

## The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Announces 2025.26 Season

- **Musician-led Artistic Model** — 31 concerts featuring [SPCO musicians](#) as soloists, and 45 concerts being led by SPCO musicians
- **Artistic Partners** — seven dynamic programs with Artistic Partners, including cellist Abel Selaocoe; conductors Richard Egarr and Gábor Takács-Nagy; pianist Richard Goode; and violist Tabea Zimmermann
- **Guest Artists** — exciting collaborations with new and returning artists alike, including pianist Jonathan Biss; violinist Alina Ibragimova; cellist Kiegan Ryan; conductor Mei-Ann Chen; former Artistic Partner Thomas Zehetmair; and vocalists Mark Billy, Federico De Michelis and Roderick Williams
- **Sandbox Residencies** — Gabriela Lena Frank is the fourth Sandbox composer-in-residence, developing and premiering new music in collaboration with the orchestra
- **Pricing Accessibility** — continued commitment to making world-class performances affordable for *everyone*, with 50% of tickets offered for just \$16, plus free and discounted tickets to all subscription concerts for young people through the [New Generation Initiative](#)
- **Concert Membership** — the SPCO's flexible alternative to subscriptions or individual tickets, allowing patrons to attend an unlimited number of concerts at no charge, for a monthly fee of \$5–\$20
- **Geographic Accessibility** — over 80 concerts across eight Twin Cities locations, including the Ordway and a variety of Neighborhood Series venues

**SAINT PAUL, MN, APRIL 8, 2025** — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces its 2025.26 season — the 67th concert season for the organization. The 2025.26 season will embrace collaborations with new and returning artists alike, while maintaining a focus on SPCO musicians as leaders who shape and determine the orchestra's artistic vision. Other foundational pillars of the upcoming season include the ongoing commitment to making world-class music accessible to everyone in the Twin Cities in addition to the orchestra's cultivation of new music, with performances that continue to expand and redefine what classical music can be.

“Our musicians, working in close collaboration with our Interim Artistic Director Jonathan Posthuma, have constructed a wonderful and exciting season ahead,” said SPCO Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. “In our musician-led artistic model, the musicians function as the music director and are involved in every aspect of the programming and what happens on stage. This is one of the reasons SPCO concerts are so incredibly and consistently dynamic.”

“The 2025.26 season also marks the 20th anniversary of a watershed moment for the SPCO through our decision to lower prices to become more accessible to more people than ever before,” Limbacher added. “We remain so proud of this important, strategic decision which continues to help define the SPCO today as an organization with a mission to make world-class performances accessible to everyone in our community.”

## **ARTISTIC THEMES OF THE 2025.26 SEASON**

As has been the case since the adoption of the SPCO's musician-led artistic model in 2004, this newest season in the orchestra's 67-year history has been crafted by the musicians of the orchestra. The 2025.26 season can be framed by a quote from the composer Robert Schumann — one of two composers around which the season was built:

*To send light into the depths of the human heart — this is the artist's calling!*

Schumann's belief in the value of music to inspire and illuminate the human experience — even amidst darkness — grounds the artistic themes of the 2025.26 season. His music also links the past to both the present and future, paying homage to what has come before while also looking ahead. SPCO Artistic Partner Abel Selaocoe struck a similar chord before one of his recent performances with the orchestra, speaking directly to the audience, "tradition is progressive." Just as the 2025.26 season will reflect on past musical perspectives from all over the world, it also seeks to respond in the context of this century, putting composers from as far back as Pérotin, of late 12th century Paris, in conversation with American perspectives of the last fifty years like Julius Eastman and Caroline Shaw, as well as composers and visionaries from every century in between.

Along with the music of Robert and Clara Schumann, Johann Sebastian Bach's four orchestral suites serve as artistic points of connection throughout the season, mapping a musical network between their own predecessors and contemporaries, performed alongside newer works written by composers who were (and continue to be) inspired by their music — by composers who answer that calling to send light into the darkness.

