



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[March 9, 2021]

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**THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND MUSIC DIRECTOR STÉPHANE DENEVE
ANNOUNCE DETAILS FOR LIVE ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS, RETURN OF AUDIENCES TO
POWELL HALL, MARCH 26-MAY 15**

Highlights include:

- Music Director Stéphane Denève leads five weeks of chamber orchestra concerts at Powell Hall, leading the SLSO in works across genre and time including works by J.S. Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, T.J. Cole, Aaron Copland, Arthur Honegger, Ester Mägi, Felix Mendelssohn, W.A. Mozart, Arvo Pärt, Sergei Prokofiev, Camille Saint-Saëns, Dmitri Shostakovich, Richard Strauss, and Igor Stravinsky
- Stephanie Childress makes her debut as SLSO Assistant Conductor, leading works by Sally Beamish, Benjamin Britten, and Antonín Dvořák in concerts April 9-11 and conducting the SLSO again April 16-18 in works by Luigi Boccherini, W.A. Mozart, and Ottorino Respighi. She also makes her SLSO debut as a soloist in Bach's Double Violin Concerto, March 26-28
- SLSO Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin returns to the lead the SLSO April 23-25 in works by Benjamin Britten, Alberto Ginastera, and Maurice Ravel
- Five SLSO musicians are featured soloists during the spring: violinists Kristin Ahlstrom, Celeste Golden Boyer, Xiaoxiao Qiang, Erin Schreiber, and violist Shannon Farrell Williams
- The launch of digital concerts on slo.org, giving audiences on-demand access to SLSO performances from their homes
- An expanded collection of educational resources, including SLSO SoundLab—a four-part interactive experience that teaches the science of sound through videos and activities

(March 9, 2021, St. Louis, MO) – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Stéphane Denève announced details for the orchestra's spring 2021 season—a season with live, socially distanced concerts at Powell Hall, the debut of Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress, greater access to SLSO performances through digital concerts, enhanced educational resources, and a wealth of opportunities to connect with the SLSO from home.

Tickets for live, in-person concerts—scheduled for March 26 through May 15—go on sale to the public on March 9. Each concert will be approximately one hour and performed without intermission. Tickets for the SLSO's digital concerts—launched February 11 and available to stream on slo.org—are also on sale now. To purchase tickets, visit slo.org or call the Box Office at 314-534-1700.

Out of an abundance of caution, capacity will be limited to 300 people at live concerts. Tickets to live concerts are \$25-\$50, and free tickets have been made available to community partners through the SLSO's Stéphane Seats program. Additionally, the SLSO plans to make selections from these



performances accessible via on-demand streaming later this year on slo.org. Tickets to view digital concerts on slo.org are \$15.

Stéphane Denève, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra Music Director, said, “*Retrouvailles*’ is one of the most beautiful French words to me. It perfectly describes the happiness of being together again, after too long an interval! At last, we are indeed able to welcome our dear audience safely back at Powell Hall. What a joy to reunite our family, including our Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin and also the exciting addition of Stephanie Childress, our new Assistant Conductor! What a thrill to share altogether the power of live music anew! Music is a precious balm for these times and its essential resounding gives me hope for the bright future that lies ahead.”

Marie-Hélène Bernard, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra President and CEO, said, “We are so pleased to resume live concerts this spring in a safe and supportive environment. Over the past year, Stéphane, our musicians, and staff have worked tirelessly to make music accessible to all despite the pandemic. We are eager to welcome audiences back to Powell Hall and are grateful to maintain connections with those who can’t yet join us for in-person events with a growing portfolio of digital content.”

Jonathan Chu and Jennifer Nitchman, Co-Chairs of the SLSO Musicians’ Council, said, “The musicians of the SLSO cannot wait to get back on stage to perform live for our community! Throughout this difficult year, the support of the Board, our tireless staff, and our patrons has been steadfast, for which we are deeply grateful. We have loved performing for you digitally, but there is something special in the experience of live music that cannot be replicated. We are looking forward to giving back in the way we best know how: through performing to you all, live, on stage at Powell Hall.”

The spring 2021 live concerts include eight weeks of performances at Powell Hall with socially distanced audiences. The season embraces the family of SLSO artists, with concerts led by Music Director Stéphane Denève, as well as Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin, and the conducting and performance debut of SLSO Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress, a rising talent who also begins her tenure as the Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra.

