

THE SAINT PAUL
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

SPCO concerts this weekend are canceled

SAINT PAUL, MN, JANUARY 4, 2022 — After closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in the Twin Cities metro area, and given the surge in infections and the increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra has decided to implement a testing protocol for musicians and staff involved with SPCO concerts and rehearsals.

To allow time to thoughtfully and thoroughly plan and implement this testing protocol, the SPCO has canceled this week's rehearsals and concerts (January 7–9), and will explore the possibility of rescheduling these performances later in the season. Concerts will resume next weekend with a testing policy in place.

Ticket holders do not need to take any action at this time. If the performances are able to be rescheduled, tickets will automatically be transferred to a rescheduled date. Ticket holders also have the option to exchange tickets for another concert, turn tickets back as a donation to the SPCO, bank tickets for later use, or request a refund. The SPCO will contact all ticket holders again soon with additional information regarding the possibility of rescheduling.

Regular testing for all front-line employees will be another safety measure in addition to those already in place, including masking, distancing, and vaccination requirements for SPCO musicians, staff and audience members. The SPCO will continue to prioritize health and safety while navigating through this next phase of the pandemic, and may implement additional measures in the coming weeks to help create the safest possible concert experience.

SAFETY MEASURES FOR SPCO PERFORMANCES

In light of the highly transmissible Omicron and Delta variants and the increase of cases in Minnesota, all audience members must present proof of either full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result taken within 72 hours prior to attending an SPCO performance. Masks will also be required for all audience members, except while eating or drinking. This follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation that everyone should wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status. Attendance will be limited to 50% capacity to allow for distancing. To prevent crowds from gathering in restrooms, lobbies or concession lines, concerts will be 60-75 minutes long without intermission.

If ticket holders do not meet these requirements, or if ticket holders have COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19 or are uncomfortable attending a performance, they can exchange their tickets for a later performance, bank tickets in their account for later use, turn back their tickets as a tax-deductible contribution to the SPCO or request a refund, with no fees or penalties.

For more resources and information on these safety protocols, and a list of acceptable proof of vaccination or COVID-19 test results, please visit thespc.org/safety.

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 63rd concert 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 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 68 recordings, including its recent critically-acclaimed album of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Piano Concertos with Artistic Partner Jeremy Denk and 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 162 new works and tours nationally and internationally, including recent engagements in Europe and New York City, and a prestigious residency with violinist Joshua Bell at the 2021 Bravo! Vail Music Festival.

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.

The SPCO is a proud member of the Arts Partnership, a 501c3 organization composed of the four organizations that perform regularly at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts – Minnesota Opera, the Ordway, the SPCO and Schubert Club. The Partnership's mission is to strengthen its organizations in service to the community through growing collaboration and stewardship of its shared assets. The Partnership works together to maintain the Ordway venue, to expand access for other community arts organizations to perform in the Concert Hall and to engage in collaborative artistic programming.

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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