

THE SAINT PAUL
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

**The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra announces
its 2021.22 Ordway season**

- Concerts will be held exclusively at the Ordway Concert Hall through December to provide the safest possible concert experience and maximize livestreaming
- The SPCO will return to its Neighborhood Series venues January–June, with Neighborhood Series performances announced and on sale in the fall
- 14 SPCO musicians will be featured as soloists throughout the Ordway season and SPCO Artistic Partners Jeremy Denk, Richard Egarr and Pekka Kuusisto will return after a hiatus caused by the pandemic
- Bassist Xavier Foley and cellist Abel Selaocoe will make their debuts as soloists with the SPCO, and pianist Stewart Goodyear will return after a livestreamed performance with the orchestra in the 2020.21 season
- The SPCO will perform music by numerous living composers and will present the premieres of six newly commissioned works, including Saint Paul musician PaviElle French’s second commission for the SPCO
- The SPCO will celebrate twelve years of partnership with the Capri in North Minneapolis, resuming its concert series at the venue (dates to be announced) and performing at the Capri’s grand reopening celebration in October
- Bach’s *Brandenburg* Concertos will be performed over two weeks of special holiday concerts
- The SPCO plans to livestream at least seven performances — and up to 14 performances, pending funding — through its free online Concert Library
- New on-demand content will be added to the Concert Library, including performances broadcast during the 2020.21 digital season

SAINT PAUL, MN, JUNE 10, 2021 — After a long hiatus from live concerts with in-person audiences, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today its 2021.22 Ordway season — the 63rd concert season for the organization. Led by SPCO musicians, the 2021.22 Ordway season features nearly 70 unperformed performances in a return to the Ordway Concert Hall after more than a year away.

The SPCO's 2021.22 season was planned collaboratively by members of the orchestra, who gathered virtually to work as an ensemble and create a new season of programs ranging from intimate chamber music repertoire to full orchestra programming. The resulting season highlights the versatility of the SPCO's world-class musicians as top-flight orchestral members, sensitive chamber musicians and virtuosic soloists.

The SPCO will welcome back Artistic Partners Jeremy Denk, Richard Egarr and Pekka Kuusisto, and will feature SPCO musicians as soloists and leaders throughout the season. Other highlights include the world premiere of a new work by local soul singer PaviELLE French in her second SPCO commission and the return of the brilliant pianist Stewart Goodyear, as well as exciting debuts by bassist Xavier Foley and cellist Abel Selaocoe.

"The invitation to join us for a new season of concerts is always filled with excitement and anticipation, but there is no parallel in the SPCO's history for this announcement of our return to a full season of concerts at the Ordway Concert Hall," said SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. "We've been so pleased to be able to continue sharing music with our community via our digital Concert Library during the pandemic, and we will continue to do so next season and beyond, but we are thrilled to be together once again with our community in the Concert Hall next fall."

The health and safety of the audience, musicians and staff will continue to be the SPCO's highest priority, so for the first few months of the season, concerts will be held exclusively at the Ordway Concert Hall where the SPCO can provide the safest concert experience with enhanced ventilation and a professional usher staff to implement safety measures. Focusing activity at the Ordway in the fall will also allow the SPCO to maximize the number of performances that can be livestreamed so that those who are unable to attend concerts in person can watch them virtually. The orchestra plans to return to its Neighborhood Series venues January through June and will announce those concerts and put them on sale in the fall.

At the beginning of the season, attendance will be limited to 50% of the Ordway Concert Hall capacity to allow for distancing. Additional capacity may be opened up if COVID conditions improve significantly, with the hope that concerts will return to full capacity by January, if not sooner.

In preparation for welcoming audiences back into the building as safely as possible, the Ordway has upgraded its HVAC system to increase the flow of outside air and has installed high-efficiency MERV 13 air filters, per CDC guidance. It has also implemented enhanced cleaning practices throughout the building.

The CDC recommends that unvaccinated individuals continue to wear masks in indoor settings, so while masks will not be required at SPCO performances without a state or city mask mandate, they will be strongly encouraged, especially for those who are not vaccinated. Masks will be required for Ordway and SPCO staff. To prevent crowds from gathering in restrooms, lobbies or concession lines, concerts will be 60-75 minutes long without intermission.

14 SPCO musicians and 3 Artistic Partners featured as soloists

In addition to numerous uncondensed, musician-led performances, the 2021.22 Ordway season also features 14 SPCO musicians and 3 Artistic Partners in solo roles with the orchestra.

