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The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra welcomes live audiences back to performances, serves 35,559 concert attendees and 145,275 Concert Library visitors, and achieves budget surplus in 2021-22

- SPCO resumed concerts throughout the Twin Cities, welcoming in-person audiences back to performances for the first time since March 2020, serving 35,559 attendees
- Orchestra streamed 11 concerts live from the Ordway Concert Hall and added 8 performances to its free on-demand Concert Library, which received 145,275 visits
- Organization launched SPARK! program to share music with homebound seniors
- SPCO commissioned and premiered six new works, four of them by composers of color and women
- Orchestra announced the appointment of two new Artistic Partners: South African cellist Abel Selaocoe and German violist Tabea Zimmermann
- SPCO and pianist Jeremy Denk released a critically acclaimed recording of piano concertos by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- Orchestra celebrated 13 years of partnership with the Capri in North Minneapolis, performing at the Capri's grand reopening
- SPCO returned to Bravo! Vail Music Festival as one of four orchestras in residence
- Organization balanced FY22 budget with an operating surplus of \$163,393 and continued to build its Rainy Day Fund
- FY22 financial results will help protect SPCO amid challenges of the multi-year pandemic recovery

Saint Paul, MN, December 6, 2022 — At its Annual Meeting of Members today, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announced a balanced budget with an operating surplus of \$163,393 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 (FY22). This balanced budget — the 27th in the past 29 years — continues a long history of financial discipline for the SPCO.

The organization entered the pandemic in a position of financial health, and the strong results from FY22 allowed the orchestra to expand its Rainy Day Fund to \$4.33M, providing resources that will be critical to ensuring the organization can thrive as it navigates the challenges of the pandemic recovery years.

Total operating expenses for FY22 were \$9,515,165 and total operating revenue for the period was \$9,678,558. The SPCO received \$5,454,670 in contributed operating support for FY22 from individuals, foundations, corporations and institutions, with \$3,345,712 contributed to the Annual Fund. The orchestra also received \$1,203,597 in government relief from the Paycheck Protection Program. As of the end of FY22, the SPCO's donor base was made up of 4,949 unique households, with 789 donors making recurring monthly sustaining gifts throughout the year.

"On every front, artistically, financially, and most importantly, serving the community, we had a tremendous year," said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. "It was all possible because of the incredible support of our community of donors. I promise we will not be resting on our laurels and instead we will use the momentum of this past year to reach even higher as we strive to provide a great orchestra for everyone in the community."

SHARING MUSIC AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY AMID THE ONGOING PANDEMIC

After the 2020-21 season where the orchestra was not able to perform for in-person audiences due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SPCO welcomed live audiences back to performances at the Ordway Concert Hall in September 2021 and at its Neighborhood Series venues in March 2022. The orchestra also resumed its Free Family Music programs in March with Family Concerts at the Ordway and xplOrchestra programs at both the Ordway and Capri. In total, the orchestra provided 92 concerts for the Twin Cities community at 11 venues across the metro area and served an audience of 35,559 concert attendees. In addition, the SPCO engaged more than 3,500 students through its CONNECT music education program in 10 Minneapolis and Saint Paul public elementary schools.

As it welcomed live audiences back into its performance venues amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the SPCO prioritized the health and safety of audiences through measures designed to provide the safest possible concert experience, including requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test. Attendance was limited to 50% of venue capacity for most of the season to allow for distancing and concerts were shortened to 60-75 minutes in length with no intermission to prevent crowds from gathering in restrooms and lobbies.

In addition to welcoming in-person audiences back to its performances, the SPCO also delivered on its mission to share music with the broadest possible audience by streaming 11 live performances from the Ordway Concert Hall and adding eight performances to its on-demand video collection, all available free of charge in the SPCO's online Concert Library. The Concert Library received 145,275 visits during the fiscal year, with 62,983 of those visits from Minnesota residents.

SPARK! Musical Insights

The challenges of the pandemic reinforced the importance of online streaming to the fulfillment of the SPCO's mission to serve the community. When audiences were not able to gather in-person in the first 18 months of the pandemic, the SPCO was able to share music with more people than ever before through its free online Concert Library, which offers high-quality video of SPCO concerts completely free of charge. The importance of music and community were amplified during this time, especially for senior living communities, during the darkest days of the pandemic when the SPCO often heard from seniors who were not able to leave their living spaces and looked to the Concert Library to remain connected to the outside world.

