



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STÉPHANE DENÈVE AND THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCE EIGHT NEW
FULL-TIME MUSICIANS**

**Appointments made to Principal Trumpet, Principal Trombone, Principal Keyboard, Second Horn,
and section violin positions; promotions made to Associate and Assistant Concertmaster positions**

(September 12, 2023, St. Louis, MO) – The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Stéphane Denève are pleased to announce the appointments of eight new full-time musicians, and the promotions of two current musicians, as the SLSO begins its 2023/2024 season, the orchestra's 144th.

The SLSO's 2023/2024 season begins on September 21 with the annual free community concert in Forest Park.

Promoted musicians are:

Erin Schreiber, Associate Concertmaster and the Louis D. Beaumont Chair, most recently held the SLSO's Assistant Concertmaster position, to which she was appointed in 2008. Schreiber was appointed to the Associate Concertmaster chair in February 2023, assuming the position vacated by Heidi Harris, who retired at the conclusion of the 21/22 season.

Hannah Ji, Assistant Concertmaster, joined the SLSO's first violin section in September 2020, after spending two seasons as a one-year replacement musician. Her appointment to the Assistant Concertmaster position is effective with the start of the 23/24 season. She made her SLSO solo debut in October 2022, performing Joseph Bologne's Violin Concerto No. 2 with conductor Jonathan Heyward.

The SLSO's new musicians are:

Blaine Dodson, Second Horn, comes to St. Louis after serving as the second horn of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra since 2019. He has also played regularly as a guest in the horn sections of the Detroit Opera, Toledo Symphony, Ann Arbor Symphony, Lansing Symphony, and the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra and performed frequently with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago while an undergraduate student at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. He recently completed his master's degree at the University of Michigan and enjoys a robust teaching career at the middle and high school level.

Dodson succeeds Chris Dwyer, who held the Second Horn position until 2022.



Jonathan Randazzo, Principal Trombone and the Mr. and Mrs. William R. Orthwein, Jr., Chair, won the SLSO position while serving as Assistant Principal Trombone of the North Carolina Symphony, a position he has held since 2011. In 2017, he was appointed Second Trombone of the Santa Fe Opera, and served as Acting Principal Trombone from 2021 to 2023. As an avid teacher, Randazzo held the position of Adjunct Trombone Professor at North Carolina State University from 2015-2022 and is currently in high demand as a private trombone instructor.

Randazzo succeeds Timothy Myers, who held the position for 39 years prior to retirement in 2022.

Steven Franklin, Principal Trumpet and the Symphony Volunteer Association Chair, comes to St. Louis from across the Show-Me State, where he was Associate Principal Trumpet of the Kansas City Symphony. A native of Chicago, he has also held the Principal Trumpet position of the Hawaii Symphony and a Fellow with the New World Symphony. An avid chamber musician and soloist, he was a founding member of The Brass Project, a Philadelphia-based brass sextet that commissioned over 40 new works during his tenure. He is also an active composer, having been commissioned by the American Brass Quintet, Lake Placid Sinfonietta, and members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony, and New York Philharmonic, among others.

Franklin assumes the position formerly held by Karin Bliznik from 2013 to 2022.

Peter Henderson, Principal Keyboard and the Florence G. and Morton J. May Chair, made his debut with the SLSO in 2005 and has been an extra keyboardist for the orchestra for the past 17 seasons. He has been a featured musician on several occasions, most recently performing Joseph Haydn's Keyboard Concerto No. 11 with the SLSO and then Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress in March 2023. Henderson also serves as an Associate Professor of Music and Artist-in-Residence at Maryville University where he has been on faculty since 2005. He performs with the Sun Valley Music Festival Orchestra where he was appointed Principal Keyboard in 2015.

Seul Lee, second violin, joins the SLSO full-time after completing a one-year contract with the orchestra in the 2022/2023 season. Lee's musical journey has spanned across South Korea, France, Germany, and the United States, encompassing musical studies and collaborations with renowned musicians and orchestras including the Cleveland Quartet, Jupiter String Quartet, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. She is currently pursuing her doctorate at the University of Illinois.

Nathan Lowry, second violin, has held concertmaster and principal second violin positions at both the Colorado College Music Festival and Eastern Music Festival, as well as the Curb Youth Symphony and Vanderbilt University orchestras. Other leadership roles include principal positions with the Evansville Philharmonic and Owensboro Symphony Orchestras. A Nashville native, he received his master's degree at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, and then earned his Artist Diploma from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music.



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Siyu Zhang, second violin, joins the SLSO after four seasons with the Jacksonville Symphony. A native of Changchun, China, she studied at the prestigious Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing and continued in New York City as a full scholarship student at the Manhattan School of Music, and at the Rice University Shepherd School of Music. Zhang has attended numerous summer festivals including the Spoleto, Aspen, Texas, and Pacific Music Festivals, and the Music Academy of the West and performed with numerous orchestras around the country.

Weilu Zhang, first violin, most recently was a one-year replacement member of the SLSO in the orchestra's 2022/2023 season. A native of Wuhan, China, she studied at the prestigious Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Canada, and at the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music and University of Southern California. She has served as a member of several orchestras, including the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, and Atlantic Orchestra.

Appointments to the violin section fill positions vacated by several retired musicians.

About the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

Celebrated as one of today's most exciting and enduring orchestras, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra is the second-oldest orchestra in the country, marking its 144th year with the 2023/2024 season and its fifth with [Music Director Stéphane Denève](#). Widely considered one of the leading American orchestras, the Grammy® Award-winning SLSO maintains its commitment to artistic excellence, educational impact, and community collaborations—all in service to its mission of enriching lives through the power of music.

The transformational expansion and renovation of its historic home, Powell Hall, slated to be completed in 2025, builds on the institution's momentum as a civic leader in convening individuals, creators, and ideas, while fostering a culture welcoming to all. Committed to building community through compelling and inclusive musical experiences, the SLSO continues its longstanding focus on equity, diversity, inclusion, and access, embracing its strengths as a responsive, nimble organization, while investing in partnerships locally and elevating its presence globally. For more information, visit slo.org.

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