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**The SPCO cultivates new music while growing its Concert  
Membership program and balancing budget**

**Saint Paul, MN, December 9, 2025** — At its Annual Meeting of Members today, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) celebrated a season of artistic highlights, service to the Twin Cities community and announced a balanced budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 (FY25).

**FISCAL YEAR 2025 HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Twenty-two concerts with world-renowned Artistic Partners:** Richard Egarr, Tabea Zimmermann, Gábor Takács-Nagy and Abel Selaocoe
- **Musician-led artistic model:** four different programs curated by four SPCO musicians
- **Fostering new music:** twelve commissions and eleven premieres, including Sandbox Composer Valerie Coleman's *All the People*
- **Fiscal year results:** Balanced budget for fiscal year ending in 2025
- **Continued commitment to accessible pricing:** 29% of tickets sold for \$16 or less, 16% of tickets distributed free of charge and 27% of seats reserved by Concert Members
- **Concert Membership growth:** Grew the Concert Membership program by 29%, finishing the season with over 2,300 Concert Members
- **Free access through the Concert Library:** received 50,874 visits from Minnesota and 136,946 visits worldwide
- **Arts Partnership co-presentations:** Ordway Inside Out and *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* with the Turtle Island Quartet
- **Northside Series:** Celebrated 15 years of partnership with the Capri Theater in North Minneapolis

**ARTISTIC PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

**Bringing World-Renowned Artistic Partners and Guest Artists to the Twin Cities Community**

The 2024.25 season featured four returning [SPCO Artistic Partners](#). Across twenty-two concerts, the orchestra collaborated with British Baroque specialist [Richard Egarr](#), South African cellist [Abel Selaocoe](#), Hungarian conductor [Gábor Takács-Nagy](#) and German violist [Tabea Zimmermann](#).

Audiences continue to return for thrilling and meaningful collaborations with SPCO Artistic Partners; here is what they had to say:

- “**Richard Egarr** makes even familiar music brand new. He seems to spread his evident enjoyment through the musicians and on to us. Remarkable!”
- “**Abel Selaocoe** was thoroughly enjoyable both as a host and a musician. The part where he got the audience to join in the singing was very fun. It was one of the most exciting, enjoyable concerts I've ever seen — and I've been a season ticket holder for over 30 years.”
- “We enjoy seeing **Gábor Takács-Nagy**. He seems to really enjoy playing with the SPCO and they seem to enjoy playing with him.”
- “My seat was so close to the orchestras — I was swept away with the music and the enthusiasm of **Tabea Zimmerman** and the whole orchestra.”

In addition to performances with current and former SPCO Artistic Partners, the orchestra also welcomed guest artists from near and far for a season programmed around Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*.

- Minnesota-based mezzo-soprano **Clara Osowski** returned for world premiere arrangements of American folk songs over Thanksgiving weekend
- Pianist **Roman Rabinovich** made his SPCO debut with Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 alongside baritone **John Moore** in Poulenc's *The Masked Ball*
- Bassist **Yasushi Nakamura** and percussionist **Bernhard Schimpelsberger** joined SPCO Artistic Partner Abel Selaocoe in a genre-bending program of world premiere arrangements
- Conductor and violinist **Dmitry Sinkovsky** returned to lead Mozart's 40th Symphony following his audience favorite performances of Handel's *Messiah* in the 2023.24 season
- Flutist **Jasmine Choi** made her SPCO debut with Mozart's Second Flute Concerto and a special arrangement of Sarasate's *Zigeunerweisen*
- Minnesota-based conductor **William Eddins** led the world premiere of **Valerie Coleman's** Sandbox premiere, *All the People*

### **Artistic Leadership through the Musician-Led Artistic Model**

The 2024.25 season continued the orchestra's commitment to fostering the artistic leadership of its own musicians. Through the SPCO's unique musician-led artistic model, members of the orchestra help shape the organization's artistic vision, including selecting their members, selecting repertoire, determining artistic interpretations, choosing Artistic Partners and collaborators, and leading uncondacted rehearsals and performances.

The 2024.25 season saw twelve SPCO musicians featured as soloists across fourteen different programs — in some cases, soloing alongside visiting guest artists. In addition to solo performances, SPCO musicians were featured as Creative Leads, curating four different programs that showcased their musical interests and passions.

- **Mozart's Haffner Symphony** (Sep 20–21, 2024)  
Eunae Koh, creative lead
- **Haydn's II Distratto Symphony** (Nov 14–17, 2024)  
Andrew Brady, creative lead
- **EXPRESS CONCERT: Janáček's The Kreutzer Sonata** (May 23–25, 2025)  
Richard Belcher, creative lead
- **EXPRESS CONCERT: Cassie Pilgrim Plays Bach's Oboe d'Amore Concerto** (Jun 5–8, 2025)  
Cassie Pilgrim, creative lead

### **Sandbox Composer Residencies, Premieres and Commissions**

During the 2024.25 season, the SPCO [commissioned twelve new works across nine concert programs, including eleven premieres](#). The orchestra's [Sandbox Composer Residency](#), first established in the 2022.23 season, aims to support the creation of new music in a long-term, collaborative relationship with composers. Valerie Coleman was the 2024.25 season's Sandbox Composer-in-Residence, and in May,

the orchestra premiered her new work *All the People*, written in commemoration of the anniversary of George Floyd's death. Written in three movements, *All the People* acknowledges the commonalities, resilience, frustrations, joys, and determination of the human spirit in the context of American current events, all building to a new anthem for humanity.

