

THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra 2026.27 Season Schedule

September 2026

Opening Weekend: Beethoven's Second Symphony with Gábor Takács-Nagy

Friday, September 18, 11:00am

Friday, September 18, 7:00pm

Saturday, September 19, 7:00pm

Sunday, September 20, 2:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Ruth Crawford Seeger: *Rissolty Rossolty*

Charles Ives: *The Gong on the Hook and Ladder (Fireman's Parade on Main Street)*

Charles Ives: Overture and March "1776"

Aaron Copland: Clarinet Concerto

Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 2

Gábor Takács-Nagy, conductor

Sang Yoon Kim, clarinet

A story of dissonance and harmony. Led by Artistic Partner Gábor Takács-Nagy, we open our 68th season with a nod to our nation's 250th anniversary, exploring the ways that popular and folk music have shaped American sound as momentum-filled and free-spirited. Think bold brass, open strings, and disparate parts on a journey toward unity, all while calling back to one of the pillars of classical music — an icon that you'll find woven throughout the season: Ludwig van Beethoven.

Koh (Where Rivers Merge) with Abel Selaocoe and Sidiki Dembélé

Friday, September 25, 11:00am

Saturday, September 26, 7:00pm

Sunday, September 27, 2:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Programming TBA

Abel Selaocoe, director and cello

Sidiki Dembélé, percussion

Whether performing a Bach sarabande or throat singing in one of his own arrangements, SPCO Artistic Partner Abel Selaocoe is "breaking down the boundaries between people, eras and cultures" (*The Minnesota Star Tribune*), bringing people of all backgrounds together through music. For this program, he teams up with Sidiki Dembélé, a prodigious multi-instrumentalist who comes from a celebrated West African griot family of musicians, diplomats and oral historians. As master storytellers, Abel and Sidiki weave this cross-genre program named Kõ (pronounced Koh), or River in Bambara, exploring streams of culture, friendship and kindred spirits merging through the music of European Baroque and West African royal courts. Much like Bdote, the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, you'll feel cultures converging as Abel and Sidiki guide you along a shared journey you'll remember long after the final bow.

October 2026

Richard Goode Plays Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25

Thursday, October 8, 7:00pm

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley

Friday, October 9, 7:00pm

Saturday, October 10, 7:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Sunday, October 11, 2:00pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Sergei Prokofiev: *Visions fugitives, Mimorelnosti* (arr. by Barshai)

Ludwig van Beethoven: Quintet in E-flat for Piano, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn and Bassoon

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 25

Richard Goode, director and piano

Magnificent and intimate. Artistic Partner Richard Goode invites you along on his lifelong exploration of Mozart. With a feather touch, he inhabits different characters — at times sweet, then moody — removing any and all sense of distance between you and the stage. In the hands of one of the world's leading experts, you'll feel like you've been transported back to 1786 for a private salon performance of one of the greatest concertos of all time.

Haydn's *The Hen* Symphony

Friday, October 16, 11:00am

Friday, October 16, 7:00pm

Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie

Saturday, October 17, 7:00pm

Saint Paul's United Church of Christ, Saint Paul

Einojuhani Rautavaara: *Fiddlers* for String Orchestra

Domenico Cimarosa: Concerto for Two Flutes and Orchestra

Antonín Dvořák: Romance for Violin and Orchestra

Joseph Haydn: Symphony No. 83, *The Hen*

Led by SPCO Musicians

Julia Bogorad-Kogan, flute

Alicia McQuerrey, flute

Eunice Kim, violin

Fans of more traditional Classical music will delight in this airy program that highlights music from the 18th century. SPCO flutists Julia Bogorad-Kogan and Alicia McQuerrey team up for a spritely double concerto that will keep you on the edge of your seat with its momentum — a similar feel to the titular symphony by Joseph Haydn whose theme earned its nickname from the uneven gait of a hen. In addition to the breathy woodwinds, you'll also hear from strings, with a soulful solo by violinist Eunice Kim and a more contemporary work for string orchestra rooted in the fiddling traditions of the composer's native Finland.

