

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra announces its 2024.25 season

- A wide range of [SPCO musicians](#) will be featured as soloists and arrangers throughout the season, and in a continued commitment to the musician-led model, four SPCO musicians will take creative lead on four different programs
- The SPCO continues its [Sandbox Residencies](#) — a groundbreaking collaborative model for developing and premiering new music — welcoming third composer-in-residence Valerie Coleman
- Returning SPCO [Artistic Partners](#) Tabea Zimmermann, Abel Selaocoe and Richard Egarr will lead several performances with the orchestra throughout the season, including the orchestra’s 66th opening weekend performances
- The SPCO will welcome a number of returning and debut guest artists, including vocalists Clara Osowski and John Moore; pianist Roman Rabinovich; violinist and conductor Dmitry Sinkovsky; flutist Jasmine Choi; and conductors William Eddins and Gábor Takács-Nagy
- The SPCO celebrates 15 years of partnership with the Capri Theater in North Minneapolis with a three-concert series, held in the recently renovated, historic theater with free tickets for Northside residents and families
- The SPCO will perform 82 concerts — with seats for over 89,000 audience members — across nine Twin Cities venues
- Eighth year of the [New Generation Initiative](#), offering free tickets for children and students, and \$10 best available tickets for anyone ages 18–39
- Continuation of the [Concert Membership](#) program, which gets members access to unlimited concerts for as low as \$5 per month, and an expansion of the program with the Gold Concert Membership, which gives members access to the highest price seats at SPCO performances
- The SPCO will continue its annual holiday tradition of Johann Sebastian Bach’s *Brandenburg* Concertos, led from the harpsichord by Artistic Partner Richard Egarr, and George Frideric Handel’s *Messiah*, conducted by Patrick Dupré Quigley
- A presentation with [The Arts Partnership](#) of *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* with the Turtle Island Quartet, a concert production of the opera by Terence Blanchard
- The orchestra will continue to offer its free on-demand access to past concerts, video interviews and other content through the SPCO [Concert Library](#) and co-present the Arts Partnership’s Ordway Inside Out series
- The 40th anniversary of the Ordway and the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Concert Hall

SAINT PAUL, MN, APRIL 17, 2024 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today its 2024.25 season — the 66th concert season for the organization. The 2024.25 season will showcase the artistic vision of SPCO musicians alongside returning Artistic Partners and world-renowned guest artists, embracing an exciting era defined by musician leadership of the orchestra’s artistry and its programming, while continuing the SPCO’s longstanding commitment to accessibility.

ARTISTIC THEMES OF THE 2024.25 SEASON

This newest season in the orchestra's 66-year history will explore themes of change and transformation through the prism of the four seasons. In addition to fresh arrangements of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Seasons* and Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel's *Das Jahr (The Year)*, SPCO audiences will be treated to Antonio Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* in three ways. In the fall, Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim will lead the orchestra in Vivaldi's classic *Four Seasons*; in the new year, SPCO violinist Nina Tso-Ning Fan will perform a contemporary take on Vivaldi's *Winter* through the lens of film composer and British minimalist Max Richter; and in the spring, SPCO violinist Eunice Kim will tackle Astor Piazzolla's dazzling *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*.

In September, Artistic Partner and violist extraordinaire Tabea Zimmermann opens the season alongside longtime concertmaster Steven Copes in Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's beloved Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola. Beginning with this first concert and threaded throughout the rest of the season, the orchestra will explore key works by 20th century composer Sergei Prokofiev that are specially arranged for chamber orchestra. In December, Artistic Partner Richard Egarr will lead the SPCO in performances of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Brandenburg* Concertos — an annual, holiday tradition made all the more special by Egarr's expert direction from the harpsichord and engaging commentary. In the spring, he will direct the SPCO's first-ever performances of Emilie Mayer's Symphony No. 1, one of the few female symphonists of the 19th century. In both the fall and spring, the return of Artistic Partner Abel Selaocoe will feature his own compositions as well as the works of some of his biggest influences, including jazz composer Marius Neset and fellow cellist Giovanni Sollima.

Continuing its commitment to its musician-led model, a majority of performances throughout the season will be led by orchestra musicians in the SPCO's signature uncondacted style. "Unlike larger orchestras, our small size lends itself to a democratic and inclusive programming process that has translated to deeper engagement in the performances of both core repertoire and new works," said SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. In the 2024.25 season, four SPCO musicians will step to the fore to curate unique programs inspired by their own interests, and ten will lead the orchestra as soloists.

