



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director

: news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HONORS TWO RETIRING ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

(August 3, 2021, St. Louis, MO) – The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra celebrates the careers of two retiring orchestra musicians, Second Associate Concertmaster Emeritus Silvian Itcovici and Associate Principal Timpanist and Cymbal Specialist Tom Stubbs, who have performed with the SLSO for a combined 96 years.

Stéphane Denève, Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, said, "We are all so very grateful for all that Silvian and Tom have done for our wonderful orchestra and the St. Louis community through their extraordinary tenures. It has personally been a great joy to share the stage with both Silvian and Tom, admiring their meaningful and friendly musical dedication, their deeply poetic curiosity, and always well-prepared musicianship, grounded in remarkable personal integrity. They leave precious legacies with our orchestra, and they will serve as an inspiration to all with their commitment to education. Merci de tout coeur, dear Silvian and Tom."

Silvian Itcovici, First Violinist and Second Associate Concertmaster Emeritus, was appointed to the SLSO in 1976 and held the position of Second Associate Concertmaster for 28 seasons beginning in 1983. He performed under five SLSO Music Directors: Jerzy Semkow, Leonard Slatkin, Hans Vonk, David Robertson, and Stéphane Denève. A native of Romania, Itcovici received his master's degree from the Bucharest Conservatory and continued his studies with Yehudi Menuhin, Ivan Galamian, and Norbert Brainin. He won second prize in the 1969 International Violin Competition in Sion, Switzerland, and was the recipient of the Andr Gertler prize in the 1972 International Bach Competition in Leipzig.

He appeared as a soloist with the SLSO in the world premiere performances of Miran Viher's Violin Concerto, as well as performances of Dmitri Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1. He also performed as a soloist at SLSO Family and Education Concerts numerous times. An engaged chamber musician, Itcovici regularly performed chamber works with the SLSO. He serves on the faculty of Washington University in St. Louis, inspiring and mentoring young musicians.

A native of Kansas, **Tom Stubbs, Associate Principal Timpanist and Cymbal Specialist**, was appointed to the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in 1970 by then-Music Director Walter Susskind when Stubbs was a student at Juilliard. In the 51 years since, Stubbs performed with six SLSO Music Directors, was a regularly featured soloist, and performed eight times on the SLSO's *Live at the Pulitzer* series, a collaboration with the Pulitzer Arts Foundation that presents music of the 20th and 21st centuries. He was also a featured soloist on Olivier Messiaen's *Des canyons aux étoiles... (From the Canyons to the Stars...)* on the SLSO's 2016 California tour.



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A committed educator, Stubbs teaches at St. Louis University and, since 1989, at the Aspen Music Festival and School, which he credits for his development as a young professional. He is also a clinician for the Zildjian Cymbal Company. Stubbs' teaching legacy continues with many of his former students now playing professionally in orchestras in the U.S. and abroad.

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



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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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