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The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra appoints bassoonist Demetra Alikakos as newest orchestra member

SAINT PAUL, MN, AUGUST 14, 2024 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today that bassoonist Demetra Alikakos has been appointed as the newest member of the orchestra, joining the bassoon section. Alikakos' first concerts with the orchestra will take place in September 2024, and she previously performed with the SPCO in Schubert's The Great C Major Symphony with Richard Egarr, filmed in May 2024 at the Ordway Concert Hall. The concert can be viewed for free and on-demand in the SPCO's [Concert Library](#).

"I couldn't be more excited to have Demetra join the bassoon section and to welcome her to the SPCO," said Principal Bassoon Andrew Brady. "She is a fantastic player and showed command of a wide range of styles throughout her audition, recital and trial weeks. She received unanimous votes from the audition panel in every round, which is no small feat. I have no doubt she'll be a fantastic addition to the orchestra, and I'm excited for us all to get to know her!"

"I'm beyond excited and honored to be joining The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra as its second bassoonist," said Alikakos. "The orchestra has been beyond welcoming, and I admire the artistry and dedication of my fellow musicians and look forward to playing with all of them this season. On a personal level, I'm looking forward to joining the St. Paul community and exploring the city."

"We are so pleased to welcome Demetra to The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra," said Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. "She is an accomplished bassoonist and an amazing artist and will be a wonderful addition to our outstanding winds."

PHOTOS OF DEMETRA ALIKAKOS

[Link to hi-res artist headshots](#)

ABOUT DEMETRA ALIKAKOS

Hailing from suburban Chicago, Demetra Alikakos joined The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra as bassoonist in September 2024. Alikakos has appeared with the Houston Symphony, Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, Grant Park Festival Orchestra and as a guest principal bassoonist with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

Alikakos is a recent graduate of the Rice Shepherd School of Music where she studied with Benjamin Kamins and received her master's degree. Prior to Rice, she received her bachelor's degree in music performance and statistics from DePaul University where she studied under William Buchman, Miles Maner and Keith Buncke. Alikakos started playing bassoon at the age of 12 and previously studied with Hanna Sterba. She has spent previous summers with National Repertory Orchestra, The Chautauqua Festival and Sewanee Festival.

In addition to orchestral playing, Alikakos enjoys solo and chamber music repertoire. She participated and received an honorable mention in the 2023 Meg Quigley Vivaldi Competition in Tucson, Arizona. She now resides in St. Paul where she enjoys taking care of her plants, crocheting and exploring the forest.

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, South African cellist Abel Selaocoe, Hungarian conductor Gábor Takács-Nagy 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 OF THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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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