

St. Louis Symphony Volunteer Association SVA Committee and Team Descriptions SVA Fiscal Year 2024/2025

President – Debbie Dillon | SVAPresident@SLSO.org

Education and Community Partnerships – VP: Suzanne Seibel
SVAEducationVP@SLSO.org

Express the Music – This program is currently being re-imagined and is on a two-year hiatus.

Contact: Paula Hertel, Vice Chair | SVAExpresstheMusic@SLSO.org

Instrument Playground – This program provides a hands-on experience with real instruments in a traveling format. Committee members transport instruments to schools and Powell Hall, give short presentations about instrument families, and assist students in making a sound from instruments. The ability to play an instrument is helpful, but not required as much as an affinity for working with elementary-age students.

Program Timing: This program has been available at all SLSO Family Concerts and Tiny Tunes Concerts, and as part of the curriculum for the Symphony in Your School elementary program and other locations as opportunities arise.

Contact: Harry Moppins, Chair; Christine Henry, Vice Chair |
SVAINstrumentPlayground@SLSO.org

Picture the Music – This award-winning program invites teachers of students in grades K-6 to experience music and art as powerful strategies for emotional expression. Students listen to a piece from the symphony season and use painting and drawing to express how it makes them feel. Teachers submit digital copies of their top 7 pieces of artwork for judging by the PTM panel of Judges. Judges select the top 100 pieces which are celebrated at an awards ceremony in early spring. The artwork is then displayed in two community venues after the ceremony. Committee members oversee communications with area schools, plan and coordinate all aspects of a judging day, awards ceremony, and traveling display, and transport pictures to and from display locations.

Program timing: Beginning of school year through March. Traveling display March through May.

Contact: Mike Darcy, Chair; Sue Darcy, Vice Chair | SVApicturethemusic@SLSO.org

Powell Hall Opportunities – Powell Hall Opportunities is the overarching committee that includes five teams (Education Concert Hosts, Friday Coffee Concerts, Group Hosts, Powell Hall Tours, and Youth Orchestra) whose activities have traditionally taken place at Powell Hall. The collective purpose for PHO volunteers is to be an extension of the SLSO staff by providing a welcoming and positive experience for concert guests, and to support Symphony-sponsored education opportunities for area schools and the community, and the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. SVA members may volunteer for one or more teams.

Contact: Mark Pfaff, Chair; Russ Vanderbeek, Vice Chair | SVAPowellHops@SLSO.org

Coffee Concerts – Team members help advance the SLSO's goal of enhancing the audience experience by creating a welcoming atmosphere at Friday morning subscription concerts. Serving complimentary coffee and tea donated by Kaldi's Coffee, along with donuts from Eddie's Southtown Donuts, brings concertgoers together as a community as they prepare to enter the hall for the concert. Volunteers receive a ticket to the concert when serving.

Program Timing: Coffee Concerts begin at 10:30 am on Friday mornings. Coffee service begins approximately 9:15 am.

Contact: Dave Propper, Team Leader | SVACoffeeConcerts@SLSO.org

Education Concert Hosts – The program supports the Symphony’s weekday Education Concerts. Education Hosts are the friendly faces of the SLSO to area school children and teachers. Their purpose is to provide a warm welcome and assure the safety and expedient arrival and departure during education concerts. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket to the morning’s concert.

Program Timing: Education Concerts begin at 9:30 am and 11 am. Volunteers arrive one hour before the concert and leave after all the buses are loaded for departure after the concert ends.

Contact: Steve Seele, Team Leader | SVAEduAmbassadors@SLSO.org

Group Hosts – This team assists groups arriving by shuttle bus for Friday morning Coffee Concerts and special holiday-season concerts. Two volunteers help at each Coffee Concert, and six at each holiday concert. The volunteers greet the patrons, assist them in exiting their shuttle, and help with entry directions. Following the concert, our volunteers help the patrons find their shuttles. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket to the concert.

Program Timing: Coffee Concerts begin at 10:30 am. Volunteers arrive about one hour before the concert and leave after the shuttles are loaded for departure after the concert ends.

Contact: Susanne Mertens, Team Leader | SVAGroupHosts@SLSO.org

Powell Hall Tours – *(This program is currently on hiatus until the completion of the Powell Hall renovation project in 2025.)*

Powell Hall tour guides show guests the beauty and the behind-the-scenes areas of Powell Hall, educate them on the historical significance of Powell Hall, and instill an appreciation of its attributes as a world class concert hall both architecturally and acoustically. The tours create a deeper appreciation of Powell Hall and the SLSO among visiting students and adults. Team members conduct tours after SLSO Education Concerts (approximately six dates/year), scheduled Public tours (approximately two dates/month), and other special events as needed by SLSO staff. Volunteers are trained to conduct tours and get an insider’s view of Powell Hall.