"Our musicians not only put their hearts and souls in every performance — they put their hearts in souls in creating the season," said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. "With Kyu's leadership, they thoughtfully and passionately develop each program with the intention of ensuring that every concert is highly impactful and satisfying for our audience. This coming season is a gem that reflects the many perspectives and voices of our orchestra. And — as we have done for almost 20 years — we will offer our concerts for some of the most affordable ticket prices in the orchestra world, consistent with our vision of providing a great orchestra for everyone in the community."

MUSICIAN-LED MODEL — CREATIVE LEADS AND MUSICIAN-CURATED PROGRAMS

In the SPCO's musician-led artistic model, members of the orchestra are 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. As a part of this unique, democratic model, orchestra members are empowered to develop programming; in the 2024.25 season, four musicians will serve as Creative Leads, each curating a special program that showcases their individual, musical interests and passions.

"Our musicians develop an even deeper engagement with the creative process and the performances through being Creative Leads," said SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. "It has been heartening to hear from audience members how much they appreciate the ability to hear directly from the Creative Leads about their repertoire choices and their passion for the music."

Creative Leads this season include SPCO violinist Eunae Koh, Principal Bassoon Andrew Brady, SPCO cellist Richard Belcher and Principal Oboe Cassie Pilgrim.

- **Sep 20–21 | Mozart's *Haffner* Symphony**
Eunae Koh, violin and creative lead

- **Nov 14–17 | Haydn's *Il Distratto* Symphony**
Andrew Brady, creative lead
- **May 23–25 | Janáček's *The Kreutzer Sonata***
Richard Belcher, creative lead
- **Jun 5–8 | Cassie Pilgrim Plays Bach's Oboe d'Amore Concerto**
Cassie Pilgrim, oboe d'amore and creative lead

SOLOISTS — A WIDE RANGE OF GUEST ARTISTS, SPCO MUSICIANS AND ARTISTIC PARTNERS

In addition to numerous uncondacted, musician-led performances, the 2024.25 season also features many SPCO musicians, returning and debuting guest artists, and Artistic Partners in solo roles with the orchestra.

- **Sep 13–15 | Opening Weekend: Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with Tabea Zimmermann**
Tabea Zimmermann, director and viola; Steven Copes, violin
- **Sep 20–21 | Mozart's *Haffner* Symphony**
Eunae Koh, violin and creative lead
- **Sep 27–29 | EXPRESS CONCERT: Kyu-Young Kim Plays Vivaldi's *Four Seasons***
Kyu-Young Kim, violin
- **Oct 10–12 | Julie Albers Plays Elgar's Cello Concerto**
Julie Albers, cello
- **Oct 18–20 | *When We Were Trees* with Abel Selaocoe**
Abel Selaocoe, director and cello; Richard Belcher, cello
- **Nov 14–17 | Haydn's *Il Distratto* Symphony**
Andrew Brady, creative lead; Cassie Pilgrim, English horn
- **Nov 29–Dec 1 | Copland's *Appalachian Spring***
Clara Osowski, mezzo-soprano
- **Dec 13–15 | Bach's *Brandenburg* Concertos with Richard Egarr**
Richard Egarr, conductor and harpsichord
- **Dec 19–22 | Holiday Concerts: Handel's *Messiah***
Patrick Dupré Quigley, conductor; Lauren Snouffer, soprano; Clara Osowski, mezzo-soprano; John Matthew Myers, tenor; John Moore, baritone; The Singers — Minnesota Choral Artists; Matthew Culloton, artistic director
- **Jan 17–19 | Roman Rabinovich Plays Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20**
Roman Rabinovich, piano; John Moore, baritone; Matthew Wilson, horn
- **Jan 30–Feb 1 | Haydn's *Fire* Symphony**
Nina Tso-Ning Fan, violin
- **Feb 14–16 | *Four Spirits* with Abel Selaocoe**
Abel Selaocoe, director and cello; Bernhard Schimpelsberger, percussion
- **Mar 7–8 | Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires***
Eunice Kim, violin

