



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[March 7, 2023]

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**CONDUCTOR LAUREATE LEONARD SLATKIN AND ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR STEPHANIE
CHILDRESS LEAD THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN APRIL**

April 14: Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress leads the SLSO in the final Crafted concert of the season, a happy hour concert with local food and drink featuring performances of Edward Elgar's *Enigma Variations*

April 15-16: Pianist Lise de la Salle makes her SLSO debut with Frédéric Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 led by Childress; program includes Samuel Barber's Essay No. 2 and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*

April 18: In the final Live at the Pulitzer series concert of the season, six SLSO wind players perform Dai Fujikura's works for solo winds; together, they bring the evening to a close with Paul Dean's *Jasper and Charlie*

April 22-23: Internationally acclaimed conductor and SLSO Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin leads the SLSO in Emmanuel Chabrier's *España*, the first SLSO performance of Mason Bates' *Anthology of Fantastic Zoology*, and Richard Strauss' *Don Quixote*, featuring cellist Joshua Roman in his SLSO debut and SLSO Principal Violist Beth Guterman Chu

(March 7, 2023, St. Louis, MO) – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra announced details of its April concerts at Powell Hall, the orchestra's first concerts upon its return from its five-city European tour in March. The month begins with the final Crafted concert of the season hosted by SLSO's Assistant Conductor, Stephanie Childress; two soloists in their SLSO debuts, pianist Lise de la Salle and cellist Joshua Roman; SLSO wind players perform Dai Fujikura's solo works at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation; and Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin returns to conduct the SLSO.

Tickets start at \$15 for classical concerts and are \$30 for the Crafted concert. Tickets may be purchased at 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.



Crafted: Elgar’s Enigma Variations

Friday, April 14, 2023, 6:30pm CDT

Stephanie Childress, conductor

Edward ELGAR

Enigma Variations

Doors open at 5:00pm for this happy hour concert.

Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress examines the portraits of composer Edward Elgar’s close friends and family at the third and final happy hour concert of the season. The work is comprised of 14 variations on an original theme, each variation a musical sketch of one of Elgar’s loved ones. Childress and the orchestra performed the “Nimrod” variation at SLSO’s 2022 New Year’s Eve Celebration. Complementary food and drinks from local vendors are offered, as well as the opportunity to meet the musicians before the concert. Tickets are \$30.

Elgar’s Enigma Variations

Saturday, April 15, 2023, 8:00pm CDT

Sunday, April 16, 2023, 3:00pm CDT

Stephanie Childress, conductor

Lise de la Salle, piano (**SLSO debut**)

Samuel BARBER

Essay No. 2

Frédéric CHOPIN

Piano Concerto No. 2

Edward ELGAR

Enigma Variations

These concerts are presented by the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

These concerts are presented by Stifel.

Pianist Lise de la Salle makes her SLSO debut with Stephanie Childress conducting. The program opens with Barber’s Essay No. 2, the second of three short orchestral compositions written by Barber. De la Salle will then perform Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2. De la Salle established herself as an international soloist at a young age, winning First Prize at the “European Young Concert Artists” and “Young Concert Artists International Auditions” in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Like de la Salle, Chopin began his musical career early on: he wrote his Piano Concerto No.2—which was actually the first concerto he composed—before he completed his formal education. His motive was to write a concerto that he could play on world tours. Childress and the SLSO will conclude the program with Elgar’s *Enigma Variations*.

Live at the Pulitzer: Wild Air

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 7:30pm CDT



Pulitzer Arts Foundation, 3716 Washington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108

Matthew Roitstein, flute
Xiomara Mass, oboe
Scott Andrews, clarinet
Andrew Cuneo, bassoon
Thomas Jöstlein, horn
Victoria Knudtson, horn

Dai FUJIKURA	<i>Yurayura (First SLSO performance)</i>
Dai FUJIKURA	<i>Calling (First SLSO performance)</i>
Dai FUJIKURA	<i>Uniuni (First SLSO performance)</i>
Dai FUJIKURA	<i>Sandpiper (First SLSO performance)</i>
Dai FUJIKURA	<i>Harahara (First SLSO performance)</i>
Paul DEAN	<i>Jasper and Charlie (First SLSO performance)</i>

The SLSO continues its collaboration with the Pulitzer Arts Foundation with works by Japanese-English composer Dai Fujikura and Australian composer Paul Dean. Fujikura takes his inspiration from the natural world. Five SLSO wind players will embody different aspects of nature: *Yurayura* (to rock or shake) for horn, *Calling* for Bassoon, *Uniuni* (sea urchins) for horn, *Sandpiper* for flute, and *Harahara* (fluttering heart) for horn. The musicians will form a quintet to perform Dean’s exuberant *Jasper and Charlie*. The Live at the Pulitzer series advances the SLSO’s and Music Director Stéphane Denève’s commitment to music of today through the exploration of contemporary music and intersecting art forms. Tickets are \$25.

Slatkin Conducts Strauss

Saturday, April 22, 2023, 10:30am* CDT

Sunday, April 23, 2023, 3:00pm CDT

Leonard Slatkin, conductor
Joshua Roman, cello (**SLSO debut**)
Beth Guterman Chu, viola

Emmanuel CHABRIER	<i>España</i>
Mason BATES	<i>Anthology of Fantastic Zoology (First SLSO performances)</i>
Richard STRAUSS	<i>Don Quixote</i>

**Refreshments courtesy of Kaldi’s Coffee and Eddie’s Southtown Donuts. [Shuttle service](#) available from Plaza Frontenac*

Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin takes the stage once again to perform a program of lively and enchanting works inspired by Spanish literature and dance. The concert begins with Emmanuel



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Chabrier's *España* which was built off two Spanish dances: the malaguena, a traditional flamenco style, and the jota, an Aragonese folk dance. Next, is Mason Bates' *Anthology of Fantastic Zoology* which the composer describes as a "kind of psychedelic *Carnival of the Animals*." The piece is based on Jorge Luis Borges' *Manual de zoología fantástica (Book of Imaginary Beings)*, which contains descriptions for 120 mythical beasts from literature and folklore. Bates titles each movement after a magical creature, some of which Bates' himself imagined. The night leads up to Strauss' *Don Quixote*, an epic tale of the knight, Don Quixote de la Mancha based on novel by Miguel de Cervantes. The work is divided into an introduction, 10 variations which depict the knight's adventures, and an epilogue. The role of Don will be portrayed by cellist Joshua Roman in his SLSO debut. Roman is known for his versatility and artistic leadership which he uses to inspire the next generation of classical audiences. SLSO Principal Violist Beth Guterman Chu takes on the role of Sancho Panza, Don's sidekick.

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.

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.

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