Program Timing: Tour dates throughout the year from September through June.

Contact: Becky Brown, Team Leader | SVATours@SLSO.org

Youth Orchestra – This team supports the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, which is comprised of musicians aged 12 to 22. Team members assist with orientation, pre-concert meals for YO musicians, auditions and various performance-related activities as requested by the Youth Orchestra Manager.

Program Timing: Youth Orchestra activities occur throughout the school year

Contact: Stephanie Randall, Team Leader | SVAYouthOrchestra@SLSO.org

Philanthropy and Stewardship – VP: Jim Moore | SVAPandSVP@SLSO.org

Advocacy – This program supports efforts by SLSO staff to ensure funding for the Arts, primarily at the Missouri state level and elsewhere, to the extent authorized by SLSO staff. In particular, committee members e-mail, call, and write their local legislators about important upcoming events and legislation regarding the Arts and may attend Citizens Day for the Arts in Jefferson City each February. Committee members are guided by and trained in advocacy by SLSO staff and partner organizations, with the staff's approval.

Program Timing: Citizens Day for the Arts in Jefferson City in February. There are opportunities to contact legislators throughout the year.

Contact: Paul Kravitz, Chair; LaVerne Moseley, Vice Chair | SVAAadvocacy@SLSO.org

Ambassadors – The Ambassadors greet and welcome concert guests to Symphony events. The primary role for this season is to act as shuttle hosts for the classical concerts scheduled for Stifel and

Touhill. Ambassadors also act as Valet Greeters who welcome and direct patrons who utilize complimentary valet service offered as part of their donation to the SLSO. At the free annual concert at Art Hill the Ambassadors play a key role in welcoming and promoting the Symphony. There may be other hospitality activities that may be requested. The Ambassadors are available to make concert going a more pleasurable experience.

Program Timing: September - June

Contact: Sharongay Pearline, Chair; Donald Pearline, Vice-Chair | SVAAmbassadors@SLSO.org

Boutique – *This program is paused during the construction at Powell Hall; the activities are subject to change after the SLSO returns to the renovated Powell Hall.* Traditionally it provided an opportunity for concertgoers to purchase SLSO logo items, music-related products, and CDs at Powell Hall during a concert. Committee members sell products, record sales, maintain displays and promote the SLSO and SVA by providing a friendly greeting and help as needed to SLSO patrons. Volunteers are given sales training and receive complimentary tickets to the concert for which they are scheduled to work in the Boutique.

Program Timing: The Boutique was traditionally staffed for all concerts. It opened one hour before each concert and during intermission.

Contact: Karen Silsby, Chair; Christine Henry, Vice Chair | SVABoutique@SLSO.org

Discovery Committee – This committee works with SLSO Staff and the SVA Leadership to recommend new and innovative activities and programs to enhance the SVA's ability to carry out its mission, and to provide additional outlets for SVA members' participation. Committee members speak with staff, research other organizations and opportunities, brainstorm, and recommend projects for approval to the SVA Executive Committee, ranging from fund-raising to special members events tailored towards meeting the needs of the SLSO. The Executive Committee passes approved projects to the appropriate existing or new committee for execution. ***Members are selected for this committee.*

Program Timing: Activities vary throughout the year

Contact: Open, Chair; Janice Seele, Vice Chair | SVADiscovery@SLSO.org

Friends Committee – This program supports the SLSO development team to sustain and increase support for the Annual Campaign. This committee is an integral part of improving the outreach to, and stewardship of, the Friends of Symphony members. Committee members reach out to SLSO donors to thank them for their support via phone and note writing.

Program Timing: Activities vary throughout the year

Contact: Glenna Schindler, Chair; Marjorie Smith, Vice Chair | SVAFriends@SLSO.org

Membership – VP: Martha Duchild | SVAMembershipVP@SLSO.org

Communications - This team addresses several communications projects that support SVA needs. In conjunction with the SVA President, Executive Committee and Manager of Volunteers Activities, this team compiles information for and edits SVA in-house publications, including News & Notes, the SVA brochure, and others as needed. Team members also write articles for the Symphony Volunteer Association's publicity in the Playbill (the Symphony's concert program) and the SVA's web page. Writing skills are a prerequisite, as is the ability to work with word limitations and due dates. Some layout skills are helpful.

Internal Communications - Sub-team members produce and distribute all internal SVA communication, including group emails and forwarded SLSO announcements.

