

## **The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra to receive \$30,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support projects featuring women as artistic leaders**

**SAINT PAUL, MN, JANUARY 10, 2023** — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra is pleased to announce it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to receive a Grants for Arts Projects award of \$30,000. This grant is one of 1,251 Grants for Arts Projects awards totaling nearly \$28.8 million that were announced by the NEA as part of its first round of fiscal year 2023 grants.

The grant will support programming in the spring of the SPCO's 2022.23 season that highlights the outstanding contributions of women in the field of orchestral music through 22 performances at multiple venues throughout the Twin Cities metro area. Featured performances include two unique programs curated and led by SPCO musicians Eunae Koh and Maureen Nelson as part of the SPCO's Creative Lead program, which empowers individual SPCO musicians to create and direct artistic projects with the orchestra that showcase their unique passions and musical interests. Two additional programs supported by the grant will be led by German violist Tabea Zimmermann, who was appointed in 2022 as one of the SPCO's newest Artistic Partners. In addition to showcasing women musicians as artistic leaders, the programs supported by this grant also highlight works by several women composers, both historical and contemporary, including Gabriela Lena Frank, Clara Schumann, Valborg Aulin, Hillary Tann, Louise Farrenc and Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel. Affordable ticket prices and free livestreamed performances will ensure broad community accessibility to these programs.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects in communities nationwide," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "Projects such as this one with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra strengthen arts and cultural ecosystems, provide equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, and contribute to the health of our communities and our economy."

"We are deeply grateful for this grant from the National Endowment for the Arts that supports the SPCO's Creative Leads program and our efforts to showcase the extraordinary artistry and leadership of women as musicians, Artistic Partners and composers," said SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. "Our Creative Leads program is part of the SPCO's unique musician-led model, which empowers musicians to lead from all sections of the orchestra, builds greater ownership of artistic output and, ultimately, leads to better concerts for our community, and we are thankful for the NEA's support for this artistic model."

For more information on other projects included in the NEA's grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

### **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.

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