At the time of her appointment, Coleman shared that, "a collaboration with SPCO is more than a concert or commission. It is an invitation into their world, through music, ideas, memories and new inside jokes that build a lasting connection. This residency for me represents being welcomed into a family in which we create and laugh together, building an exciting chapter within SPCO's legacy."

"What inspires me most throughout each season is the SPCO musicians' commitment to both excellence and exploration," said Artistic Planning Director Jonathan Posthuma. "Not only is the SPCO playing timeless classics like Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* at an exceptionally high level, but they also are pushing the boundaries of what a contemporary chamber orchestra can achieve in the music that we program and perform. Whether it is playing a full symphony uncondacted, or improvising complex African rhythms with Abel Selaocoe, or diving into a new work by a Sandbox Composer-in-Residence, SPCO musicians thrive on risk-taking and share those musical rewards with our audience."

## **FINANCIAL RESULTS AND AUDIENCE IMPACT**

The SPCO balanced its budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; the orchestra has balanced its budget annually since 2012 and in 30 of the past 32 years. These results incorporated the use of the SPCO's Rainy Day Fund, a fund created in FY18 as a proactive measure to protect the organization during challenging times.

"I want to thank the musicians, board and staff for their work in making last season such a success," said Board Chair Ann Huntrods. "We are pleased to present a balanced budget again this season with the assistance of our Rainy Day Fund. The board and management, with input from the musicians, also created a financial plan to help achieve long-term stability for the organization. With our mission as our north star, we remain committed to the organization's financial health in support of artistic excellence."

Total operating revenue for the period was \$9,688,153, an increase of 7.7% over the previous season. Of that total operating revenue, contributed revenue accounted for 58%, earned revenue from ticket sales accounted for 19.7%, and the endowment contributed 22.3%. The endowment grew 18.3% over the prior year, including contributions and market performance.

The 2024.25 season was the first year of a multi-year plan to grow revenue, reduce expenses, and reduce the draw on the Rainy Day Fund. Revenue growth strategies sought to maximize revenue while maintaining accessibility; expand the Concert Membership program, which saw a 29% increase in the number of Concert Members throughout the season; and the beginning of the "Orchestrating the Future" campaign to grow the SPCO endowment. Attendance matched that of the previous fiscal year, totaling 68,476 attendees during the 2024.25 season.

"It's been wonderful to come into an organization with such a strong history of artistic excellence, financial discipline and care for the community," said President and Managing Director Jessica Mallow Gulley. "I applaud all of the excellent work that took place this last year, and previous years, and am looking forward to how we will be able to build off of the strong foundation that the organization has built."

## **MAKING MUSIC ACCESSIBLE THROUGHOUT THE TWIN CITIES COMMUNITY**

The impact of the SPCO's accessible ticket model for concerts continues to resonate with the community. The innovative Concert Membership program — which allows audience members to attend unlimited concerts for a flat recurring fee — grew by 29%, finishing the season with 2,300 Concert Members. This

growth led to a 20% increase in the number of Concert Member tickets reserved, finishing out with 18,376 ticket reservations at the end of the season. Concert Members now make up 27% of the total audience.

Twenty years after the SPCO committed to lower ticket prices and accessible pricing, the 2024.25 season saw 29% of tickets (19,961) sold for \$16 or less. Additionally, 11,132 tickets — 16% of the total audience — were distributed free of charge, of which almost 64% went to children and students as part of the SPCO's [New Generation Initiative](#), a suite of programs designed to dramatically expand access to classical music for young people in the Twin Cities community. This includes 42 school groups that were able to attend concerts with student tickets being completely free. Student and child tickets accounted for over 10% of the total audience during the season.

The SPCO's accessibility initiatives extend beyond the concert hall, as the free digital [Concert Library](#) received 50,874 visits from Minnesota and 136,946 visits worldwide. The Concert Library currently hosts 13 video and 44 audio recordings of complete SPCO concerts.

The Neighborhood Series continued to provide geographic accessibility for Twin Cities residents. In total, 30 concerts were performed as a part of the Neighborhood Series at seven locations across the Twin Cities for 21,288 audience members during the 2024.25 season. This included three concerts at the Capri Theater in North Minneapolis, which the SPCO has now partnered with for the past 15 seasons. In addition to free tickets for children and students, tickets for these concerts were free for Northside residents and families of Northside school students.

As part of its efforts to elevate its presence and share music with neighbors in downtown Saint Paul, the SPCO [collaborated with the Minnesota Wild](#) to record the team's official anthem, *The State of Hockey*, which now plays before every home game at Grand Casino Arena. In addition to this special collaboration showcasing SPCO musicians, the four [Arts Partnership](#) organizations of downtown Saint Paul — comprised of the SPCO, Minnesota Opera, Ordway and Schubert Club — co-presented another summer of Ordway Inside Out, an outdoor event series in Rice Park that utilizes digital technology to dramatically increase access to artistic programming in downtown Saint Paul. As part of Ordway Inside Out, in July 2024, the SPCO presented its recording of Schubert's *The Great C Major* Symphony with Richard Egarr to an audience of 200 gathered in Rice Park. The 2024.25 season also saw the Arts Partnership's co-presentation of Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, a concert production that featured excerpts from the opera performed by the composer, the famed Turtle Island Quartet, and two guest singers.

## **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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