



**St. Louis Symphony  
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director

**: news**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, MUSIC DIRECTOR STÉPHANE DENÈVE, AND  
PIANIST VÍKINGUR ÓLAFSSON EMBARK ON FIVE-CITY EUROPEAN TOUR, MARCH 23-30**

**SLSO's first European tour with Denève features performances of Sergei Prokofiev's  
*The Love for Three Oranges* Suite, Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto, and Sergei  
Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances* in Vienna, Austria; Brussels, Belgium; Amsterdam  
and Eindhoven, the Netherlands; and Madrid, Spain**

**(January 19, 2023, St. Louis, MO)** – The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Stéphane Denève will embark on an eight-day, five-city European tour, March 23-30—the orchestra's first tour with Denève and first visit to Europe since 2017. One of today's most sought-after artists, pianist Víkingur Ólafsson, will join the orchestra on tour, performing Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto. Ólafsson first collaborated with the SLSO and Denève in November 2021 with concerts in St. Louis at the orchestra's home, Powell Hall.

The 2023 tour includes stops at some of Europe's most-celebrated concert halls, including the Vienna Konzerthaus (**Vienna, Austria**); Centre for Fine Arts (**Brussels, Belgium**, as the finale concert of the Klara Festival); Muzikgebouw Eindhoven (**Eindhoven, the Netherlands**); Concertgebouw (**Amsterdam, the Netherlands**); and Auditorio Nacional de Música (**Madrid, Spain**).

In addition to Ólafsson's performances of Grieg's Piano Concerto, the program includes the rarely performed *The Love for Three Oranges* Suite by Sergei Prokofiev, and Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*.

The SLSO invites St. Louisans to hear the tour program at its home in Powell Hall for a one-night-only concert with Ólafsson on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 7:30pm CST.

**Stéphane Denève, Music Director of the SLSO**, said, "It is with great pride and excitement that we bring the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra to Europe, to showcase their extraordinary artistry as one of the leading American orchestras and ambassador to our St. Louis region. We look forward to performing in some of the world's most prestigious concert halls and to connecting with audiences in each of these wonderful cultural capitals of Europe."

**Marie-Hélène Bernard, President and CEO of the SLSO**, said, "It is an honor to represent St. Louis on the global stage, serving as cultural ambassadors for the city and country we so dearly cherish. We look forward to showcasing the palpable energy shared between our orchestra and Stéphane. We are excited to showcase the top caliber of the musicians who call St. Louis home."



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**Jason Hall, Chief Executive Officer of Greater St. Louis, Inc.,** said, “St. Louisans have long known that the SLSO is world-class and now the world gets to hear firsthand what we are talking about. The SLSO will shine on the global stage and shine the spotlight on the tremendous cultural assets we have here in St. Louis.”

**Kathleen “Kitty” Ratcliffe, President of Explore St. Louis,** said, “The SLSO has long enjoyed international accolades, enhancing our presence on the global stage as a world-class arts destination. In concert with our new non-stop service to Frankfurt, the SLSO’s tour is well-positioned to showcase the rich experiences that await visitors when they journey to St. Louis.”

### **SLSO Tour History**

Throughout its 143-year history, the SLSO has regularly toured nationally and internationally to critical acclaim. The orchestra's first performance in Carnegie Hall was in 1950. Regular performances at that venue have charmed critics and audiences alike ever since. Most recently, the SLSO performed John Adams' *The Gospel According to the Other Mary* at Carnegie Hall as part of the composer's 70th birthday celebration. International tours began in 1978 with the first European tour, including three concerts at the Athens Festival. In the more than 40 years since that first tour, the SLSO has given concerts in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, the Netherlands, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The SLSO’s most recent international tour was a three-city tour of Spain under former Music Director David Robertson with violinist Gil Shaham and trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger in February 2017. The SLSO also tours extensively throughout the Midwest, collaborating regularly with higher education institutions including the University of Missouri, Indiana University-Bloomington, University of Illinois, and University of Nebraska.

The SLSO’s European tour is made possible by the generous support of the William T. Kemper Foundation, Steve and Linda Finerty, Isabelle and Jean-Paul Montupet, Kathleen Clucas, Mr. and Mrs. Barry H. Beracha, Ms. Phoebe Dent Weil, and Marjorie M. Ivey.

### **Tour Schedule**

Stéphane Denève, conductor  
Víkingur Ólafsson, piano

<b>Sergei PROKOFIEV</b>	<i>The Love for Three Oranges Suite</i>
<b>Edvard GRIEG</b>	Piano Concerto
<b>Sergei RACHMANINOFF</b>	<i>Symphonic Dances</i>

**Thursday, March 16, 2023, 7:30pm Central Standard Time**  
**Powell Hall, St. Louis, Mo.**

**Thursday, March 23, 2023, 7:30pm Central European Time (CET)**  
**Vienna Konzerthaus, Vienna, Austria**



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**Sunday, March 26, 2023, 3:00pm CET**  
**Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR), Brussels, Belgium**  
*Part of the Klara Festival*

**Monday, March 27, 2023, 8:15pm CET**  
**Muziekgebouw, Eindhoven, the Netherlands**

**Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 8:15pm CET**  
**Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, the Netherlands**

**Thursday, March 30, 2023, 7:30pm CET**  
**Auditorio Nacional de Música, Madrid, Spain**

The Tour is arranged by Harrison Parrott and managed by Classical Movements.

