library, our education and community engagement resources provide learning materials for children, families and educators in response to COVID-19. Explore our list of activities and supplementary materials for all ages to engage with the performances in the Concert Library and music featured in playlists!

Our newest lesson plan highlights a selection from this playlist, Stewart Goodyear’s Piano Quartet, and explores the instrumentation and movements of the piece. Click below for more details.

Get the free lesson plan
STEWART GOODYEAR

Canadian composer and classical pianist Stewart Goodyear joined The SPCO and played piano in his own vibrant and exciting Piano Quartet filled with twists and turns.

Stewart Goodyear grew up in Toronto, Canada and was inspired to be a classical pianist and composer by his early exploration of his late father’s record collection. Stewart was encouraged by his mother and used influences from classical music that he heard at home and in the cultures of his mother’s homeland of Trinidad as he began to write his own music. He is still inspired by a variety of composers and musical influences but is considered to be a Ludwig van Beethoven specialist. He began playing piano at age 3 and started composing his own music at age 8.

For more info on Stewart Goodyear, check out this interview.

“How do you express yourself?

“Until I was 7 years old, I was a painfully shy kid. Even though I was not very social, I wanted to connect with people in some way. My love for music started when I was 3 years old, and playing the piano was my way of socializing and telling people I liked them. Since then, performing in front of audiences feels like profoundly social occasions for me. Doing creative work gives me breath, and feels incredibly rewarding since the life of a musician is another way of expressing love to the world.”

- Stewart Goodyear
Check out this performance on the Concert Library of composer Stewart Goodyear playing his own *Piano Quartet* with SPCO musicians. This piece was written and first performed in 2016.

A **quartet** features 4 musicians

This piece features **piano, cello, viola** and **violin**. What is the highest string voice of this quartet? _______________________.

What family of instruments does the piano come from? (2 possible answers) ______________________ and _______________________.

Stewart Goodyear wrote this piece which premiered in 2016. He wrote it to be performed without break, but it has 4 different sections.

*Goodyear’s notes for each section are shown below in blue.*

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**PART 1: 0 – 4:45**

**“Relentless”**

**PART 2: 5:24- 7:58**

**“Calmer, hypnotic dance”**

Listen for the plucking from the violin at 4:54- this technique is called **pizzicato**

**PART 3: 7:59- 12:30**

**“Lyrical and somber with tension building”**

**PART 4: 12:34- end**

**“Toccata”**

*toccata*: fast moving piece written to show off the musicians (listen to Stewart Goodyear’s piano part at 13:20-13:29 for a little example! ☺️)

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Which section was your favorite? Why did you like it best?

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