SLSO musicians also share the spotlight in the spring 2021 season, with five stepping forward as featured soloists during the season, including Associate Principal Second Violinist Kristin Ahlstrom, Second Associate Concertmaster Celeste Golden Boyer, Assistant Concertmaster Erin Schreiber, violinist Xiaoxiao Qiang, and violist Shannon Farrell Williams. Spring 2021 live concerts feature the first SLSO performances of works by Sally Beamish, Luigi Boccherini, TJ Cole, Ester Mägi, and Arvo Pärt.

Concerts begin March 26-28 and continue through May 13-15, with each performance approximately one hour and performed without intermission. Concerts will be recorded by the SLSO’s new high-definition camera system and will be available to stream on slo.org for a limited time at a later date. Additionally, rebroadcasts of prior SLSO concerts will continue each Saturday night at 8:00pm CDT on 90.7 KWMU St. Louis Public Radio (news.stpublicradio.org/#stream/0) and on the first Sunday of



each month at 5:00pm CDT on Nine PBS (ninepbs.org/night-at-the-symphony/). Performances from the fall 2020 season, including the SLSO's *Songs of America* and *Songs of the Holidays* series, are available on SLSO digital platforms including its [YouTube](#) channel and [SLSO Stories](#).

The SLSO's ability to now offer in-person concerts complement robust digital offerings that have been available throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Digital concerts, available to view for a limited a time on slo.org with a new concert available every two weeks, launched February 11. Filmed in Powell Hall, digital concerts launched with a free performance of works by Richard Strauss, Antonín Dvořák, and Takashi Yoshimatsu, led by Denève. Digital concerts launched to acclaim from critics, who were "thoroughly impressed by the audio and video quality" (Chuck Lavazzi, *KDHX*). Live concerts will take place concurrently to digital concerts.

The SLSO's spring 2021 live concerts will build upon the success of in-person concerts in October and November 2020, when the SLSO welcomed audiences to live events in Powell Hall for the first time since March 2020. On the advice of a team of infectious disease experts at the Washington University School of Medicine led by Dr. Stephen Liang, the SLSO will maintain its operating plan that adheres to the highest standards of health and safety for patrons, musicians, and staff. This plan, approved by the City of St. Louis, includes a socially distanced seat map, limits contact, and requires audience members, staff, and string players of the orchestra to wear masks at all times. Based on current guidance from the city and the SLSO medical team, Powell Hall has been approved for a 726-person capacity per concert. Out of an abundance of caution, the SLSO has capped each concert at 300 people per concert to allow direct seat access for all patrons. Protocols may change throughout the spring as pandemic conditions evolve. Learn more about the SLSO's health and safety protocols for concerts [here](#).

The 20/21 SLSO Classical Season is presented by the Steward Family Foundation. The SLSO's digital concerts are supported in part by a grant from the Berges Family Foundation. The SLSO's expanded portfolio of virtual events for patrons to deepen their understanding of the orchestra and its musicians is supported by Washington University Physicians.

ONLINE PROGRAMMING

Expanding on its digital offerings and responding to the overwhelmingly positive feedback to the [SLSO *Songs of America* project](#), the SLSO has launched a digital collection of performances that provide poignant music performances available on demand on SLSO platforms including slo.org, YouTube, and SLSO Stories. Content includes:

- **Concerts performed at Powell Hall**, conducted by Denève and other members of the SLSO Family. These hourlong concerts are available to stream on slo.org. Concerts cost \$15 and can be streamed on mobile devices, personal computers, and smart televisions. Concerts are available for a limited time, with new concerts available every two weeks.
- **A livestreamed concert** on Sunday, March 14, at 3:00pm CDT, featuring musicians of the SLSO performing works by W.A. Mozart, Sergei Prokofiev, and Richard Strauss.



Tickets are \$15 and available on slo.org.

- **A collaboration with the Pulitzer Arts Foundation** explores themes of home through performances by orchestra musicians, and St. Louis Symphony Chorus and St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus members, filmed at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation campus. Videos feature works by Alice Chance, Nathalie Joachim, and Shelley Washington.
- ***Songs of America***, launched the week of July 4, 2020, explores the incredible variety of voices in American music, recorded at the orchestra's home in Powell Hall and filmed at notable locations across St. Louis. Since its release, *Songs of America* installments have reached more than 350,000 people in St. Louis and across the country.
- ***Songs of the Holidays presented by Mercy***, provides a collection of sacred and secular holiday music performances.