Life After Death

Friday, October 23, 11:00am

Saturday, October 24, 7:00pm

Sunday, October 25, 2:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Philip Glass: *Evening Song* from *Satyagraha*

Ellis Ludwig-Leone: *Hexentanz* (SPCO commission, world premiere)

Philip Glass: *Bed* from *Einstein on the Beach*

Maurice Ravel: *Trois poèmes de Mallarmé* (*Three Poems of Stéphane Mallarmé*)

Andrew Norman: *Begin* (SPCO co-commission, Midwest premiere)

Ellis Ludwig-Leone: *Threshold* (SPCO commission, world premiere)

Teddy Abrams, conductor

Eliza Bagg, voice

Haunted, spiritual works for voice and orchestra. This collaboration with Liquid Music offers meditations on the liminal space between life and death with music by American composers, including multiple premiere performances and the SPCO debut of Roomful of Teeth vocalist Eliza Bagg. Experience the Ordway in a new light on the threshold of All Hallows Eve.

Hexentanz and *Threshold* were commissioned by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Liquid Music with generous support from Tim and Calli Sullivan, Dr. Tom von Sternberg and Eve Parker. *Begin* was commissioned by Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and first premiered in California in 2019.

November 2026

Bach's Fifth Partita

Friday, November 6, 11:00am

Friday, November 6, 7:00pm

Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie

Saturday, November 7, 7:00pm

Capri Theater, North Minneapolis

Sunday, November 8, 3:00pm

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

Heitor Villa-Lobos: *Ciranda das sete notas* for Bassoon and Strings

Louis Ballard: String Trio No. 1

Gabriela Ortiz: *Puzzle-Tocas*

Igor Stravinsky: Pastorale for Violin, Oboe, English Horn, Clarinet and Bassoon

Johann Sebastian Bach: Partita No. 5 for Chamber Orchestra (arr. by Oehler)

Led by SPCO Musicians

Demetra Alikakos, bassoon

Hang on tight for a fast-paced program full of intricate, syncopated rhythms and melodies that overlap and intertwine. Though you'll hear various groupings of musicians — bassoon and strings, violin and winds, string orchestra — every piece is connected, in some way, to the idea of musical puzzles. It's easy to lose yourself in the winding journey — through spiraling harmonies and a circling bassoon as Demetra Alikakos stars in her first solo performance since joining the orchestra in 2024.

Zachary Cohen Premieres Deak's Bass Concerto

Friday, November 13, 11:00am

Saturday, November 14, 7:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Michael Tippett: Little Music for String Orchestra

Jon Deak: Concerto for Contrabass, *Under a Spell* (SPCO commission, world premiere)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Serenade No. 11 for Wind Octet

Bill Gordh, librettist/narrator

Zachary Cohen, double bass

Step into the SPCO Sandbox for the world premiere of an imaginative fairytale in the form of a concerto for double bass! Developed over the course of two seasons for his Sandbox Composer Residency, Jon Deak's newest work, *Under a Spell*, invites listeners on a whimsical journey performed by Principal Bass Zachary Cohen and guided by narrator Bill Gordh. As the former Associate Principal Bass of the New York Philharmonic and "a composer-performer who has learned to make stringed instruments 'talk'" (*The Washington Post*), Deak brings a lifelong familiarity of the instrument to his music and teachings.

Under a Spell was commissioned by Linda Hoeschler and Peter Blyberg for The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra in honor of former Artistic Director Kyu-Young Kim. SPCO Sandbox Composer Residencies are made possible with generous project support from: Amphion Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, David and Karen Olson Family Foundation, Justus and Elizabeth Schlichting, Nara Fund, New Music USA. Learn more at thespco.org/sandbox.

Williams' Zodiac Suite with the Aaron Diehl Trio

Friday, November 27, 7:00pm

Saturday, November 28, 7:00pm

Sunday, November 29, 2:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

André Previn: *Honey and Rue* for Voice and Chamber Orchestra

Mary Lou Williams: *Zodiac Suite* (ed. by Diehl)

Teddy Abrams, conductor

Mikaela Bennett, voice

Aaron Diehl Trio, jazz trio

Grammy Award-winning conductor-composer Teddy Abrams leads this star-studded exploration of two American masterworks in a nod to our country's 250th anniversary. With roots in American folk and jazz traditions, there's an undeniable groove in the rhythms and orchestration of Mary Lou Williams' *Zodiac Suite*, edited here for chamber orchestra by Aaron Diehl. His jazz trio is joined by multi-disciplinary vocalist Mikaela Bennett for the song cycle *Honey and Rue*, set to the poetry of Nobel laureate Toni Morrison. Trust us when we say: you will not want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime collaboration with the SPCO.

