



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts: St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: Eric Dundon ericd@slo.org, 314-286-4134
National/International: Nikki Scandalios nikki@scandaliospr.com, 704-340-4094

**ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCLUDES 143RD SEASON WITH CLASSICAL
BLOCKBUSTERS, FAMILY AND FILM CONCERTS, APRIL 29-MAY 14**

April 29-30: Music Director Stéphane Denève leads the SLSO in Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, the first SLSO performances of Gabriela Lena Frank's *Apu*, and Béla Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 3 with Piotr Anderszewski

May 5-6: Denève leads monumental performances of Hector Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* to conclude the classical season, featuring soprano Isabel Leonard, tenor Michael Spyres, bass John Relyea and bass Patrick Guetti alongside the St. Louis Symphony Chorus and St. Louis Children's Choirs

May 7: Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress leads a musical celebration of Powell Hall in the Family Concert: Powell Hall Playlist

May 12-13: Childress leads the SLSO in performances of the Ludwig Göransson score to Marvel Studios' *Black Panther* featuring talking drum soloist Massamba Diop

May 14: The final concert before Powell Hall undergoes a major expansion/renovation project features the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, led by Childress, performing music by Claude Debussy, Antonín Dvořák, and Richard Wagner

(April 20, 2023, St. Louis, MO) – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra announced details of its April and May concerts at Powell Hall, the orchestra's final concerts in Powell Hall before the historic venue undergoes a major expansion and renovation project. With concerts led by Music Director Stéphane Denève and Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress, programming features some of the most popular pieces of orchestral music, a family concert, the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, and performances of the score to Marvel Studios' *Black Panther*.

Tickets are free for the Youth Orchestra concert, and start at \$9.50 for the Family Concert, \$15 for classical concerts, and \$35 for Marvel Studios' *Black Panther*. Tickets may be purchased at slo.org or by calling the Box Office at 314-534-1700. A full concert calendar is available at slo.org or on the SLSO's mobile app available for iOS or Android. Saturday classical concerts will be broadcast live on 90.7 FM KWMU St. Louis Public Radio, Classic 107.3, or online (stlpr.org). Audiences can attend a Pre-Concert Conversation, an engaging discussion about the music and artists on the program, one hour prior to each classical concert in the auditorium.



The SLSO's 143rd season runs through May 2023. For more information, visit slo.org. The SLSO's 144th season begins in September 2023, with primary residencies at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri–St. Louis and Stifel Theatre in downtown St. Louis.

The Rite of Spring

Saturday, April 29, at 8:00pm

Sunday, April 30, at 3:00pm

Stéphane Denève, conductor
Piotr Anderszewski, piano

Gabriela Lena FRANK

Apu

Béla BARTÓK

Piano Concerto No. 3

Igor STRAVINSKY

The Rite of Spring

Presented by the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

Music Director Stéphane Denève explores the crossroads of human, spirit, and nature in a program that concludes with Igor Stravinsky's groundbreaking *The Rite of Spring*. Known for its virtuosity and primarily rhythmic composition, *The Rite of Spring* was originally scheduled for performances during Denève's COVID-19-shortened inaugural season as music director. Opening the program is the first SLSO performances of Gabriela Lena Frank's *Apu*, which recounts mischievous sprites from Andean Peru. Pianist Piotr Anderszewski, who collaborated with Denève in his first appearance guest conducting the SLSO in 2003, returns for performances of Béla Bartók's Third Piano Concerto. Tickets start at \$15.

The Damnation of Faust

Friday, May 5, at 7:30pm

Saturday, May 6, at 8:00pm

Stéphane Denève, conductor
Isabel Leonard, soprano | Marguerite
Michael Spyres, tenor | Faust (**SLSO debut**)
John Relyea, bass | Méphistophélès
Patrick Guetti, bass | Brander (**SLSO debut**)
St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Patrick Dupré Quigley, guest director
The St. Louis Children's Choirs | Barbara Berner, artistic director

Hector BERLIOZ

The Damnation of Faust



Presented by Mary Pillsbury.

In what has been described as a “desert island” work for Music Director Stéphane Denève, the SLSO, St. Louis Symphony Chorus, the St. Louis Children’s Choirs, and a cast of acclaimed soloists will perform Hector Berlioz’s monumental *The Damnation of Faust*. Rescheduled from Denève’s COVID-19-shortened first season as Music Director, the performance includes most of the originally scheduled cast of renowned vocalists: soprano and Grammy Award winner **Isabel Leonard** in her role debut as Marguerite; Missouri native **Michael Spyres** makes his SLSO debut as Faust; bass **John Relyea** in the role of Méphistophélès; and **Patrick Guetti** as Brander in his SLSO debut. Premiered in Paris in 1846, Berlioz described the work as a “dramatic legend” based on Goethe’s tragic play, *Faust*. The monumental work follows the tale of Faust as he falls in love with Marguerite and must make a deal with the devil to save her soul. Tickets start at \$15.

