

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra announces its 2023.24 season

- A wide range of SPCO musicians will be featured as soloists and arrangers throughout the season, and in an expansion from the 2022.23 season, eight SPCO musicians will take creative lead on six curated programs
- The SPCO continues its Sandbox Composer Residencies, a groundbreaking collaborative model for new music with three composers: Clarice Assad, Gabriela Lena Frank and Valerie Coleman
- New to the 2023.24 season and in response to patron feedback, all evening performances at the Ordway and in Neighborhood Series venues will begin at 7:00pm
- Returning SPCO Artistic Partners Abel Selaocoe and Richard Egarr will lead several performances with the orchestra, and Rob Kapilow will conclude his tenure as Artistic Partner with one of his signature *What Makes It Great?* programs
- Following a season of positive audience feedback about Express Concerts, an intermission-less concert format developed from pandemic safety measures, the SPCO will expand the number of its Express Concerts offered throughout the season
- The SPCO will welcome a number of returning and new guest artists, including pianists Richard Goode, Gabriel and Jeffrey Kahane, and Anne-Marie McDermott; violinist Alina Ibragimova; clarinetist Anthony McGill; and conductors Douglas Boyd and Gábor Takács-Nagy
- In addition to the Ordway, the SPCO will perform subscription concerts at 10 Neighborhood Series venues, including the newly renovated Capri in North Minneapolis
- Two weeks of special holiday concerts will feature Johann Sebastian Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* and the SPCO's return to the Basilica of Saint Mary for George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* conducted by Dmitry Sinkovsky
- The orchestra will present several live video broadcasts of performances throughout the season in its free online Concert Library and will continue to expand its free on-demand access to past concerts, video interviews and other content

SAINT PAUL, MN, APRIL 11, 2023 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today its 2023.24 season — the 65th concert season for the organization. Following the 2022.23 season, which brought a return to a full schedule of performances at our venues with programs once again featuring performances by the full orchestra, the 2023.24 season will celebrate the artistic vision of SPCO musicians alongside returning Artistic Partners and exciting guest artists. Throughout the season's programming are woven themes of darkness and light — of contemplation and celebration, or remembrance and renewal — as the orchestra explores the full emotional range of music.

The talents of the SPCO musicians as soloists, chamber musicians and leaders have been the lifeblood of the SPCO's artistic output in these recent seasons, and that continues next season with a special emphasis on the curatorial interests of SPCO players. In addition to a multitude of solo performances by audience favorites Steven Copes, Julie Albers, Eunice Kim, Maureen Nelson and Cassie Pilgrim, among others, several musicians will serve as creative leads and arrangers throughout the season. In a continued

commitment to the unique musician-led model, SPCO musicians are empowered to lead and develop programs that reveal their musical curiosities and passions.

"We are so excited to unveil the 2023.24 season, with an impressive lineup of guest artists and Artistic Partners joining us to celebrate great music with our audiences," said Principal Horn James Ferree, who also serves on the SPCO's Artistic Vision Committee involved in planning the season. "An increasing number of our programs are curated and hosted by SPCO musicians who will bring their personal touch to the concert experience. And as we eagerly anticipate the next phase of the Sandbox composer residencies, new commissions, and new arrangements by many of our own members, our season brings a fresh approach to exploring and expanding the best music on our stage."

In addition to concerts showcasing the leadership and artistic vision of SPCO musicians, in the 2023.24 season the orchestra will be joined by returning Artistic Partners Abel Selaoe, Richard Egarr and Rob Kapilow — the latter of whom will conclude his time with the orchestra leading one of his signature *What Makes It Great?* programs featuring Franz Joseph Haydn's final symphony in a season that showcases five additional Haydn symphonies led by SPCO musicians.

The SPCO is thrilled to welcome a number of returning and new guest artists for the 2023.24 season, including Gabriel and Jeffrey Kahane who will co-lead a father/son program over Thanksgiving weekend, conductors Gábor Takács-Nagy and Douglas Boyd, pianists Richard Goode and Anne-Marie McDermott, clarinetist Anthony McGill, and violinist Alina Ibragimova.

"A truly unique aspect of the SPCO is that our musicians select the repertoire and create the concert programs," said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. "Once again, they have planned a sensational season that will take our audience on an extraordinary musical journey. We are so proud to share this amazing season with a broad cross-section of our community through our continued commitment to affordable ticket prices, free admission for children and students, and our Neighborhood Series concerts."

AN EMPHASIS ON CREATIVE LEADS AND MUSICIAN-CURATED PROGRAMS

In the SPCO's unique musician-led artistic model, members of the orchestra are deeply engaged in every aspect of the organization's artistry, including selecting repertoire, shaping artistic interpretations, choosing Artistic Partners and collaborators, and leading uncondacted rehearsals and performances. Musicians are also empowered to bring forward project ideas, and in the 2023.24 season, eight musicians will serve as Creative Leads, curating six special programs that showcase their musical interests and passions. Creative Leads this season include SPCO violinists Daria Adams, Steven Copes, Maureen Nelson and Nina Tso-Ning Fan; Principal Bass Zachary Cohen; Principal Bassoon Andrew Brady; SPCO flutist Alicia McQuerrey; and Principal Horn James Ferree.