"As we announce our upcoming season, I'm particularly excited about the continuation of our unique blend of programs led by our wonderful Artistic Partners, as well as our own musician-led concerts amongst stellar guest artists," said SPCO cellist Richard Belcher, who serves on the orchestra's Artistic Vision Committee responsible for planning the 2025.26 season. "With such an exciting mix of personalities at the helm, we're set for some thrilling programs full of music that spans centuries. Our Sandbox residency will ensure that our repertoire remains well and truly alive, while we continue to savor and celebrate masterpieces from previous eras."

"Whether featuring beloved works from the past, lesser-known pieces, or the exciting new music of the present, the SPCO builds upon our tradition of transformational music-making for everyone," said Interim Artistic Director Jonathan Posthuma. "Musicians and audiences alike are passionate and eclectic; and we've curated a season that seeks out both the familiar and the unexpected."

## **MUSICIAN-LED ARTISTIC MODEL — A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS HELMED BY SPCO MUSICIANS**

In the SPCO's musician-led artistic model, its members are engaged in every aspect of the orchestra's artistry — including selecting repertoire, shaping artistic interpretations, choosing Artistic Partners and collaborators, and leading unconducted rehearsals and performances. As a part of this unique, democratic model, orchestra members lead and develop programming through the Artistic Vision Committee, a rotating group of SPCO musicians tasked with planning the season in close collaboration with the Interim Artistic Director, Jonathan Posthuma.

"From the first brainstorming conversation through to the final performance, SPCO musicians are at the heart of the programming process," said Posthuma. "Their creativity and collaboration are woven into the fabric of the season."

Continuing its commitment to this musician-led artistic model, a majority of performances throughout the 2025.26 season will be led by orchestra musicians in the SPCO's signature unconducted style, with many SPCO musicians also leading as soloists.

"I'm thrilled to have been a part of crafting the 2025.26 SPCO season which promises to be exciting, diverse and fulfilling!" said Principal Bassoon Andrew Brady, who currently serves on the Artistic Vision Committee. "It's especially thrilling to be able to program bigger works like Schumann's *Rhenish* Symphony with Artistic

Partner Gábor Takács-Nagy. On a personal note,” Brady added, “I’m also looking forward to performing Strauss’ Duet Concertino with Sang Yoon Kim. We were schoolmates at The Colburn School Conservatory but hardly got to play in orchestra together, so it’s amazing to get to sit next to him week after week now! We hope to see you at many concerts!”

- **Sep 19–21 | EXPRESS CONCERT: Bach’s First Orchestral Suite**  
Andrew Brady, bassoon and creative lead
- **Nov 7–9 | Eunice Kim Plays Saint-Saëns’ Third Violin Concerto**  
Eunice Kim, violin
- **Nov 28–30 | Kyu-Young Kim Plays Prokofiev’s Second Violin Concerto**  
Kyu-Young Kim, violin
- **Feb 6–8 | EXPRESS CONCERT: Bach’s Second Orchestral Suite**  
Alicia McQuerrey, flute; Steven Copes, violin
- **Mar 13–15 | Nina Tso-Ning Fan Plays *The Lark Ascending***  
Nina Tso-Ning Fan, violin
- **Apr 10–11 | EXPRESS CONCERT: Andrew Brady and Sang Yoon Kim Play Strauss’ Duet-Concertino**  
Sang Yoon Kim, clarinet; Andrew Brady, bassoon
- **Apr 24–26 | Gubaidulina, Prokofiev and Mozart**  
Alicia McQuerrey, piccolo; Julia Bogorad-Kogan, flute
- **Apr 30–May 3 | Sang Yoon Kim Plays Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto**  
Sang Yoon Kim, clarinet

#### **ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS — BRINGING NEW AND BELOVED MUSICIANS TO THE TWIN CITIES**

In addition to a wealth of SPCO musician-led programming, the 2025.26 season features a number of exciting collaborations with new and returning guest artists, including a world-renowned roster of Artistic Partners. [Artistic Partners](#) for the 2025.26 season include British Baroque specialist [Richard Egarr](#), American pianist [Richard Goode](#), South African cellist [Abel Selaocoe](#), Hungarian conductor [Gábor Takács-Nagy](#) and German violist [Tabea Zimmermann](#).

