

THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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SPCO and Musicians Ratify a New Three-Year Collective Bargaining Agreement

SAINT PAUL, MN, September 17, 2024 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Society and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Musicians, represented by the American Federation of Musicians Local 30-73, have ratified a new collective bargaining agreement.

The terms of the agreement include an annual minimum salary increase of 3.5% over the duration of the contract and an increase to the minimum guaranteed compensation from the Musician Appreciation Concert to \$4,000 annually from the current \$2,000. Combined, these increases result in a 6.2% increase in total guaranteed compensation over the next three years. In addition to the increase in total guaranteed compensation, there is a ratification bonus of \$12,500 for each musician. The agreement also includes a significant increase in fees for SPCO musicians who perform solos and an investment in the SPCO's distinctive artistic model by providing a stipend for orchestra members serving on the Artistic Vision Committee.

"This agreement represents a meaningful increase in compensation for our musicians, who are so deserving, while also being financially responsible and sustainable." SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher said, "we can now move forward, as the new season begins, with a clear focus on providing wonderful concerts, delivering on our mission to the community, and working to regain our financial health."

SPCO Board Chair Deborah Palmer said, "The Board is very pleased that we have reached an agreement that we believe is good for the musicians, the organization and the community."

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. Now in its 66th season, 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 \$16 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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