#### About Víkingur Ólafsson

Pianist Víkingur Ólafsson has made a profound impact with his remarkable combination of highest level musicianship and visionary programs. His recordings for Deutsche Grammophon - Philip Glass Piano Works (2017), Johann Sebastian Bach (2018), Debussy Rameau (2020) and Mozart & Contemporaries (2021) - captured the public and critical imagination and led to album streams of over 260 million. The Daily Telegraph called him "The new superstar of classical piano" while the New York Times dubbed him "Iceland's Glenn Gould."

Now one of the most sought-after artists of today, Ólafsson's multiple awards include Gramophone magazine's 2019 Artist of the Year, Opus Klassik Solo Recording Instrumental (twice) and Album of the Year at the 2019 BBC Music Magazine Awards.

Ólafsson continues to perform with the world's leading orchestras and as artist in residence at the top concert halls and festivals. He also works with some of today's greatest composers.

A captivating communicator both on and off stage, Ólafsson's significant talent extends to broadcast, having presented several of his own series for television and radio. He was artist in residence for three months on BBC Radio 4's flagship arts programme, Front Row. Broadcasting live during lockdown from an empty Harpa concert hall in Reykjavík, he reached millions of listeners around the world.

#### About Stéphane Denève

Stéphane Denève is Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Artistic Director of the New World Symphony, and will also be Principal Guest Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic from 2023. He recently concluded terms as Principal Guest Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Chief Conductor of the Brussels Philharmonic, and previously served as



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Chief Conductor of Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra (SWR) and Music Director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Recognized internationally for the exceptional quality of his performances and programming, Denève regularly appears at major concert venues with the world's greatest orchestras and soloists. He has a special affinity for the music of his native France, and is a passionate advocate for music of the 21st century.

He is a frequent guest with the New York Philharmonic, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra (with whom he conducted the 2020 Nobel Prize concert), Orchestre national de France, Czech Philharmonic, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, Vienna Symphony, DSO Berlin, Orchestre philharmonique de Radio France, and Rotterdam Philharmonic.

A graduate and prize-winner of the Paris Conservatoire, Stéphane Denève worked closely in his early career with Sir Georg Solti, Georges Prêtre and Seiji Ozawa. A gifted communicator and educator, he is committed to inspiring the next generation of musicians and listeners, and has worked regularly with young people in programmes such as those of the New World Symphony, Tanglewood Music Center, the Colburn School, the European Union Youth Orchestra, and the Music Academy of the West.

#### **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 serves the St. Louis region through its commitment to artistic excellence, educational impact, and community collaborations, honoring its mission of enriching lives through the power of music.

The core of the SLSO's artistic foundation is its dynamic partnership with Denève, whose energetic musicianship, visionary storytelling, and collaborative spirit have created stronger connections with local and visiting artists, as well as advanced the SLSO's role as a leader in music education. The SLSO musical family also includes two resident choruses: the St. Louis Symphony Chorus, founded in 1976, performs choral-orchestral music from the Baroque era to today; and the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus, founded in 1994, focuses on the performance and preservation of Black musical expression. The St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, founded by Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin in 1970, is the region's premiere training orchestra for high school and college students.

In addition to its concerts at historic Powell Hall, which has been the SLSO's home for more than 50 years, the orchestra is an integral part of the vibrant St. Louis community and enjoys a long history of robust and enduring artistic collaborations with individuals and organizations locally and around the world. Orchestra musicians share dozens of education and community performances throughout the



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region each year at medical facilities, places of worship, community centers, and schools. For more than 15 years, the *St. Louis Symphony: Live at the Pulitzer* series has highlighted composers and music of today through innovative performances in collaboration with the Pulitzer Arts Foundation. The SLSO has also served as the resident orchestra for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis for more than 40 years.

The Grammy® Award-winning SLSO's growing impact locally and nationally is realized through Saturday night concert broadcasts on St. Louis Public Radio and Classic 107, acclaimed recordings, regular tours domestically and abroad, and an expanding digital portfolio that includes digital concerts, virtual events, and a robust online education platform that features curriculum materials, interactive programs, activities, and learning opportunities for all ages.

Since the arrival of Marie-Hélène Bernard as President and CEO in 2015, the SLSO has aligned its mission to make music more accessible, while fostering a culture welcoming to all. Building on its momentum, 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](https://slo.org).

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