- **Sep 12–14 | Opening Weekend: Mozart’s Jupiter Symphony with Thomas Zehetmair**  
Thomas Zehetmair, conductor; Steven Copes, violin\*; Julie Albers, cello\*
- **Sep 26–28 | *Hymns of Bantu* with Abel Selaocoe**  
Abel Selaocoe, director and cello †
- **Oct 17–18 | Richard Goode Plays Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 14**  
Richard Goode, director and piano †
- **Oct 31–Nov 2 | Richard Egarr Conducts Haydn’s Symphony No. 93**  
Richard Egarr, conductor †; Roderick Williams, baritone ‡
- **Dec 18–21 | Holiday Concerts: Handel’s *Messiah***  
Dinis Sousa, conductor ‡; Liv Redpath, soprano; Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, countertenor; Hugo Hymas, tenor ‡; John Chest, baritone‡; The Singers — Minnesota Choral Artists; Matthew Culloton, artistic director

- **Jan 16–17 | Alina Ibragimova Plays Mozart’s Third Violin Concerto**  
Alina Ibragimova, director and violin
- **Jan 30–Feb 1 | Frank’s Sandbox Premiere**  
Mei-Ann Chen, conductor ‡; Federico De Michelis, baritone ‡
- **Feb 12–13 | Debussy, Ryan and Shadle**  
Mark Billy, baritone and Native American flute ‡; Kiegan Ryan, cello ‡
- **Feb 20–22 | Beethoven’s Fourth Symphony with Richard Egarr**  
Richard Egarr, conductor †
- **Mar 27–29 | Schubert’s Second Symphony with Tabea Zimmermann**  
Tabea Zimmermann, director and viola †
- **May 22–24 | *The Holy Presence of Joan d’Arc* with Abel Selaocoe**  
Abel Selaocoe, director and cello †
- **Jun 4–6 | Jonathan Biss Plays Schumann’s Piano Concerto**  
Jonathan Biss, director and piano
- **Jun 12–14 | Season Finale: Strauss’s *Metamorphosen* with Gábor Takács-Nagy**  
Gábor Takács-Nagy, conductor †

† SPCO Artistic Partner

‡ SPCO Debut

\* SPCO Musician

### **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. In a divergence from the industry standard of only commissioning individual works, Sandbox Residencies provide support for composers to experiment freely, creating new works in collaboration with SPCO musicians. This alternative residency model allows composers to workshop new pieces, experiment and revise, take risks, develop lasting relationships with SPCO musicians and engage with SPCO audiences.

The belief that new compositions are vital to the future of orchestral music is not new for the SPCO. “From a performance of music by Purcell arranged by Leopold Sipe during the SPCO’s very first concert in 1959 to newly commissioned works by our Sandbox Composers in Residence, the SPCO has always been committed to reimagining the music of the past and championing the music of the present,” said Posthuma.

[Gabriela Lena Frank](#) will be the featured Sandbox composer-in-residence in the 2025.26 season.

Throughout the season, Frank will work on a new composition with SPCO musicians ahead of its premiere on January 30, 2025.

“How excited I am to create new orchestral songs with the virtuoso poet J. Drew Lanham, thanks to the workshoping provided by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and its Sandbox series!” said Frank. “Having the opportunity to try out ideas before formal rehearsals begin is an all-too-rare luxury, and I am very grateful.”

### **PRICING ACCESSIBILITY — AFFORDABLE TICKETS THROUGH THE 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 subscription concerts starting in the 2016.17 season. Children and students of all ages can get free tickets to as many concerts as they would like, with the entire subscription season available for free ticket reservations.

- **Continuation of Club2030 program**

In addition to free student and child tickets, the SPCO will offer \$15 best available seats for [Club2030](#) (the SPCO's free young audience discount program for people in their 20s and 30s) at all subscription concerts in the 2025.26 season.

