

THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim to lead Schubert Club

Kim's final concerts as a member of the SPCO will occur June 12–14, 2026

SAINT PAUL, MN, JUNE 4, 2026 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announced today that Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim is stepping down from the orchestra to become the new Artistic and Executive Director of Schubert Club. He will continue to perform with the orchestra through the end of the 2025.26 season.

Kim joined the orchestra's violin section in 2001 as Associate Concertmaster, left in 2005, rejoined the orchestra as Principal Second Violin in 2011, and was appointed Principal Violin in 2016. In 2013, Kim expanded his role into the Senior Director of Artistic Planning and served as Artistic Director of the SPCO from 2016–2024. His position as Artistic Director marked the first time a playing member of a major American orchestra was appointed as the artistic leader. During his tenure as Artistic Director, the SPCO appointed ten Artistic Partners, won a Grammy Award for its recording of Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* with Patricia Kopatchinskaja, and performed numerous tours; including repeat visits to Vail and Berkeley. Under Kim's leadership, the orchestra commissioned dozens of new works and launched the Sandbox Composer Residency, an initiative that gives a diverse group of accomplished composers unprecedented workshop time to innovate and develop new works for chamber orchestra.

"We are absolutely thrilled to see Kyu-Young Kim share his leadership in this exciting new way," said Jessica Mallow Gulley, President and Managing Director of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. "His leadership at the SPCO has helped shape a generation-defining vision for the orchestra, elevating it as a national and international leader in the field. We are grateful for his extraordinary contributions and look forward to continuing our work with him in a new capacity as one of the leaders of our fellow Arts Partnership organizations. His passion, creativity, and commitment to artistic excellence will continue to strengthen our entire cultural community."

"We want to congratulate Kyu-Young Kim on his new appointment and are excited for his future as one of the leaders of the Arts Partnership, as well," said SPCO Board Chair Ann Huntrods. "Kyu's artistry and leadership during his time at the SPCO have been very impactful to both the orchestra and community at large. We are glad to know that he will continue his work bringing meaningful musical experiences to Twin Cities audiences with our fellow Arts Partnership organization at the Schubert Club."

"This new role at Schubert Club is an exciting opportunity for me to shape the artistic vision and future of a great arts organization with amazing resources and a rich history," said Kim. "I will of course miss making music with all of my colleagues at the SPCO, and I am so grateful for 18 wonderful years. It was the opportunity of a lifetime to be Artistic Director of one of the world's great chamber orchestras and to perform

so many memorable concerts with a truly world class ensemble. I feel so fortunate now to have the chance to take on new challenges and stay in the community that my family loves so much.”

SPCO Principal Oboe Cassie Pilgrim said, “It goes without saying that Schubert Club is extremely fortunate to gain Kyu’s presence and leadership, and we will miss him to the same degree! During his time here, Kyu has been a skilled artistic director, an incredible musician, and a great friend. I’m simultaneously sad to lose him as a work colleague but happy to see what exciting endeavors will unfold at Schubert Club.”

The orchestra will begin planning how best to fill the role Kim held within the violin section.

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.

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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