December 2026

Bach's *Brandenburg* Concertos

Friday, December 11, 11:00am
Saturday, December 12, 7:00pm
Sunday, December 13, 2:00pm
Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Johann Sebastian Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 3
Johann Sebastian Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5
Johann Sebastian Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 2
Johann Sebastian Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 4
Johann Sebastian Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 1
Led by SPCO Musicians

Exquisite, timeless, virtuosic. Every December, we have a special tradition of performing Johann Sebastian Bach's most cherished set of orchestral works, the *Brandenburg* Concertos. Written for varying groups of strings, winds and harpsichord, these masterworks have stood the test of time since the composer first compiled them in 1721. Now three centuries later, the *Brandenburgs* have earned a well-deserved reputation as hallmarks of the Baroque era, rich with intricate harmonies and spirit. Experience five of the six concertos this holiday season, when SPCO musicians sparkle as bright as the charming holiday lights of downtown Saint Paul.

Holiday Concerts: Handel's *Messiah*

Thursday, December 17, 7:00pm
Friday, December 18, 7:00pm
Saturday, December 19, 7:00pm
Sunday, December 20, 2:00pm
Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

George Frideric Handel: *Messiah*

John Butt, conductor
Nardus Williams, soprano
Kayleigh Decker, mezzo-soprano
Richard Pittsinger, tenor
Brandon Cedel, bass-baritone
The Singers — Minnesota Choral Artists
Matthew Culloton, Artistic Director

Celebrate the holidays with one of classical music's most beloved traditions. Bring the whole family to our extremely popular annual performances of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* — an iconic masterpiece for orchestra and choir that has captured the hearts of listeners worldwide. As the director of Dunedin Consort, Scotland's Baroque Ensemble, John Butt brings a lifetime of expertise leading *Messiah*. It's an event like no other, complete with full orchestra, a roster of renowned vocal soloists, and the local choir The Singers. Experience the magic of *Messiah* this holiday season!

January 2027

Andrew Brady Plays Mozart's Bassoon Concerto

Friday, January 22, 11:00am

Friday, January 22, 7:00pm

Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie

Saturday, January 23, 7:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*

Bohuslav Martinů: Serenade for Chamber Orchestra and Two Violins

P.D.Q. Bach: Schlepptet in E-flat

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Bassoon Concerto

P.D.Q. Bach: *Eine Kleine Nichtmusik*

Led by SPCO Musicians

Cassie Pilgrim, creative lead

Andrew Brady, bassoon

Ring in the new year with a charming concert marked by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's characteristic humor and wit, curated by Principal Oboe Cassie Pilgrim. There's a surprise around every turn of phrase, and just when you think you know what's coming, your expectations get flipped! Themes from Mozart's popular and lighthearted *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* are mirrored and remixed in P.D.Q. Bach's *Eine Kleine Nichtmusik*, and you'll hear similarities echoed in the program's titular Bassoon Concerto.

The Minneapolis Sound

Friday, January 29, 7:00pm

Saturday, January 30, 7:00pm

Capri Theater, North Minneapolis

Program TBA

Led by SPCO Musicians

The Capri turns 100! In addition to this momentous centennial, our 2026.27 season also marks 17 years of partnership with our longtime friends on the Northside. It's with this celebratory spirit that we share a program of music from America and Minneapolis in a genre-bending concert featuring local jazz and funk artists.

February 2027

Radu Ratoi Plays Enescu and Bach

Thursday, February 11, 7:00pm

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley

Friday, February 12, 11:00am

Saturday, February 13, 7:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Sunday, February 14, 3:00pm

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach: Sinfonia in E-flat

Alfred Schnittke: Sonata for Violin and Chamber Orchestra

George Enescu: Romanian Rhapsody (arr. by Diaconu)

Johann Sebastian Bach: Concerto No. 1 in D Minor

Dražan Kosorić: Balkan Tango

Led by SPCO Musicians

Radu Ratoi, director and accordion

Steven Copes, violin

In an SPCO first, we welcome the "dazzling" (*New York Classical Review*) Radu Ratoi for a program that melds orchestra with accordion. Praised worldwide for his originality, versatility and virtuosity, Radu describes the accordion — an instrument with a storied foundation in European folk and popular music — as capable of "almost unlimited possibilities." On the second half of this program, he explores music inspired by Baroque and folk traditions.