### **CONCERT MEMBERSHIP — THE MOST FLEXIBLE AND AFFORDABLE WAY TO ATTEND**

As a pillar of the orchestra's commitment to accessibility, the SPCO [Concert Membership](#) program allows its members to reserve free tickets to an unlimited number of subscription concerts throughout the season for one flat monthly payment, similar to a monthly gym membership.

Unlike a season subscription — which gives patrons a predetermined set of tickets at a reduced price to specific concerts — Concert Membership offers ultimate patron flexibility. Member tickets can be reserved free of charge as early as August, when individual tickets go on sale, or as late as the day of the concert!

The SPCO offers a variety of Concert Membership pricing options to maximize flexibility and affordability. There are currently three different options for flat monthly rates per person, ranging from \$5–\$20 per month:

- **\$5 per month**

- **Introductory Concert Membership:** this longstanding offer is for any first-time Concert Members, where the first year of Concert Membership is reduced to \$5 per month
- **Club2030 Concert Membership:** anyone signed up for [Club2030](#), the SPCO's free discount program for ages 18–39, is eligible for this reduced rate of \$5 per month

- **\$10 per month**

- **Standard Concert Membership:** grants access to scale 2 and 3 seats at an unlimited number of SPCO performances

- **\$20 per month**

- **Gold Concert Membership:** in addition to scale 2 and 3 seats, grants access to scale 1 seats (highest priced seats) at an unlimited number of SPCO performances

### **GEOGRAPHIC ACCESSIBILITY — PERFORMANCE VENUES THROUGHOUT THE TWIN CITIES**

In addition to the Ordway Concert Hall, where the orchestra performs over half of its concerts during the season, the SPCO will continue to perform in Twin Cities suburbs and residential neighborhoods of Minneapolis and Saint Paul in its commitment to geographic accessibility throughout its community.

- **Apple Valley**

- Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd

- **Eden Prairie**

- Wooddale Church, 6630 Shady Oak Rd

- **Mahtomedi**

- Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, 900 Stillwater Rd

- **Minneapolis**
  - Basilica of Saint Mary, 88 N 17th St
  - Capri Theater, 2027 W Broadway
  - Ted Mann Concert Hall at the University of Minnesota, 2128 4th St S
  
- **Saint Paul**
  - Ordway Concert Hall, 345 Washington St
  - Saint Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave

**TICKET PRICING AND INFORMATION**

Subscription 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 [thespc.org](http://thespc.org). To request a brochure, email [tickets@spcomail.org](mailto:tickets@spcomail.org). The Ticket Office is open 12pm–5pm Monday through Friday and 11am–3pm on Saturdays (Sep–May).

Subscription ticket packages start at just \$16 per concert for adults and are free for children and students.

Individual tickets, including Concert Member tickets, for the 2025.26 season will go on sale in August.

<b>\$16–\$70</b>	Adults
<b>\$15</b>	Club2030 — the SPCO’s free young audience discount program (ages 18–39)
<b>Free</b>	Concert Members
<b>Free</b>	Children (17 and under)
<b>Free</b>	Students (all ages)

**ABOUT THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Founded in 1959, the Grammy Award-winning Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) is renowned for its artistic excellence, remarkable versatility of musical styles and adventurous programming. SPCO concerts are primarily musician-led and include a broad range of repertoire, from Baroque works to new music, in close collaboration with a dynamic roster of internationally acclaimed Artistic Partners. Through a distinctive musician-led artistic model, SPCO musicians lead and develop the orchestra’s programming, determine members and choose artistic collaborators.

In its commitment to making music accessible to everyone, the SPCO presents concerts in a variety of venues across the Twin Cities each year while offering the most affordable ticket prices of any professional orchestra in the United States. The orchestra also offers an innovative ticket membership model in which members pay a monthly fee to attend unlimited concerts, starting at \$5 per month.

**MISSION OF THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORHCESTRA**

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.

For more information, visit [thespc.org](http://thespc.org).

**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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