The SLSO expanded its portfolio of [virtual events](#) for patrons to deepen their understanding of the orchestra and its musicians. Monthly [Lunch & Learns](#) offer in-depth discussions on topics related to the SLSO and have featured guests including Music Director Stéphane Denève, Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress, Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin, and composers Nathalie Joachim and Kevin Puts.

Regularly occurring **Coffee Talks with Musicians** events allow donors and subscribers to interact online with SLSO musicians, while **Whitaker Zoom Happy Hours** prior to select concert rebroadcasts on St. Louis Public Radio provide a social event for SLSO donors and subscribers.

MUSIC EDUCATION RESOURCES

The SLSO's Education Team created a library of resources to support teachers and help parents keep students engaged in music outside of the traditional classroom.

SLSO SoundLab is a free four-part series of interactive videos and activities that explores the intersection of music, science, and technology. In partnership with Breach—a multimedia performance company—students are able to put into practice what they learn through free access to online composition and sound mixing technology that will allow them to create and compose their own masterpieces. Since its launch to classrooms in December 2020 and to families in January 2021, SoundLab has reached nearly 30,000 children across the country and on three continents. Access SoundLab at slo.org/family.

Inside the Musician's Studio offers middle and high school instrumental music students the opportunity to interact online with SLSO musicians through a series of 45-minute Zoom classes. Each session features a different topic presented by an SLSO musician and includes an accompanying classroom activity. Spring 2021 sessions will be announced on slo.org.

Discover Your Instrument, a series of online events, connects students interested in music with SLSO musicians for free. Designed to engage and inspire beginner musicians, these 30-minute sessions



include interactive engagement opportunities for students. Initial events launched in December 2020 open to families and recurred in 2021 with music educators. New sessions will be announced on slo.org.

Beyond the Classroom: Studio Time for Teachers, a new resource providing professional development opportunities for music educators, is a curated series of online workshops presented by musicians of the SLSO on topics of most interest to teachers. The first workshop held in December 2020 featured Music Director Stéphane Denève demonstrating how he prepares for rehearsals. New sessions and additional professional development activities will be announced on slo.org.

DIGITAL MAGAZINE

Audiences can learn more about the SLSO and its musicians with stories from backstage, in Powell Hall, and throughout St. Louis at the orchestra’s [digital magazine, SLSO Stories](https://slo.org). Launched in 2019, this companion site of slo.org features stories, photos, program notes, and videos about the various aspects of the SLSO—including concerts, community programs, education initiatives, special events, and more.

Spring 2021 Live Concert Season

The following concerts will be held at Powell Hall in front of limited, socially distanced audiences.

Friday, March 26, 2021, 7:30pm

Saturday, March 27, 2021, 7:30pm

Sunday, March 28, 2021, 3:00pm

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Kristin Ahlstrom, violin

Stephanie Childress, violin (**SLSO performance debut**)

J.S. BACH

Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, BWV 1043

Ester MÄGI

Vesper (**First SLSO performances**)

Arvo PÄRT

Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten (**First SLSO performances**)

Dmitri SHOSTAKOVICH

Chamber Symphony in C minor

This concert is presented by the Whitaker Foundation and the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

Thursday, April 1, 2021, 7:30pm

Friday, April 2, 2021, 11:00am

Saturday, April 3, 2021, 11:00am

Stéphane Denève, conductor



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



Alessio Bax, piano (**SLSO debut**)
Lucille Chung, piano (**SLSO debut**)

Aaron COPLAND *Appalachian Spring Suite* (original for 13 players)
Arthur HONEGGER *Pastorale d'été*
Camille SAINT-SAËNS *Carnival of the Animals*

This concert is presented by the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

Friday, April 9, 2021, 7:30pm
Saturday, April 10, 2021, 7:30pm
Sunday, April 11, 3:00pm

Stephanie Childress, conductor (**SLSO conducting debut**)

Benjamin BRITTEN *Simple Symphony*
Sally BEAMISH *The Day Dawn* (**First SLSO performances**)
Antonín DVOŘÁK *Serenade for Strings*

This concert is presented by the Whitaker Foundation.

