



Pictured: Tabea Zimmermann (credit: Marco Borggrev)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mariela Lemus  
651.292.6983 | [mlemus@spcomail.org](mailto:mlemus@spcomail.org)

### **Violist Tabea Zimmermann to become SPCO's newest Artistic Partner**

Zimmermann's tenure will begin in the 2022.23 season, and she will lead the SPCO in two weeks of performances in March 2023

**SAINT PAUL, MN, May 2, 2022** — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today that internationally-renowned violist Tabea Zimmermann has been named the orchestra's newest Artistic Partner.

Zimmermann, who is regularly cited as the world's greatest living violist, made her SPCO debut in October 2019, leading the orchestra from the viola chair in Ludwig van Beethoven's First Symphony and soloing in her own transcription for viola of Robert Schumann's Cello Concerto. Following the collaboration, the musicians of the SPCO immediately voted to offer Zimmermann the title of Artistic Partner.

"For me, Tabea Zimmermann's sound represents the ideal in terms of depth, warmth, suppleness and range of colors, and her ability to lead the ensemble from within is such a perfect fit with our collaborative approach at the SPCO," said SPCO Principal Viola Maiya Papach. "Her debut in 2019 has stuck with me throughout the pandemic and we have been counting the days until her return."

Zimmermann will begin her tenure next season with two weeks of concerts in the spring of 2023 that will include works by Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel, Felix Mendelssohn, Johannes Brahms and Béla Bartók.

"I am happily looking forward to the artistic partnership with the SPCO and feel very honored to continue in the impressive line of current and former Artistic Partners," Zimmermann said of her appointment. "My own goals in music coincide fully with the mission statement of the SPCO and I cannot wait to experience and develop a common musical language with the fantastic musicians of the SPCO. We shall thrive for a maximum range of differentiation in music and will let the musical themes guide us to find a liberating answer to the ever-demanding question of individual versus group interests. For me, classical music offers the most beautiful key to life, and I am more than excited to share my sound visions with the musicians and the audience of the SPCO."

### **PRESS COVERAGE**

"In a music industry with more than its fair share of superficiality and artificiality, Tabea Zimmermann ... has come to epitomize a musicianship based on integrity, on an authentic and personal stance that does not shy away from pointing out uncomfortable truths about the industry ... an artist who channels all her energy into getting to the heart of a musical work – and sharing this experience with her audience." — Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation

"More than any other violist, Zimmermann has boosted the repertoire for her instrument, inspiring composers including Ligeti, Heinz Holliger, Wolfgang Rihm and Enno Poppe to write for her. And she boldly adopts music written for other instruments ... she can coax the warmth and depth of a cello out of her viola, just as she can capture the airy sweetness of any violin sonata by Franck or Schumann." — *The Strad*

"Zimmermann's alert range of articulations and rhythmic lifts – constantly busy but never overdone – means that the music never loses its way or its sense of forward motion, and her mind is full of intelligent and happy ideas." — *Gramophone*

### **PHOTOS**

[Link to hi-res photos](#)

### **AUDIO**

Zimmermann's SPCO debut performance in 2019: [Ludwig van Beethoven's First Symphony with Tabea Zimmermann](#)

### **VIDEOS**

[Zimmermann solos with the Berlin Philharmonic: Paul Hindemith: \*Der Schwanendreher\*](#)  
[Zimmermann accompanied by piano: Manuel de Falla: \*Nana \(Siete canciones populares españolas\)\*](#)  
[Zimmermann in a chamber music setting: Ludwig van Beethoven: \*String Trios, Op. 3, 8 and 9\*](#)

### **ABOUT TABEA ZIMMERMANN**

Tabea Zimmermann, who considers herself "a musician, who happens to play the viola", is one of the most popular and renowned artists of our time. As winner of the international Ernst von Siemens Music Prize 2020, Artist-in-Residence of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in the season of 2019/2020 and of the Berliner Philharmoniker in 2020/2021, Tabea Zimmermann is widely acknowledged for her tireless enthusiasm to communicate her love of music to her audience and her uncompromisingly high standard of quality. Audiences and fellow musicians value her charismatic personality and deep musical understanding. Her work with orchestras is also guided by the ideals of her experience as a chamber musician, where artistic integrity is paramount.

As a soloist she regularly performs with the most distinguished orchestras worldwide. Following residencies in Weimar, Luxembourg, Hamburg, with the Frankfurter Museums-Gesellschaft and the Bamberg Symphony, Tabea Zimmermann was artist-in-residence with the Ensemble Resonanz in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Tabea Zimmermann has inspired numerous composers to write for the viola and has introduced many new works into the standard concert and chamber music repertoire. Her Cantilena CD with the Spanish

pianist Javier Perianes was recently released on the harmonia mundi label. To mark Hindemith's anniversary in 2013, Tabea Zimmermann released a highly acclaimed recording of the composer's complete works for viola on myrios classics. Her recording of solo works by Reger and Bach with myrios received an Echo Klassik prize as Instrumentalist of the Year in 2009. The year 2020 will see several new releases on myrios, including a second solo CD.

Tabea Zimmermann's artistic work has been recognized with numerous awards both in Germany and abroad, including the Federal Cross of Merit, Frankfurter Musikpreis, Hessischer Kulturpreis, Rheingau Musikpreis, International Prize Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Sienna, the Paul-Hindemith-Prize from the city of Hanau and named Artist of the Year by the ICMA International Classical Music Awards 2017. Since 2013 Tabea Zimmermann is a foundation board member of the Hindemith Foundation. Under her aegis as chairman of the board of the Beethoven-Haus Bonn (2013-2020), the Beethoven-Woche Bonn culminated in an extended three-week festival with almost all of the composer's chamber music in 2020.

Tabea Zimmermann began learning the viola at the age of three, and two years later began playing the piano. In the beginning, she received significant inspiration from her first teacher Dietmar Mantel. She studied with Ulrich Koch at the Musikhochschule Freiburg and subsequently with Sandor Végh at the Mozarteum Salzburg. Following her studies, she received several awards at international competitions, amongst them first prizes at the 1982 Geneva International Competition, the 1983 Maurice Vieux Competition in Paris and the 1984 Budapest International Competition. She has been playing an instrument built for her by Patrick Robin since 2019. From 1987 until his early death in 2000, Tabea Zimmermann regularly performed with her husband, the conductor David Shallon. She lives in Berlin and has three almost grown-up children. Tabea Zimmermann has held teaching posts at the Musikhochschule Saarbrücken and Hochschule für Musik Frankfurt. Since October 2002, she has been a professor at the Hochschule für Musik 'Hanns Eisler.'

### **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 63<sup>rd</sup> 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 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.

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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