- **Mar 14–16 | Haydn’s *Drum Roll* Symphony with Richard Egarr**
Richard Egarr, conductor
- **Mar 27–30 | Bruch and Korngold with Tabea Zimmermann**
Tabea Zimmermann, director and viola; Sang Yoon Kim, clarinet
- **Apr 10–12 | Mozart’s 40th Symphony with Dmitry Sinkovsky**
Dmitry Sinkovsky, conductor and violin
- **Apr 24–27 | Jasmine Choi Plays Mozart’s Second Flute Concerto**
Jasmine Choi, flute
- **May 2–3 | Steven Copes Plays Prokofiev’s First Violin Sonata**
Steven Copes, violin
- **May 16–18 | Coleman’s *Sandbox* Premiere with William Eddins**
William Eddins, conductor
- **May 23–25 | EXPRESS CONCERT: Janáček’s *The Kreutzer Sonata***
Richard Belcher, creative lead
- **Jun 5–8 | EXPRESS CONCERT: Cassie Pilgrim Plays Bach’s Oboe d’Amore Concerto**
Cassie Pilgrim, oboe d’amore and creative lead; Sang Yoon Kim, clarinet; James Ferree, horn; Julie Albers, cello
- **Jun 13–15 | Season Finale: Mozart’s *Prague* Symphony with Gábor Takács-Nagy**
Gábor Takács-Nagy, conductor; Sang Yoon Kim, clarinet

SANDBOX — A COLLABORATIVE COMPOSER RESIDENCY PROGRAM

First launched in the 2022.23 season, the SPCO [Sandbox](#) is a groundbreaking 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, Sandbox 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.

[Valerie Coleman](#) will be the featured Sandbox composer-in-residence in the 2024.25 season. Throughout the season, Coleman will workshop a new composition ahead of its premiere on May 16–18, 2025. Future Sandbox composer-in-residence [Gabriela Lena Frank](#) will also begin developing her new Sandbox works for the 2025.26 season.

“We have been thrilled with the success of the first two Sandbox residencies with Viet Cuong and Clarice Assad, and we can’t wait to see and hear what Valerie will do with her piece and with the SPCO winds in particular,” said Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim. “Her many years of performing as the

flutist of the Imani Winds is very much a part of who she is as an artist, and she has a particular affinity with the SPCO as a musician-led group.”

“My new Sandbox composition for the SPCO will premiere in May 2025, which will also mark the 5th anniversary of George Floyd’s murder,” said Sandbox composer-in-residence Valerie Coleman. “I hope that my piece can be a source of unity and healing for this traumatic event which has such local, national and international significance. I consider this opportunity to write for the SPCO and their community to be a focal point of my work over the next year and a major artistic endeavor with great resonance for me personally and for my audience as a composer.”

CONCERT MEMBERSHIP — UNLIMITED SPCO CONCERTS FOR A LOW MONTHLY FEE

As a pillar of the SPCO’s commitment to accessibility, the [Concert Membership](#) program gives access to all of the SPCO’s regular concerts throughout the season for a low, recurring monthly payment. Similar to a monthly gym membership, Concert Members can reserve tickets to an unlimited number of concerts throughout the season. Member tickets can be reserved as early as August, when individual tickets go on sale, or as late as the day of the concert — so long as the performance isn’t sold out!

There are currently three payment tiers for Concert Membership.

- **\$5 per month**
Introductory offer for new Concert Members: The SPCO maintains a longstanding offer for any first-time Concert Members, where the first year of membership is discounted to \$5 per month

club2030 Concert Membership: members of [club2030](#), the SPCO’s free discount program for ages 18–39, are eligible to pay \$5 per month for Concert Membership
- **\$9 per month**
Standard Concert Membership: grants access to scale 2 and 3 seats at an unlimited number of SPCO performances for a low monthly fee
- **\$20 per month**
Gold Concert Membership: in addition to scale 2 and 3 seats, the Gold Concert Membership grants access to scale 1 seats (the highest price seats) at an unlimited number of SPCO performances

NEW GENERATION INITIATIVE

In August 2016, the SPCO announced the New Generation Initiative, a suite of programs designed to expand access to music for young people in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metro area. Through generous funding from donors, the SPCO has made it easier than ever for young people to experience SPCO concerts through free and reduced-price tickets, which will be continued next season.

- **Free tickets for children and students**
Building on its historical commitment to affordable ticket prices, the SPCO further expanded access to young people by offering free child and student tickets for all regular SPCO concerts starting in the 2016-17 season. Children and students can get free tickets to as many SPCO concerts as they would like, with nearly the entire season available for free ticket reservations.
- **Continuation of club2030 program**
In addition to free student and child tickets and new concert formats, the SPCO will continue to offer \$10 best available seats for club2030 members (the SPCO’s free club for people in their 20s and 30s) at nearly all SPCO concerts in the 2024.25 season.

