

THE SAINT PAUL
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Capri present the third
Northside Celebration: a collaborative concert celebrating North
Minneapolis through music**

- Building upon 13 years of partnership between the SPCO and the Capri, these concerts celebrate the Northside community by bringing together local artists and residents in music-making
- This unique event brings together traditional gospel and orchestral music with spoken word, under the direction of Sherri Orr, Dr. Adrian Davis, Courtland Pickens, Dr. Kristina Boerger, Dennis Spears and Kevin West.
- Includes performances by the Northside Celebration Choir, Known MPLS and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra
- Three concerts will be held February 17–19 at North Community High School and the Ordway Concert Hall
- Tickets for the Northside Community High School concerts are free, but reservations are required and can be made at thespco.org/northside or by calling the SPCO Ticket Office at 651.291.1144.

SAINT PAUL, MN, JANUARY 26, 2023 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) and the Capri proudly present the third iteration of the Northside Celebration at North Community High School on Friday, February 17 at 7:00pm; Saturday, February 18 at 4:00pm; and at the Ordway Concert Hall on Sunday, February 19 at 2:00pm.

The three collaborative concerts will celebrate the North Minneapolis community through music. Tickets for the North Community High School performances are free, but reservations are required and can be made at thespco.org/northside, or by calling the SPCO Ticket Office at 651.291.1144. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for all performances.

This season marks 13 years of community partnership between the SPCO and the Capri. The Capri presents a three-concert SPCO series each season and hosts two SPCO programs specifically designed for families with young children. These concerts are free for Northside residents.

This is the third iteration of the Northside Celebration, with the first two Celebrations being held in 2017 and 2020. In addition to two performances in North Minneapolis, one performance will take place at the Ordway Concert Hall, the SPCO's home in downtown Saint Paul. Music will be performed by the Northside Celebration Choir — a choir formed especially for this event with over 50 singers who live, work and/or worship in North Minneapolis, the

North Minneapolis-based youth choir Known MPLS and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Co-presented by the Capri and SPCO, this unique performance brings together traditional gospel and orchestral music with spoken word under the thoughtful direction of Sherri Orr, Dr. Adrian Davis, Courtland Pickens, Dr. Kristina Boerger, Dennis Spears and Kevin West. In total, nearly 100 artists will contribute to this one-of-a-kind event.

“It is truly an honor to partner with the Capri and all of the talented artists coming together for the 2023 Northside Celebration,” said SPCO Chief Community Value Officer Erin Jude. “These concerts promise to be another beautiful reflection of this community’s spirit. The joy is palpable.”

The Northside Celebration will feature gospel works such as *Total Praise*, *Imagine Me* and *The Best Is Yet to Come*. The concert will also feature a piece by lifelong Northside resident and Northside Celebration Choir director, Sherri Orr. “The piece *My Soul Shall Not Die* speaks of the resilience of a people, as well as a community,” said Orr. “Even through adversity, our light shines day and night. We inspire each other to be a light in our community, so that things seen or unseen shall not overcome us as a community. That’s Northside love.”

The inspiration for this concert originated eight years ago during a luncheon with Northside community residents, leaders and representatives from the SPCO and the Capri. Amidst avid support for a continued SPCO presence at the Capri, several themes surrounding intense community pride in the face of adversity surfaced during the discussion. Community desires for the future of the partnership included opportunities to collaborate musically, feature local artists and intentionally share the beauty of the Northside community — amongst each other and with those outside of the community.

In response to this feedback, Dennis Spears, Artistic Director of the Capri’s *Legends* series, suggested that the Capri and the SPCO take their partnership to the next level by collaborating to make music together and with the community. Understanding the power of music and coupling this with themes of hope, pride, collaboration and strong community connections, the Northside Celebration was born.

The inaugural Northside Celebration took place in 2017 with a community choir and the SPCO. In 2020 the Celebration grew to include Known MPLS, a North Minneapolis-based youth choir led by Courtland Pickens that was just getting started but is now well-known and celebrated. “Making music with the SPCO and other Northside artists at the 2020 Northside Celebration was an incredible experience for members of Known MPLS, and many of them still talk about it as one of their favorite performances,” said Pickens.

“The past two Northside Celebrations were testaments to the power of bringing people together through music – on stage, and in the audience,” said Dennis Spears. “While the vision keeps growing, the third Northside Celebration will continue to capture the essence of what we intended from the start – a celebration of our talented, vibrant and amazing Northside community, created in harmony with our friends from the SPCO. Get your Northside pride on and come out and see this concert!”

Watch features on the 2017 and 2020 Northside Celebration in the SPCO Concert Library:

[2020 Northside Celebration](#)

[2017 Northside Celebration](#)

For more information, please visit www.thecapri.org or www.thespc.org.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Friday, February 17, 7:00pm

Saturday, February 18, 4:00pm

North Community High School, North Minneapolis

Sunday, February 19, 2:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

TICKETS

Tickets for the North Community High School performances are free, but reservations are required and can be made at thespco.org/northside, or by calling the SPCO Ticket Office at 651.291.1144. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for all performances.

Tickets for the Ordway performance are \$12–\$50 for adults; free for kids and students; \$10 for [club2030 members](#).

Call the Ticket Office at 651.291.1144 Monday–Friday 12-5pm and Saturday 11am-3pm or visit thespco.org.

COVID-19 POLICIES FOR SPCO PERFORMANCES

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 SPCO COVID-19 policies or updates, please visit thespco.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 64th season, 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 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.

ABOUT THE CAPRI

The recently expanded, renovated Capri is a wonderful, welcoming theater, rental space and gathering place for students, artists, community members, and audiences. A catalyst for increased economic vitality on Minneapolis' Northside, the Capri provides a sense of beauty, safety, and neighborhood pride, as well as countless opportunities for people to experience and produce art, to create and implement ideas, and to **Be Together**.

The original Capri Theater was built in 1927, and over the course of its 96-year history, it has served as a movie theater and a venue for live entertainment. PCYC, a strong and long-standing community-based nonprofit that delivers exceptional education, arts, and youth programming to children, families, and the North Minneapolis community, acquired the theater in 1987, and created the artistic and community vision that led to the opening of the renovated, expanded Capri in 2021.

The renovated Capri auditorium shines again with all new seating, sound, lighting and rigging. In addition, 20,000 square feet of new construction offers creative spaces for all types of events and activities, including the Paradise Community Hall for performances and community gatherings, the Broadway Rehearsal Room, classrooms, dressing rooms, wood and fabric workspaces and a beautiful outdoor plaza. The Capri is also home to a Best Buy Teen Tech Center, an after-school technology space where teens get hands-on experience in audio recording and production, 3D printing, digital photography, video, graphic design, and much more.

For more information, a tour, or to rent space at the Capri, see thecapri.org or contact James Scott, the Director of the Capri, jscott@pcyc-mpls.org.

ABOUT PCYC

PCYC's mission is "To enrich the skills, prospects and spirit of North Minneapolis area youth and adults, in partnership with families and communities." PCYC fulfills its mission through three dynamic programs: the Capri, PYC Arts & Technology High School, and Bright Futures K-5 Enrichment at PCYC. For more information, visit pcyc-mpls.org, or contact Melissa Denton, PCYC Executive Director, mdenton@pcyc-mpls.org.

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