Friday, April 16, 2021, 11:00am
Saturday, April 17, 2021, 7:30pm
Sunday, April 18, 2021, 3:00pm

Stephanie Childress, conductor
Xiaoxiao Qiang, violin
Shannon Farrell Williams, viola

Luigi BOCCHERINI *Overture* (**First SLSO performances**)
W.A. MOZART *Sinfonia concertante, K. 364*
Ottorino RESPIGHI *Ancient Airs and Dances Suite No. 3*

This concert is presented by the Whitaker Foundation.

Friday, April 23, 2021, 7:30pm



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



Saturday, April 24, 2021, 7:30pm
Sunday, April 25, 2021, 3:00pm

Leonard Slatkin, conductor
Erin Schreiber, violin

Benjamin BRITTEN *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge*
Maurice RAVEL *Tzigane*
Alberto GINASTERA *Variaciones concertantes*

This concert is presented by the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

Friday, April 30, 2021, 11:00am
Saturday, May 1, 2021, 7:30pm
Sunday, May 2, 2021, 3:00pm

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Richard STRAUSS *Serenade for Winds*
W.A. MOZART *Serenade No. 10, K. 361, "Gran Partita"*

This concert is presented by the Whitaker Foundation.

Friday, May 7, 2021, 11:00am
Saturday, May 8, 2021, 7:30pm
Sunday, May 9, 2021, 3:00pm

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Sergei PROKOFIEV *Peter and the Wolf*
Igor STRAVINSKY *Pulcinella Suite*

This concert is presented by the Whitaker Foundation.

Thursday, May 13, 2021, 7:30pm
Friday, May 14, 2021, 7:30pm



Saturday, May 15, 2021, 7:30pm

Stéphane Denève, conductor
Celeste Golden Boyer, violin

TJ COLE	<i>Death of the Poet</i> (First SLSO performances)
Felix MENDELSSOHN	Violin Concerto
Ludwig van BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 7

This concert is presented by the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

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 141st year with the 2020/2021 season and its second with [Music Director Stéphane Denève](#). Widely considered one of the world's finest orchestras, the SLSO maintains its commitment to artistic excellence, educational impact, and community connections—all in service to its mission of enriching lives through the power of music.

The SLSO musical family also includes two resident choruses: the St. Louis Symphony Chorus, founded in 1976; and the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus, an ensemble founded in 1994 and focused on the music of African American and African cultures. The SLSO family also includes the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, founded by Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin in 1970.

The dynamic partnership with Stéphane Denève is seen through his visionary storytelling which is at the heart of the SLSO's artistic profile and has resulted in stronger connections with artists as well as the elevation of the SLSO's role as music education leader. In addition to its regular concert performances at Powell Hall, which has been the permanent home of the SLSO for more than 50 years, the orchestra is an integral part of the diverse and vibrant St. Louis community, presenting dozens of free education and community programs and performances throughout the region each year. It presents *St. Louis Symphony: Live at the Pulitzer*, a collaboration with the Pulitzer Arts Foundation centered on music of today. The SLSO also serves as the resident orchestra for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis.

The Grammy Award-winning SLSO's impact beyond the St. Louis region is realized through weekly Saturday night concert broadcasts on St. Louis Public Radio, acclaimed recordings, and regular touring activity. A sought-after artistic partner by preeminent musicians and composers from across the globe, as well as by local and national organizations, the SLSO enjoys a long history of robust and enduring artistic collaborations that have developed and deepened over the years. The SLSO is also growing its digital presence that helps make music accessible to all. This expanding content portfolio includes digital concerts filmed at Powell Hall on the SLSO's new high-definition camera equipment, videos series such as *Songs of America*, virtual Lunch & Learn events, and a robust online education program platform that features curriculum materials, Instrument Playground Online, and SoundLab—



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a four-part video series for teachers, students, and families to create music and engage in the science of sound.

Since the arrival of Marie-Hélène Bernard as President and CEO in 2015, the SLSO has realigned its mission to making music more accessible, while fostering a culture of radical welcome and belonging for all. Building on current momentum, the SLSO serves as a convener of individuals, creators, and ideas, and is committed to build community through compelling and inclusive musical experiences. Having sharpened its longstanding focus on equity, diversity, inclusion, and access, the SLSO embraces its strengths as a responsive, nimble organization while invigorating partnerships locally and elevating its presence globally. For more information, visit slo.org.

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