NINE PERFORMANCE VENUES THROUGHOUT THE TWIN CITIES

In addition to the Ordway Concert Hall, the SPCO will continue to perform in Twin Cities suburbs and residential neighborhoods of Minneapolis and Saint Paul in the 2024.25 season. This season marks the 40th

anniversary of the Ordway. It is also the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Concert Hall, which was designed to showcase the SPCO and ensembles of similar size. The orchestra performs over half of its season at the Ordway Concert Hall.

- Basilica of Saint Mary in downtown Minneapolis
- Ordway Concert Hall in downtown Saint Paul
- Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi
- Saint Paul's United Church of Christ in Summit Hill, Saint Paul
- Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley
- Ted Mann Concert Hall at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- Temple Israel in Uptown Minneapolis
- The Capri in North Minneapolis
- Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie

ARTS PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION — FIRE SHUT UP IN MY BONES WITH THE TURTLE ISLAND QUARTET

Based on the 2014 memoir by Charles M. Blow, with music by Terence Blanchard and libretto by Kasi Lemmons, the opera *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* premiered at Opera Theater St. Louis in 2019. The Metropolitan Opera opened its season with the work in in 2021 — the first in its 138 years written by an African American composer. It became an unparalleled success and was staged again during the Met's 2023-2024 season. In an effort to continue the message that opera and classical music are for everyone, Blanchard and The E-Collective have teamed up with the Grammy Award-winning Turtle Island Quartet and visual artist Andrew F. Scott to create a concert production that features excerpts from the opera performed by the composer, this incredible ensemble, and two guest singers. The music and Scott's video projections give the audience a look inside the mind of Blanchard and the world he created.

Sunday, February 23, 2:00pm
Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

FREE CONCERT LIBRARY — MAKING MUSIC ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

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 46 video concerts, including three programs geared toward children and their families, and has added numerous artist interviews and other special features to its on-demand library.

The SPCO will continue to offer on-demand content on the library free of charge and will present a pre-recorded concert on a large video wall in Rice Park as a part of the Arts Partnership's Ordway Inside Out series. Plans for Concert Library livestreams and dates for Ordway Inside Out will be announced at a later time.

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 (Sep–May). Season ticket packages start at just \$13 per concert for adults and are free for children and students. Individual tickets for the 2024.25 season will go on sale in August, with ticket prices ranging from \$13–\$61 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 one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. Entering its 66th season in September, the SPCO is primarily an uncondacted ensemble that performs a broad range of repertoire, from Baroque works to new music, in close collaboration with a dynamic roster

of [Artistic Partners](#). The current roster of Artistic Partners consists of British Baroque specialist Richard Egarr, American composer and musical commentator Rob Kapilow, South African cellist Abel Selaocoe and German violist Tabea Zimmermann.

In its commitment to making music accessible to everyone, the virtuoso musicians of the SPCO present over 80 concerts each season, sharing live music with over 70,000 people throughout the Twin Cities from September through June. 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 with free tickets for children and students as a part of its [New Generation Initiative](#). The orchestra also offers an innovative ticket membership model in which members pay a monthly fee to attend unlimited concerts, with a \$5 per month concert membership option for first-time Concert Members and members of [club2030](#), the orchestra's discount program for audience members in their 20s and 30s.

The SPCO's free, online [Concert Library](#) offers audio and video concert recordings — both live and on-demand — that can be accessed anytime, completely free of charge thanks to donors. Through its partnership with YourClassical Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media, the SPCO is regularly played 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, bassist Xavier Foley, and pianist and Bravo! Vail Artistic Director Anne-Marie McDermott.

The SPCO is deeply committed to expanding orchestral repertoire, [commissioning more than 160 new works](#) throughout its 65-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 [Sandbox Residency program](#) invites composers to experiment freely across a variety of new works created in collaboration with the orchestra. This groundbreaking residency model allows composers to workshop new pieces, experiment and revise, take risks, develop relationships with SPCO musicians and engage with SPCO audiences.

The SPCO is a proud member of the [Arts Partnership](#), a strategic alliance of four performing arts organizations — Minnesota Opera, the Ordway, the SPCO and Schubert Club — that ensures equitable sharing and effective care of the Ordway Center as a vital cultural asset in the Twin Cities.

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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