

THE SAINT PAUL  
**CHAMBER**  
ORCHESTRA

**Neighborhood Series concerts are canceled through March 13**

**SAINT PAUL, MN, JANUARY 24, 2022** — Given the rapid spread of the highly transmissible Omicron variant, the SPCO has made the difficult decision to cancel concerts in its Neighborhood Series venues from now through March 13.

The SPCO began its season this fall by performing only at the Ordway Concert Hall, concentrating efforts on providing the safest possible concert environment with enhanced ventilation, adequate room for distancing in the hall, on stage and backstage, and a professional usher staff to implement safety measures. SPCO leaders were hopeful that the pandemic situation would have improved enough by January that the orchestra could return to its Neighborhood Series venues this month. Unfortunately, with case numbers surging in the community, the organization will remain focused on providing concerts in just one location at this time. Therefore, **all SPCO concerts outside of the Ordway are canceled through March 13**. The SPCO will continue to assess the environment and prioritize the health and safety of audiences, staff and musicians, and hopes to resume Neighborhood Series performances after March 13.

All SPCO performances at the Ordway will continue as scheduled, barring further positive COVID-19 tests or confirmed exposures among musicians, stage crew and concert staff in the coming weeks.

**The following Neighborhood Series performances are canceled:**

**Haydn's Symphony No. 43**

Friday | January 28 | 11:00am

Friday | January 28 | 8:00pm

Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie

Tuesday | February 1 | 7:30pm

Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley

**Bach's *Goldberg Variations***

Thursday | February 10 | 7:30pm

Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater

Friday | February 11 | 7:00pm

Humboldt High School, Saint Paul's West Side

Saturday, February 12 | 8:00pm

Saint Paul's United Church of Christ, Saint Paul

Sunday | February 13 | 2:00pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

**Haydn's *Clock* Symphony with Richard Egarr**

Sunday | February 20 | 2:00pm  
Benson Great Hall, Arden Hills

**Cassie Pilgrim Plays Bach's Oboe Concerto**

Friday | February 25 | 11:00am  
Friday | February 25 | 8:00pm  
Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie  
Saturday | February 26 | 7:00pm  
Capri Theater, North Minneapolis

**Maureen Nelson Plays Piazzolla's *Four Seasons***

Sunday | March 13 | 2:00pm  
Benson Great Hall, Arden Hills

Those with tickets to canceled performances may exchange tickets for another concert, turn the value of their tickets back as a tax-deductible donation to the SPCO or bank them in their account for use at a future concert. Refunds may also be requested by contacting the Ticket Office at [tickets@spcomail.org](mailto:tickets@spcomail.org) or by calling 651.291.1144 during Ticket Office hours (12–5pm Monday–Friday, 11am–3pm Saturday). No immediate action is required of ticket holders; any tickets that are not donated, exchanged or refunded will be banked in the user's SPCO account.

**SAFETY MEASURES FOR SPCO PERFORMANCES**

The health and safety of the audience, musicians and staff will continue to be the SPCO's highest priorities. Given the rapid spread of the highly transmissible Omicron variant in the community and following continued consultation with medical experts, additional measures have been implemented to ensure the safest possible concert experience.

Beginning February 1, all audience members must present proof of their COVID-19 vaccination and booster shot, or a negative test result taken within 72 hours before a performance. In compliance with recent executive orders from the cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, negative COVID-19 test results must be from a medically supervised PCR or antigen test taken within 72 hours before the performance. Rapid home tests will not be accepted.

In addition to the booster requirement, all audience members will be required to wear non-cloth masks such as N95, KN95, KF94 or surgical masks. Non-cloth masks will be available at the Ordway upon arrival, if needed, courtesy of the Arts Partnership.

All patrons who have not received a booster shot by February 1 will need to present a negative test result taken within 72 hours before attending a performance. This includes those who are not yet eligible for the booster, including children under the age of 12.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend vaccinated people ages 12 and older receive a booster shot. Recipients of the Pfizer vaccine (ages 12 and older) become eligible for a booster five months after their second dose, recipients of the Moderna vaccine (ages 18 and older) become eligible for a booster five months after their second dose, and recipients of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (ages 18 and older) become eligible two months after their single dose.

Proof of either a booster shot or a negative COVID-19 test can be shown as a printed or digital copy. Each must accompany a matching photo ID, such as a valid driver's license or state ID. Face masks will still be required at all times in all SPCO venues, regardless of vaccination status, except when actively eating or drinking.

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, please visit [thespc.org/safety](https://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 YourClassical Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media, 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 501(c)(3) 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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