As pandemic restrictions and concerns eased toward the end of the concert season, the SPCO recognized that many seniors in the community remained homebound with limited opportunities to attend performances, so the organization collaborated with staff at senior living facilities to create [SPARK! Musical Insights](#), a fully packaged "plug and play" video program that provides a digital SPCO concert experience designed for groups to watch together. The program serves as an introduction to the SPCO Concert Library and jumping-off point for groups to explore the large collection of concert videos, musician interviews, curated video collections, special features and other digital content in the Concert Library.

Designed with seniors in mind, [SPARK! Volume 1](#) is hosted by SPCO cellist Joshua Koestenbaum, who introduces the featured musical selection and provides contextual clues and follow-up questions to further engage viewers as they enjoy the concert video. An activity director of a participating senior living facility noted that the experience of residents watching the program together "brought tears to their eyes. They clapped and clapped and clapped – they were very moved. This brought joy." The SPCO continues to gather feedback from facilities and residents participating in these pilot sessions and plans to expand the program through partnership with additional senior living communities, congregate facilities and group settings in the Twin Cities.

"We were thrilled to welcome audiences back into our performance venues in the 2021-22 season, while continuing to share live broadcasts and on-demand concert videos with those who were unable to attend concerts in person," said Limbacher. "Our vision is to provide an exceptional orchestra for everyone in our community, and we will continue to develop new initiatives like SPARK! to share music with underserved populations and reduce barriers to experiencing the SPCO."

ARTISTIC PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Premieres and Commissions

The SPCO commissioned and premiered six new pieces in the 2021-22 season. With a commitment to commissioning and programming works by composers who have been historically underrepresented in orchestra repertoire, four pieces premiered in the 2021-22 season were commissioned from composers of color and women. In October, the orchestra gave the world premiere of Minnesota-born composer [Sky Macklay's *Disassemblage*](#) and the

Midwest premiere of Jessie Montgomery's *Shift, Change Turn*. In April, the SPCO gave the world premiere of a new orchestration of Sergei Prokofiev's Violin Sonata No. 1, orchestrated by former Artistic Partner Stephen Prutsman, with Concertmaster Steven Copes as violin soloist. The following week, the orchestra gave the world premiere of SPCO Principal Horn [James Ferree's arrangement of Johann Sebastian Bach's Goldberg Variations for Chamber Orchestra](#). The *Goldberg Variations* were originally conceived for solo keyboard, and Ferree's arrangement for orchestra highlighted the artistry of each individual SPCO musician as soloists and chamber musicians. In May, the orchestra gave the world premiere of [Cindy Cox's Dreaming a world's edge](#), which was commissioned by the League of American Orchestras with the generous support of the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. In its season finale performances in June, the SPCO presented the world premiere of composer, singer and keyboardist [PaviElle French's Sands of Time](#), a work that celebrates musical manifestations of love in all its forms. This was French's second collaboration with the SPCO, and the piece was commissioned for the SPCO by community supporters Bill and Susan Sands in collaboration with the American Composers Forum.

In addition to premiering six newly commissioned works, the SPCO also gave the first performances to in-person audiences of four works commissioned and premiered via livestream in the 2020-21 season, all of which were written by women or composers of color. These works include [Tyson Davis' Tableau No. X for Solo Trumpet](#), [Chen Yi's Elegy for Solo Oboe](#), [Brent Michael Davids' Taptanahana for Solo Flute](#) and [Michi Wiancko's Island in the Sky for Solo Clarinet](#).

"The SPCO is dedicated to expanding and diversifying the orchestral repertoire by commissioning and premiering new works from composers who have been underrepresented in classical music, including women and composers of color," said SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. "We were thrilled to work with so many talented composers this past season and to share their music with our community."

New and Returning Artistic Partners

After a hiatus during the 2020-21 season due to the pandemic, the SPCO welcomed its Artistic Partners back to perform with the orchestra in the 2021-22 season. The organization also announced the appointments of South African cellist, singer and composer Abel Selaocoe and internationally renowned German violist Tabea Zimmermann as its newest Artistic Partners.