Frank's Sandbox Premiere with Mei-Ann Chen

Friday, February 19, 7:00pm

Saturday, February 20, 7:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Sunday, February 21, 2:00pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Lili Boulanger: *D'un matin de printemps (Of a Spring Morning)* (arr. by Posthuma) (SPCO commission)

Gabriela Lena Frank: *Ballad of John James Audubon and the Runaway: An American Tragedy Ignored and Retold* (SPCO commission, world premiere)

Ottorino Respighi: *Gli Uccelli (The Birds)*

Astor Piazzolla: Sinfonietta

Gabriela Lena Frank, Sandbox Composer and dramaturg

J. Drew Lanham, librettist

Mei-Ann Chen, conductor

Federico De Michelis, baritone

Experience the culmination of a multi-year collaboration with Sandbox Composer-in-Residence Gabriela Lena Frank, the SPCO and The Great Northern. As a composer, Frank's body of work centers climate change, community, and the role of the artist in stewarding change in the face of a heating planet.

Her Sandbox premiere is similarly ecologically fixated, ruminating on the legacy of John James Audubon, the French American writer and ornithologist who inspired the modern conservation movement. In collaboration with poet and librettist J. Drew Lanham, whose essay "What Do We Do About John James Audubon?" inspired this project, Frank grapples with the idea of complicated legacies, the "consequences of entangled histories," and how they shape the present. In this new song cycle for baritone and chamber orchestra, *Ballad of John James Audubon and the Runaway: An American Tragedy Ignored and Retold*, Frank and Lanham tell the lesser-known story of Audubon and his legacy of racism.

Ballad of John James Audubon and the Runaway: An American Tragedy Ignored and Retold was commissioned by the Koussevitsky Foundation, Library of Congress and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra with support from Justus and Elizabeth Schlichting. SPCO Sandbox Composer Residencies are made possible with generous project support from: Amphion Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, David and Karen Olson Family Foundation, Justus and Elizabeth Schlichting, Nara Fund, New Music USA. Learn more at thespco.org/sandbox.

March 2027

Mozart's Linz Symphony with Tabea Zimmermann

Friday, March 12, 11:00am

Saturday, March 13, 7:00pm

Sunday, March 14, 2:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Germaine Tailleferre: *Image* and *Jeux de plein air* (arr. by Posthuma)

Lili Boulanger: *D'un soir triste* (arr. by Schöllhorn)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Symphony No. 36, *Linz*

Tabea Zimmermann, director and viola

When Tabea Zimmermann comes to town, you're in for something truly special. She's a musical giant — a legend amongst violists and often cited alongside the great William Primrose, both for her musical prowess and for her commitment to teaching. Despite her near-transcendent status, Tabea is incredibly grounded and a generous collaborator — qualities that shine in her performances. Through wordless communication, she becomes one with the orchestra, leading expressively whether she's seated in the viola section or standing center stage for a concerto. Experience the full depth of the viola in all its warmth and richness of sound, played by one of the all-time greats.

April 2027

Alina Ibragimova Plays Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto

Friday, April 2, 11:00am

Friday, April 2, 7:00pm

Saturday, April 3, 7:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Sunday, April 4, 2:00pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Ludwig van Beethoven: Septet in E-flat

Felix Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto

Alina Ibragimova, director and violin

In her first performances as an SPCO Artistic Partner, violinist Alina Ibragimova returns to the Ordway to helm a program featuring two composers known for leaning into drama: Felix Mendelssohn and Ludwig van Beethoven. With nimble fingers, Alina practically dances through intricate runs that span the entire fingerboard, expertly coaxing a wide range of sound from her instrument with impressive ease. From soaring, sweet melodies in the violin's highest registers to fiery passages capable of snapping some bow hairs, Alina is able to “collapse any sense of distance between performer and listener” (*The Guardian*), bringing you along for a ride you won't want to miss.