"Based on last year's success with the Creative Lead programming, where SPCO musicians curated their own programs, we are excited to continue this series in the 2023.24 season featuring more SPCO musicians in order to expand the range of the SPCO's repertoire," said SPCO violinist and member of the Artistic Vision Committee Eunae Koh.

- **Zachary Cohen Plays Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata (Oct 5–7)**
Bassist Zachary Cohen plays an arrangement of Franz Schubert's famous work for arpeggione, a now-extinct instrument similar to a bowed guitar, alongside chamber music by Florence Price and Ljova.
- **Assad, Janáček and Smetana (Jan 12–13)**
Two autobiographical works by Czech composers Leoš Janáček and Bedřich Smetana look back to their pasts while composer and singer Clarice Assad looks forward in a new work for voice and orchestra completed as part of her Sandbox Composer Residency.

- **Express Concert: Haydn's *Midday* Symphony (Feb 1–4)**
Featuring Franz Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 7, *Midday*, and SPCO violinist Maureen Nelson's new arrangement of Medieval vocal works, this program is a musical response to the poet Rumi who wrote: "The lamps are different, but the Light is the same. One matter, one energy, one Light, one Light-mind, endlessly emanating all things."
- **Express Concert: Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* (Mar 21–23)**
Evocative works by Maurice Ravel, Astor Piazzolla and Osvaldo Golijov explore the passion-filled dance between life and death alongside Adolphus Hailstork's hauntingly beautiful romance for viola played by Hyobi Sim and Lili Boulanger's impressionist masterpiece *D'un matin de printemps*.
- **Haydn's *Surprise* Symphony (Apr 11–20)**
Piano works by Robert and Clara Schumann and Sergei Prokofiev receive surprising new arrangements by SPCO Principal Horn James Ferree and former Artistic Partner and composer Stephen Prutsman before SPCO Concertmaster Steven Copes leads the orchestra in Franz Joseph Haydn's delightful Symphony No. 94, nicknamed the *Surprise* ... no spoilers, please!
- **Schubert's Fifth Symphony (Apr 25–27)**
Violinist Nina Tso-Ning Fan collaborates with Twin Cities-based mezzo-soprano Clara Osowski on a program that contrasts light and dark with several works Franz Schubert and Ottorino Respighi's *Il tramonto (The Sunset)* for voice and string quartet.

A WIDE RANGE OF GUEST ARTISTS, SPCO MUSICIANS AND ARTISTIC PARTNERS FEATURED AS SOLOISTS AND DIRECTORS

In addition to numerous uncondacted, musician-led performances, the 2023.24 season also features many SPCO musicians, returning and debuting guest artists, and Artistic Partners in solo roles with the orchestra.

- **September 15–17**, Artistic Partner [Richard Egarr](#) will kick off the season with the first of his three programs, leading Ludwig van Beethoven's Second Symphony
- **September 29–October 1**, SPCO violinist [Eunice Kim](#) will lead the orchestra as soloist in Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto
- **October 12–14**, internationally-acclaimed cellist and SPCO Artistic Partner [Abel Selaocoe](#) will return for concerts featuring his own compositions alongside music by Antonio Vivaldi and Franz Joseph Haydn
- **October 20–22**, New York Philharmonic Principal Clarinet [Anthony McGill](#) will make his SPCO debut in a weekend of concerts featuring Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Clarinet Concerto
- **November 24–26**, [Jeffrey Kahane](#) will lead the orchestra in George Gershwin's iconic *Rhapsody in Blue* and [Gabriel Kahane's](#) new concerto *Heirloom*
- **November 30–December 2**, SPCO trumpeter [Lynn Erickson](#) will be featured as a soloist in Giuseppe Torelli's Trumpet Concerto as part of a program that will showcase a number of SPCO musicians in feature roles and Arcangelo Corelli's *Christmas* Concerto
- **January 20–23**, SPCO Assistant Director for Programming and Projects and violinist [Maureen Nelson](#) solos in an Express Concert featuring music by Aldemaro Romero, Ernest Chausson and Louise Farrenc
- **January 26–28**, former SPCO Partner [Douglas Boyd](#) returns to conduct a program featuring Principal Oboe [Cassie Pilgrim](#) as soloist
- **February 9–11**, violinist [Alina Ibragimova](#) will make her SPCO debut, leading the orchestra in Beethoven's Violin Concerto
- **February 16–17**, longtime SPCO Artistic Partner [Rob Kapilow](#) will return to lead Haydn's Salomon Symphony as part of his enlightening *What Makes it Great?* series
- **February 23–25**, [Richard Egarr](#) will lead the orchestra from the organ in performances featuring music by George Frideric Handel and Corelli
- **March 8–12**, Artistic Partner [Abel Selaocoe](#) will lead a program that includes his own cello concerto
- **March 14–17**, in a second week of back-to-back concerts, Artistic Partner [Abel Selaocoe](#) returns to lead the orchestra from his cello performing selections from his 2022 Warner Classics debut album, *Where is Home?*