Program Timing: Varies throughout the year

Contact: Jeff Kaplan, Team Lead | SVACommunications@SLSO.org

Photography - Sub-team members record moments in SVA history by photographing SVA-related activities and uploading them into the SVA's Flickr account for later use in

publications, especially News & Notes and the SVA brochure. Digital photography is necessary and computer skills are helpful.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Pam Belloli, Team Lead | SVAPhotography@SLSO.org

Publicity - Sub-team members work with SLSO staff to design and produce material that will be accessible by the general public, such as the SVA web page (within the SLSO website), brochures and other digital media. Digital photography and computer skills are highly desirable.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Elizabeth Hahn, Team Lead | SVAPublicity@SLSO.org

Membership Meetings and Events - Committee members arrange General Membership Meetings and special SVA events within budget guidelines, including choosing the venues, creating the invitations, selecting the menus, maintaining RSVPs, coordinating any needed table seating, and check-in. Committee members also work with other committee chairs to print, distribute, and collect Sign-Up Forms to be used at the General Membership Meetings.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Kathy Norwood, Chair; Mark Mittleman, Vice Chair | SVAMembership@SLSO.org

Cocktails & Conversation - This team curates a fun, interactive hour-long Zoom event for SVA members and prospective members. It's held several times throughout the year and is a wonderful way to stay connected, meet, and get to know SLSO musicians and staff members in an informal setting. Past guests have included David Halen, Concertmaster; Stephanie Childress, Assistant Conductor; and Amy Kaiser, retired SLSO Chorus Director - just to name a few. Each Zoom meeting begins with a celebratory toast, and we supply our guest's favorite cocktail recipe so all can share in the "spirit" of the event.

Program timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Marilyn Humiston or Phyllis Traub, Co-Leads

New & Prospective Members - This committee identifies, recruits, and onboards new members into the SVA. Prospective members are referred through the SLSO website, SLSO communications and current SVA members. The committee contacts prospective members and helps them identify activities that align with their interests, skills, and availability. The committee is then responsible for connecting new members with SVA leadership and respective committee chairs. The committee also oversees the SVA Mentor Program which pairs current SVA members with new members to make them feel welcome. Members of the New and Prospective Committee also staff informational and recruitment tables at various SLSO events and concerts including but not limited to: Open Rehearsals, Youth Orchestra orientation, and Coffee Concerts.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Elizabeth Hahn, Chair; Connie Wepfer, Vice Chair | SVANewandProspective@SLSO.org

Pick & Choose - This committee supports various SLSO and SVA tasks on an as needed basis. It provides a variety of volunteer opportunities for its membership who have limited time to volunteer or attend meetings but may be available on short notice. Activities may include but are not limited to clerical duties such as mailings and collating, assisting with marketing promotions at concerts, and facilitating photo opportunities at various concerts.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Sue Propper, Chair | SVAOneandDone@SLSO.org

Teams Reporting Directly to the Membership VP:

Membership Engagement Team - This team keeps members engaged when the New and Prospective Membership Committee has completed their introductory work, focusing on retention and participation of members while making membership fun and rewarding. It reaches out to the SVA membership to make sure that every member has an opportunity to engage in SVA programs and stay connected to the organization as they would like. This team also provides a good and welfare function by acknowledging SVA members in need of comfort or congratulations.

Program Timing: As needed throughout the year

Contact: Kathryn Snodgrass, Team Leader | SVAEngagement@SLSO.org

Membership Directory - Team members compile and update member information, maintain the membership spreadsheets and produce the printed and on-line SVA membership and activity directory. Excel and other computer and editing skills are desirable. *Members are selected for this team.

Program Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Ruben Sanchez, Team Leader | SVADirectory@SLSO.org

Hospitality – Calling all bakers and assemblers who want to support our musicians, singers, and staff in a particularly tasty way! The Hospitality team plans and organizes the periodic delivery of edible treats to musicians, chorus members, and staff. Prior to each planned delivery, team members will be asked if they can bake cookies to add to the treat bags and/or help with packaging and, if they are able, they'll start revving up their ovens. Each treat bag delivery is for roughly 100 people and the goal is for each bag to contain four different cookies. So, the more bakers we have, the fewer cookies we will need from each baker. If you are interested in baking, packaging or delivery, join this fun group.

Program Timing: September to May

Contact: Janice Seele and Marjie Smith, Team Leaders | SVAHospitality@slo.org

Team Reporting Directly to the President:

Data Research and Analysis - The Data Research & Analysis team is a group of members who are comfortable with computer research and/or manipulation and analyses of data. This team is tasked with various activities as needed and approved by the Executive Committee, either stemming from the Executive Committee itself or from individual committees who may forward their research and analysis needs through the Executive Committee for approval.

Program Timing: As needed throughout the year

Contact: Jim Moore, Team Leader | SVAAnalytics@slo.org