Express Concert: Sibelius' *Intimate Voices*

Thursday, April 8, 7:00pm

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley

Friday, April 9, 7:00pm

Capri Theater, North Minneapolis

Saturday, April 10, 7:00pm

Saint Paul's United Church of Christ, Saint Paul

Jean Sibelius: *Voces intimae (Intimate Voices)* for String Quartet

Other works TBA

Led by SPCO Musicians

Continuing our celebration of The Capri's centennial, we share a program built around Jean Sibelius' ruminating string quartet *Voces intimae*, Latin for *Intimate Voices* or *Inner Voices*. At times soft and contemplative, at others lively — even with folk-inspired fiddling — the five movements act like a window into a conversation between the two violins, viola and cello. "It turned out as something wonderful," he wrote to his wife. "The kind of thing that brings a smile to your lips at the hour of death. I will say no more."

Songs of Praise and Stars

Friday, April 16, 11:00am

Friday, April 16, 7:00pm

Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie

Saturday, April 17, 7:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Johan Helmich Roman: *Jubilate*

Johann Sebastian Bach: Cantata No. 78, "Jesu, der du meine Seele"

Karin Rehnqvist: *Take the Milky Way* (U.S. premiere)

Johann Sebastian Bach: Cantata No. 137, "Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren"

Led by SPCO Musicians

Tapestry Choral Collective

Brian Schmidt, choral director

A love letter to the human voice, showcasing cantatas written centuries apart. The SPCO teams up with Tapestry Choral Collective of the Orpheus Music Project in works inspired by Johann Sebastian Bach and the spiritual, polyphonic qualities of his Baroque music. Plus, a U.S. premiere of Karin Rehnqvist's *Take the Milky Way*, written for choir, orchestra and organ, evoking imagery of black holes and the nature of light as a meditation on hope, community and the threads that connect us.

Harpsichord Masterworks with Justin Taylor

Friday, April 30, 7:00pm

Saturday, May 1, 7:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Sunday, May 2, 3:00pm

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

Johann Sebastian Bach: Harpsichord Concerto No. 5

Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre: Trio Sonata No. 3

Georg Philipp Telemann: Sonata à Quattro

Henryk Górecki: Harpsichord Concerto

Dmitri Shostakovich: Chamber Symphony (After String Quartet No. 4) (arr. by Barshai)

Justin Taylor, director and harpsichord

Having performed with orchestras worldwide, Justin Taylor makes his SPCO debut with a program that traces the harpsichord from the 18th to 20th centuries. Revel in layered harmonies that are hallmarks of Baroque greats, including Johann Sebastian Bach and Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, where each note stands brilliant and crisp against a sparse, yet richly textured, string accompaniment.

May 2027

Beethoven's Seventh Symphony with Anthony Marwood

Friday, May 7, 11:00am

Saturday, May 8, 7:00pm

Sunday, May 9, 2:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Cécile Chaminade: *Poèmes provençaux* (arr. by Posthuma) (world premiere)

Christopher Cerrone: *Selah*, Double Concerto for Violin, Cello and Chamber Orchestra (SPCO co-commission, Midwest premiere)

Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 7

Chia-Hsuan Lin, conductor

Anthony Marwood, director and violin

Coleman Itzkoff, cello

All the drama and grandiose of a symphony by Ludwig van Beethoven, with moments of introspection and hints of folk influences. We're excited to bring you two premieres, including Christopher Cerrone's *Selah* — a double concerto for violin and cello performed by Anthony Marwood and Coleman Itzkoff under the baton of returning conductor Chia-Hsuan Lin. Feel the depth of emotion in Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, which the composer premiered over 200 years ago to instant acclaim — pastoral strings, bombastic brass, and percussive climaxes that will knock your socks off.

Selah was commissioned by Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra with the generous support from Evelyn & Stephen Block, Raulee Marcus, Nancy & Barry Sanders, and Abby Sher.

Haydn's Symphony No. 86

Friday, May 14, 7:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Saturday, May 15, 7:00pm

Saint Paul's United Church of Christ, Saint Paul

Chen Yi: *Feng* for Woodwind Quintet

Malcolm Arnold: Concerto for Two Violins and String Orchestra

Arvo Pärt: *Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten* for Strings and Bell

Joseph Haydn: Symphony No. 86

Led by SPCO Musicians

Robin Scott, violin

Kyu-Young Kim, violin

A sonic feast of different textures and moods — there's something for everyone on this program that samples music from the 18th to the 21st centuries. Though named after a characteristically light and free-spirited symphony by Joseph Haydn, you'll also get to hear a high-energy double concerto between two violins cascading over each other in an Escheresque climb, a quintet for woodwinds that seems to bend the very air the players breathe, and an ethereal meditation for string orchestra.

