



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Alina Ibragimova to become SPCO's newest Artistic Partner**

Her tenure as Artistic Partner will begin in the 2026.27 season.

**SAINT PAUL, MN, MARCH 17, 2026** — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) has named Gramophone Award-winning violinist Alina Ibragimova as its newest Artistic Partner. Performing music from the Baroque era to new commissions, on both modern and period instruments, Ibragimova is recognized for the “immediacy and honesty” of her performances (*The Guardian*).

“I’m really excited about this collaboration with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra,” said Ibragimova. “They are absolutely wonderful. We already had some exciting projects together, and I can’t wait for the new adventures to come!”

In February 2024, the Russian-born violinist first made her SPCO debut, leading the orchestra in performances of Ludwig van Beethoven’s Violin Concerto, and she returned in January 2026 for nearly sold-out performances of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s Third Violin Concerto.

“We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Alina as an Artistic Partner,” said cellist Richard Belcher, who currently serves on the SPCO’s Artistic Vision Committee. “As soon as we began playing with her I could tell how special she is as a violinist, and more importantly as a musician and communicator. Her playing truly makes the music come alive, and her ability to bring such exquisite beauty to even the most simple of phrases makes me fall in love with the music all over again. I can’t wait for her to be back!”

Ibragimova joins [a roster of five Artistic Partners](#) from around the world, all of whom have a deep connection to the SPCO, returning each season to develop and lead exciting programs for the Twin Cities community. Her tenure will begin in the 2026.27 season.

“We are thrilled to invite Alina Ibragimova back as our newest Artistic Partner,” said Jonathan Posthuma, the SPCO’s Artistic Planning Director. “Alina’s playing is filled with richness, clarity, and imagination, whether she leads the orchestra in old works or new. Following her recent performance of Mozart’s Third Violin Concerto, one SPCO musician commented that it was like hearing the concerto for the first time, as if it were being composed on the spot — I couldn’t agree more — and we look forward to many more brilliant collaborations in years to come!”

“Our Artistic Partners share a uniquely collaborative relationship with the orchestra, and Alina’s artistry, imagination, and musical depth resonate beautifully with the innovative spirit of the SPCO musicians,” said President and Managing Director Jessica Mallow Gulley. “It is a true honor to have an artist of her caliber joining our creative community, and we look forward to the inspiring musical experiences we will create together.”

### **PRESS COVERAGE OF ALINA IBRAGIMOVA**

“... an adventurous artist known for putting her own stamp on the most familiar of pieces.” — *The Minnesota Star Tribune*

“The immediacy and honesty of Ibragimova’s playing has the curious ability to collapse any sense of distance between performer and listener.” — *The Guardian*

“Darkly meditative one moment, febrile with passion the next, she presses ahead with characteristic freshness and muscular force, and never disappoints.” — *The Times*

“She is one of the most expressive violinists around.” — *BBC Magazine*

“Ibragimova makes familiar works sound both spontaneously conceived and inevitable. Her playing proclaims authority.” — *The New York Times*

### **ABOUT ALINA IBRAGIMOVA**

The 2025.26 season sees Alina Ibragimova perform with the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, London Philharmonic, Wiener Symphoniker, Finnish Radio Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony, Dresdner Philharmonie, Boulez Ensemble and Kammerakademie Potsdam, working with conductors Iván Fischer, Robin Ticciati, Edward Gardner, Thomas Guggeis and Krzysztof Urbański. She also play-directs the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Camerata Bern.

Highlights of the previous two seasons have included concerts with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Camerata Salzburg, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Detroit Symphony, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Bamberger Symphoniker, WDR Sinfonieorchester and City of Birmingham Symphony, with conductors Vladimir Jurowski, Hannu Lintu, Ryan Bancroft, Maxim Emelyanychev and Anja Bihlmaier.

In recital, Ibragimova regularly performs at London’s Wigmore Hall, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, Berlin’s Pierre Boulez Saal, Salzburg’s Mozarteum, Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie and at the Royal Albert Hall where she performed Bach’s Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin at part of the BBC Proms. She frequently collaborates with pianist Cédric Tiberghien, and is a founding member of the Chiaroscuro Quartet – one of the most sought-after period ensembles.

Ibragimova’s discography ranges from Bach Concertos with Arcangelo through to Prokofiev Sonatas with Steven Osborne. Her 2020 recording of Shostakovich’s Violin Concertos won a Gramophone Award, while her 2021 recording of Paganini’s 24 Caprices topped the classical album charts on its release.

Born in Russia in 1985, Ibragimova attended the Moscow Gnesin School, Yehudi Menuhin School and Royal College of Music, studying with Valentina Korolkova, Natasha Boyarsky, Gordan Nikolitch, Christian Tetzlaff and Adrian Butterfield for Historical Performance. An alumnus of the BBC New Generation Artists Scheme,

Ibragimova's many accolades include two Royal Philharmonic Society awards and an MBE in the 2016 New Year Honours List.

Ibragimova performs on a c.1775 Anselmo Bellosio violin kindly provided by Georg von Opel.

[alinaibragimova.com](http://alinaibragimova.com)

### **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 [thespco.org](http://thespco.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.

Access photos of Alina Ibragimova via Colbert Artists Management [here](#).

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