Family Concert: Powell Hall Playlist

Sunday, May 7, at 3:00pm

Stephanie Childress, conductor
Omega D. Jones, actor
Chrissie Watkins, actor
Abigail Konopik, horn (**SLSO debut**)
Tai Oney, tenor
Alayna Epps, soprano

G.F. HANDEL	Overture from <i>Music for the Royal Fireworks</i>
Ludwig van BEETHOVEN	Finale from Symphony No. 5
Franz STRAUSS	Allegro moderato from Horn Concerto
J. Rosamund JOHNSON (arr. Smith)	“Lift Every Voice and Sing”
Pyotr Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY	March from <i>Nutcracker Suite</i> No. 1
Richard RODGERS (arr. Mueller)	Selections from <i>The Sound of Music</i>
Ferde GROFE	“Mardi Gras” from <i>Mississippi Suite</i>

SLSO Education Programs are presented by the Steward Family Foundation and World Wide Technology.

The final Family Concert of the season is a celebration of Powell Hall, which will undergo a community-centered expansion and renovation at the conclusion of the 22/23 season. This 45-minute concert, designed for children ages 5-10 and their families, examines Powell Hall through the lens of memories. In this concert, the audience will be whisked through history from one generation to the next and discover their own family playlists. Enjoy a pre-concert scavenger hunt through Powell Hall with members of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. Tickets start at \$9.50.

Marvel Studios’ Black Panther in Concert



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Friday, May 12, at 7:00pm

Saturday, May 13, at 2:00pm & 7:00pm

Stephanie Childress, conductor

Massamba Diop, drum soloist (**SLSO debut**)

Ludwig GÖRANSSON

Marvel Studios' *Black Panther*

In 2018, Marvel Studios' *Black Panther* quickly became a global sensation and cultural phenomenon, showing a new dimension of what Superhero films could be. Now you can relive the excitement of T'Challa becoming king and battling Killmonger all while the SLSO performs Ludwig Göransson's Oscar®-winning score live to picture. The performances feature talking drum soloist Massamba Diop and are led by Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress. Tickets start at \$35.

St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra

Sunday, May 14, at 3:00pm

Stephanie Childress, conductor

Richard WAGNER

Prelude to Tristan and Isolde

Claude DEBUSSY

Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun

Antonín DVOŘÁK

Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

SLSO Education Programs are presented by the Steward Family Foundation and World Wide Technology.

Youth Orchestra programs are presented by Kathleen Clucas.

Supported by G.A., Jr. and Kathryn M. Buder Charitable Foundation, Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union and the ESCO Technologies Foundation.

The St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra captivates audiences with their energetic and spirited performances—join them for the finale of their 53rd season. YO Music Director and SLSO Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress leads the musicians, aged 12 to 22, in a pair of preludes by Richard Wagner and Claude Debussy before leading Antonín Dvořák's most-celebrated symphony: his ninth, which combines European structure with flavors of American music. Tickets are free, reservations are requested.

About the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

Celebrated as a leading American orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra is the second-oldest orchestra in the country, marking its 143rd year with the 2022/2023 season and its fourth with [Music Director Stéphane Denève](#). The SLSO maintains its commitment to artistic excellence, educational impact, and community collaborations, honoring its mission of enriching lives through the power of music.



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The SLSO serves as a convener of individuals, creators, and ideas, and is committed to building community through compelling and inclusive musical experiences. As it continues its longstanding focus on equity, diversity, inclusion, and access, the SLSO embraces its strengths as a responsive, nimble organization, while investing in partnerships locally and elevating its presence globally. For more information, visit slo.org.

About the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra

The St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra is an auditioned ensemble composed of 100 accomplished young musicians from the St. Louis region and beyond. Recognized nationally for its superb artistry, the YO performs expert-level repertoire under the direction of Stephanie Childress, Youth Orchestra Music Director and SLSO Assistant Conductor.

Musicians in the YO, aged 12 to 22, regularly take part in coaching from St. Louis Symphony Orchestra musicians and participate in the SLSO's Peer to Peer mentorship program. Founded in 1970 by SLSO Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin, there are now more than 2,000 YO alumni, many of whom have gone on to pursue careers in many impressive fields, including music. The St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra performs multiple free concerts each season at Powell Hall.

Learn more about the YO at slo.org.

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