Cassie Pilgrim Premieres Chen Yi's Oboe Concerto

Friday, May 21, 11:00am

Saturday, May 22, 7:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Chen Yi: Oboe Concerto, *Melodies from Home* (SPCO commission, world premiere)

Ottorino Respighi: *Trittico Botticelliano (Botticelli Triptych)*

Maurice Ravel: *Ma Mère l'Oye (Mother Goose)* Ballet Music

Cosette Justo Valdés, conductor

Cassie Pilgrim, oboe

A journey, years in the making. In 2020, having bonded over a shared cultural heritage rooted in southern China, SPCO Principal Oboe Cassie Pilgrim gave the world premiere of composer Chen Yi's *Elegy for Solo Oboe* — a mournful response to the ongoing pandemic that we livestreamed from an empty hall. In *Melodies from Home*, her newest oboe concerto written for Cassie, Chen Yi returns to the universal exploration of family and culture, of connection and nostalgia. Led by conductor Cosette Justo Valdés in her SPCO debut, this program offers an escape into serenity through its soft, woodwind melodies, pastoral strings and wondrous harp.

Melodies from Home was commissioned for The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Cassie Pilgrim, Principal Oboe, Sewell Family Chair, in honor of Gloria Sewell and her extraordinary support of the arts, by Linda Hoeschler and Peter Blyberg. SPCO Sandbox Composer Residencies are made possible with generous project support from: Amphion Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, David and Karen Olson Family Foundation, Justus and Elizabeth Schlichting, Nara Fund, New Music USA. Chen Yi's Sandbox Composer Residency is also supported by the Chinese Heritage Foundation. Learn more at thespco.org/sandbox.

Between Worlds: Avi Avital Plays Bach and Vivaldi

Friday, May 28, 11:00am

Friday, May 28, 7:00pm

Saturday, May 29, 7:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Sunday, May 30, 2:00pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Antonio Vivaldi: Concerto in D, RV 93

Johann Sebastian Bach: Concerto in G Minor, BWV 1056R

Avner Dorman: Mandolin Concerto

Giovanni Sollima: *Federico II*

Antonio Vivaldi: Concerto in C, RV 425

Manuel de Falla: *Andaluza* from *Cuatro piezas españolas* (arr. by Bruce)

Fazil Say: *Black Earth* (arr. by Bruce)

Johann Sebastian Bach: Concerto in C Minor, BWV 1060

Avi Avital, director and mandolin

Andrew Brady, recorder

In his own words, "the mandolin is probably one of the most underestimated instruments in the world," but Avi Avital is on a mission to change that. As one of the world's leading mandolinists and the first to be nominated for a Grammy Award, the "explosively charismatic" (*New York Times*) Avi brings unbridled passion and virtuosity to his performances. In this program, he plucks seamlessly between centuries, exploring both Baroque and folk traditions as he makes his SPCO debut.

June 2027

Season Finale: Beethoven's Eighth Symphony with Gábor Takács-Nagy

Friday, June 11, 11:00am

Saturday, June 12, 7:00pm

Sunday, June 13, 2:00pm

Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

Béla Bartók: *Hungarian Sketches*

Chen-Hui Jen: *in eternal dusk*

Béla Bartók: *Hungarian Peasant Songs*

Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 8

Gábor Takács-Nagy, conductor

With an energy palpable from every seat in the hall, Gábor Takács-Nagy embraces the rich textures and contrast of Hungarian folk traditions found in music spanning centuries. With moments of surprise in every other phrase, this SPCO Artistic Partner brings out a beautiful push and pull between light and gritty themes that bounce around each section of the orchestra. As a founding member of the famed Takács String Quartet who has dedicated decades of his life to this art form, he shares a keen understanding of the intimacy that makes chamber music so special, highlighting moments that might otherwise get overlooked and inviting you to notice.

Performances of *in eternal dusk* are supported by The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions Program, an initiative of the League of American Orchestras, in partnership with the American Composers Orchestra (ACO) and supported by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. The program seeks to increase the programming of works by women and nonbinary composers on orchestra stages.

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