- September 10–11, [trumpeter Lynn Erickson](#) will perform Tyson Davis' Tableau No. X
- September 17-18, [Principal Oboist Cassie Pilgrim](#) and [cellist Sarah Lewis](#) will perform Viet Cuong's *Circling Back* for Oboe and Cello
- October 1, [Principal Clarinet Sang Yoon Kim](#) will perform Michi Wiancko's *Island in the Sky*
- October 8–10, [violinist Eunae Koh](#) will perform as soloist in Antonio Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*
- October 15, [cellist Richard Belcher](#) will perform Luigi Boccherini's Cello Concerto and Principal Oboe [Principal Oboist Cassie Pilgrim](#) will perform Chen Yi's Elegy for Solo Oboe
- October 22–23, [flutist Alicia McQuerrey](#) will perform Adolphus Hailstork's Saint Paul's Blues
- October 29–31, [SPCO Artistic Partner Jeremy Denk](#) will take the spotlight as soloist on Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 14th Piano Concerto
- [Principal Oboist Cassie Pilgrim](#) will perform Barber's Canzonetta for Oboe and Strings November 26–28
- January performances will feature [Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim](#), [violinist Eunice Kim](#), [trumpeter Lynn Erickson](#), [violinist Nina Tso-Ning Fan](#) and [cellist Sarah Lewis](#) as soloists
- [SPCO Artistic Partner Richard Egarr](#) will return to lead Joseph Haydn's *Clock* Symphony February 18–19, in the only conducted program of the Ordway season
- [Violinist Maureen Nelson](#) will perform Astor Piazzolla's *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* March 11–12
- April 1–2, [Concertmaster Steven Copes](#) will perform Sergei Prokofiev's First Violin Sonata, arranged by former SPCO Artistic Partner Stephen Prutsman
- May 6–7, [Principal Cello Julie Albers](#) will perform Dmitri Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto
- [SPCO Artistic Partner Pekka Kuusisto](#) returns to perform Ralph Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* May 20-22
- [Principal Horn James Ferree](#) will perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Fourth Horn Concerto May 26–28

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 Ordway season.

The SPCO will present the world premieres of *Dreaming a world's edge* by [Cindy Cox](#) and 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 present three premieres of pieces that were originally intended to be performed in the 2019.20 season but were postponed 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 [Tyson Davis](#), [TJ Cole](#), [Valerie Coleman](#), [Viet Cuong](#), [Michi Wiancko](#), [Errollyn Wallen](#), [Chen Yi](#), [Adolphus Hailstork](#), [Xavier Foley](#), [Thomas Adès](#) and [Abel Selaocoe](#). Some of these works were commissioned and premiered by the SPCO via livestream during its 2020.21 virtual concert season but will be performed for the first time for a live, in-person audience next season.

Free concert videos in the SPCO's online Concert Library

The SPCO launched its online [Concert Library](#) in spring of 2017, offering full-length concert videos for livestreaming and on-demand viewing, anytime, anywhere, completely free of charge. Since then, the orchestra has livestreamed 24 performances, including two Family Concerts, has presented encore broadcasts of several concerts, and has added numerous concert videos and special features to its on-demand library. Since March 2020, the Concert Library has received more than 400,000 visits from people in Minnesota and beyond. The orchestra will broadcast at least seven live performances, with hopes of securing funding for an additional seven live broadcasts, for a total of 14 livestreams in the coming season. The SPCO will continue to add new on-demand content to the library, as well, and all Concert Library content will continue to be available free of charge.

“The Concert Library allowed us to share music with our community while concert halls were closed and will continue to be an important part of how we deliver on our mission to provide a great orchestra for everyone in the community,” said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. “We plan to livestream as many performances as funding allows next season so we can share music with those who are unable to join us in person.”

Concert Library engagement resources for children, families and educators

During the 2020.21 season, 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, expand and enhance 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 the coming season, the SPCO will continue its 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 by offering free tickets for children and students for all regular performances, providing reduced-priced tickets for young adults through its club2030 program, and creating new concert formats, such as happy hour concerts at the Ordway.

“As we welcome audiences back into the Concert Hall, we remain committed to broad accessibility for our community,” said Limbacher. “In addition to sharing live broadcasts and on-demand concert videos completely free of charge, we will continue to offer the most affordable ticket prices of any professional orchestra in the United States, including free tickets for children and students.”

Ticket information

Season ticket packages for Ordway concerts 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 30). Season ticket packages at the Ordway start at just \$12 per concert for adults and are free for children and students. Individual tickets for the 2021.22 Ordway season will go on sale in August, with ticket prices ranging from \$12–\$50 for adults (free for children and students). Neighborhood Series performances will be announced and put on sale in the fall.

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

The SPCO will continue to monitor the evolving situation around COVID-19, following guidelines and advice provided by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and will inform audiences of any changes. In the event of any changes or if ticket holders are unable to attend their concerts for any reason, the SPCO will continue to offer the flexibility of free ticket exchanges and the ability to bank ticket value for future use, as well as the options to donate ticket value to the SPCO or request a refund.

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 63rd season in September, 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.

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 350,000 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 850,000 listeners each week on over 250 stations. Additionally, the SPCO has released 67 recordings, including the 2018 Grammy Award-winning recording of Franz 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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