Abel Selaocoe made his SPCO debut in the 2021-22 season with a weekend of programs exploring his musical roots and the parallel worlds of folk music from the African continent and the European classical tradition. Equally at home improvising on African folk songs and Baroque works from the 1700s, Selaocoe took audiences on a musical journey combining virtuosic performance with improvisation, singing and body percussion, seamlessly moving between a plethora of styles and traditions. [A video of this debut performance](#) is available for free on-demand streaming in the SPCO Concert Library.

Tabea Zimmermann made her SPCO debut in the 2019-20 season. Her warm and robust sound was on display as she performed her own arrangement of Schumann's Cello Concerto for viola.

The program concluded with Beethoven's masterful First Symphony with Zimmermann leading the orchestra from within the viola section — a first for the SPCO. [An audio recording of this performance](#) is available for free on-demand streaming in the SPCO Concert Library, with audio provided by YourClassical MPR.

Recording of Mozart Piano Concertos with Jeremy Denk

At the beginning of the 2021-22 season, Nonesuch Records released a [new recording](#) of piano concertos by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart performed by the SPCO and Artistic Partner Jeremy Denk. Recorded live at the Ordway Concert Hall in January 2018, the new album includes performances of Mozart's Piano Concertos No. 25 in C Major and No. 20 in D minor, as well as his Rondo in A minor. The recording was met with critical acclaim:

“...it would be difficult to find performances more accomplished and energetic than these.”
– *The Classic Review*

"In their performances of two of Mozart's greatest late piano concertos, soloist Jeremy Denk and the 29 players of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra strike the perfect balance between intimacy and symphonic grandeur...The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra is the perfect partner to Denk's incredible artistry." – *Apple Music*

Denk “approaches everything with questing intelligence and energy...The excellent Saint Paul players match his variety and range of expression.” — *The Observer*

Celebrating the Capri

The SPCO celebrated 13 years of partnership with the Capri in North Minneapolis in the 2021-22 season, and the orchestra performed at the Capri's grand reopening in October 2021 after the historic theater, originally built in 1927, closed to undergo a renovation and expansion. The SPCO also resumed its regular concert series and Free Family Music programs at the Capri.

Bravo! Vail Music Festival

After joining violinist and former SPCO Artistic Partner Joshua Bell for performances at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival in June 2021, the SPCO returned to Vail in 2022, opening the Bravo! Vail 2022 season in three performances on June 23, 25 and 26. The SPCO joined the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra and New York Philharmonic as one of four orchestras in residence during the festival. Highlights of the three SPCO programs included the world premiere of a piano concerto by Chris Rogerson, performed by Anne-Marie McDermott, which was commissioned by Bravo! Vail in celebration of McDermott's 10th anniversary as artistic director. Additionally, the SPCO gave the Bravo! Vail premiere of Xavier Foley's *For Justice and Peace* and performed a new orchestral arrangement of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Goldberg Variations* by SPCO Principal Horn James Ferree. [One of the three festival performances](#) is available for free on-demand streaming in the SPCO Concert Library.

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 64th season, the SPCO is primarily an uncondducted 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 current roster of Artistic Partners consists of British Baroque specialists Jonathan Cohen and Richard Egarr, American composer and musical commentator Rob Kapilow, South African cellist Abel Selaocoe and German violist Tabea Zimmermann.

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](#) 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 former 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. In addition to its programs in the Twin Cities, the orchestra also tours nationally and internationally, including recent engagements in Europe and New York City, and prestigious residencies at the 2021 and 2022 Bravo! Vail Music Festival with violinists Joshua Bell and Stefan Jackiw.

The SPCO is deeply committed to expanding the orchestral repertoire, commissioning more than 160 new works throughout its 63-year history and receiving 17 ASCAP awards for adventurous programming. In a divergence from the industry standard of commissioning individual works from composers, the SPCO's new [Sandbox Composer Residency program](#) invites composers to experiment freely across a variety of new works created in collaboration with the musicians of the SPCO. This alternative residency model will allow composers to workshop new pieces, experiment and revise, take risks, develop relationships with SPCO musicians and engage with SPCO audiences.

The SPCO is nationally recognized for its commitment to broad community accessibility and inclusion, along with 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, with a \$5 per month concert membership option for members of [club2030](#), the orchestra's program for audience members in their 20s and 30s. 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 [Free Family Music program](#) provides engaging musical experiences designed for children and their families in various locations throughout the Twin Cities.

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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