- **April 5–7**, following two summers of collaboration at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival, its director [Anne-Marie McDermott](#) will join the SPCO at the Ordway, once again leading the orchestra from her seat at the piano in a world premiere of Chris Rogerson’s *Samaa*’
- **April 25–27**, mezzo-soprano [Clara Osowski](#) will join the SPCO in a program curated by violinist Nina Tso-Ning Fan
- **May 10–12**, Artistic Partner [Richard Egarr](#) will lead the orchestra in Schubert’s *The Great C Major Symphony*
- **May 17–19**, SPCO Principal Cello [Julie Albers](#) will solo in Haydn’s Cello Concerto No. 2
- **May 23–25**, pianist [Richard Goode](#) will lead the orchestra in two Mozart piano concertos — Nos. 18 and 23 and conductor [Chia-Hsuan Lin](#) leads a world premiere by Texu Kim.
- **June 7–9**, following his debut in the 2022.23 season, conductor [Gábor Takács-Nagy](#) will return to conduct the 2023.24 season finale in Beethoven’s famed *Eroica* Symphony and Berg’s Violin Concerto with SPCO Concertmaster [Steven Copes](#)

SANDBOX COMPOSER RESIDENCIES — A MOLD-BREAKING MODEL FOR NEW MUSIC

First launched in the 2022.23 season, the SPCO Sandbox is a new kind of composer residency program that aims to build a community of curiosity, exploration and collaboration around new music by inviting composers to develop new works in a collaborative process with the orchestra over the course of a season. The idea of placing a composer at the creative center of an orchestra is not new. Indeed, it is this very arrangement that proved such fertile creative ground for composer Franz Joseph Haydn, who famously said of his time embedded with the Esterházy court orchestra that:

As head of an orchestra I could try things out, observe what creates a [good] effect and what weakens it, and thus revise, make additions or cuts, take risks. I was cut off from the world, nobody in my vicinity could upset my self-confidence ... I had no choice but to become original.

In a divergence from the industry standard of commissioning individual works, the Sandbox Composer Residencies provide support for composers to experiment freely across a variety of new works created in collaboration with the musicians of the SPCO. This alternative residency model focuses on building lasting relationships between the SPCO and resident composers by allowing composers to workshop new pieces, experiment and revise, take risks, develop relationships with SPCO musicians and engage with SPCO audiences.

[Clarice Assad](#) will be the featured Sandbox composer-in-residence in the 2023.24 season. This fall, Assad will workshop her new work for voice and orchestra ahead of its premiere on January 12–13, 2024. Future Sandbox composers-in-residence [Valerie Coleman](#) and [Gabriela Lena Frank](#) will also begin developing their new Sandbox works for the 2024.25 season.

EVEN MORE EXPRESS CONCERTS: ALL THE MUSIC WITHOUT THE INTERMISSION!

After a resoundingly positive audience response to the addition of Express Concerts during the 2022.23 season, the 2023.24 season will expand the format to include even more programs. Express Concerts are a new format of concerts, first developed as a pandemic safety measure, that feature no intermission break with a concert experience approximately 75 minutes long.

Express Concerts are spread throughout the season and are included in a number of packages across SPCO venues, offering subscribers of different packages an opportunity to experience this concert format. Subscribers can exchange tickets between full-length and Express Concerts with no restrictions or fees.

NEW EVENING PERFORMANCE START TIMES

As a mission-driven organization, the SPCO continues to look for new ways to expand access to music and to serve audiences in and beyond the Twin Cities. Based on patron feedback, the SPCO is pleased to announce a change in the start time for evening concerts. New to the 2023.24 season, all evening performances both at the Ordway and in our Neighborhood Series venues will begin at 7:00pm.

FREE CONCERT VIDEOS IN THE SPCO'S ONLINE CONCERT LIBRARY

The SPCO launched its online [Concert Library](#) in spring of 2017, offering full-length concert videos for livestreaming and on-demand viewing, anytime, anywhere, completely free of charge. Since then, the orchestra has produced 45 video concerts, including three Family Concerts, and has added numerous artist interviews and other special features to its on-demand library. The Concert Library has received nearly 900,000 visits from people in Minnesota and beyond since its launch.

The orchestra will broadcast 5–10 live performances in the coming season, with the final number of productions contingent on funding. The SPCO will continue to add new on-demand content to the library, as well, and all Concert Library content will continue to be available free of charge.

TICKET INFORMATION

Season ticket packages are now available for purchase. To learn about available packages and to order tickets, call the SPCO Ticket Office at **651.291.1144** or visit www.thespco.org. To request a brochure, email tickets@spcomail.org. The Ticket Office is open 12pm–5pm Monday through Friday and 11am–3pm on Saturdays (September–May). Season ticket packages start at just \$10 per concert for adults and are free for children and students. Individual tickets for the 2023.24 season will go on sale in August, with ticket prices ranging from \$11–\$55 for adults (free for children and students).

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.

PHOTOS

Access photos of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra [here](#). Click on the thumbnails to view images. Then, right click and select "Save image as..." to download.

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