



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NAMES ITS MUSIC CENTER IN HONOR OF
ST. LOUIS PHILANTHROPIST AND CIVIC LEADER JACK C. TAYLOR**

**Dedication of new and expanded Grand Center campus celebrates visionary support of the
SLSO by the late philanthropist, entrepreneur, and champion of St. Louis**

**The SLSO's home will reopen in September 2025 as
the Jack C. Taylor Music Center in service to the St. Louis region**

Existing 1925 building currently under renovation to retain Powell Hall name

(September 18, 2024, St. Louis, MO) – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra announced that its new and expanded music center in Grand Center will be named in honor of the late Jack C. Taylor—the longtime SLSO patron, philanthropist, champion of St. Louis, and founder of Enterprise Mobility.

The Jack C. Taylor Music Center, as the venue will be known, unifies new and renovated spaces to create an international music destination in St. Louis that makes music accessible to all, better serves the needs of the community, and helps shape the orchestra of the future. It includes Powell Hall, whose name will continue to define the existing 1925 building under renovation and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A 64,000-square-foot expansion—designed by internationally acclaimed lead architecture firm Snøhetta and architect of record Christner Architects—will include a new lobby and public spaces, an Education and Learning Center, and a backstage wing to support more than 400 musicians across four SLSO ensembles and guest artists.

Marie-Hélène Bernard, SLSO President and CEO, said, “The new Jack C. Taylor Music Center will be transformational for the SLSO and for St. Louis, welcoming all to experience the power of live music and serving the community to which Jack Taylor so generously gave throughout his life. We are honored to remember Jack and celebrate his legacy in this way—and remain immeasurably grateful for his visionary belief in the greatness of St. Louis and the SLSO.”

Steven L. Finerty, SLSO Board Chair, said, “No individual patron in the long history of the SLSO has had a greater impact on the success of the orchestra than Jack Taylor. It is fitting that our new Music Center will bear his name, a tribute to an extraordinary leader and friend.”

Jo Ann Taylor Kindle, daughter of Jack C. Taylor and Chairperson of the Crawford Taylor



Foundation, said, “Dad loved St. Louis, and he made it his mission to give back to the city that had been so good to our family. It was important to him to ensure that St. Louis would continue to enjoy an internationally recognized orchestra.”

Taylor’s visionary leadership and philanthropic support over nearly 25 years was instrumental in ensuring the excellence of the SLSO. In 2000, Taylor boldly gave a \$40 million challenge grant to establish the St. Louis Symphony Endowment Trust, inspiring an outpouring of community giving that set the SLSO on a path to financial stability, and established a nationally recognized endowment funding model. At the time, Taylor’s endowment gift to the SLSO was the largest single philanthropic commitment to an American orchestra, saving the institution from the brink of bankruptcy.

Taylor firmly believed in the importance of the SLSO to St. Louis and through his generosity rallied the community to sustain and protect its place among the nation’s finest orchestras. His leadership gifts to the SLSO endowment and programs continued until his death in 2016.

Born in St. Louis in 1922, Taylor graduated from Clayton High School before attending Washington University’s Olin Business School. After the December 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor, Taylor left school to enlist in the U.S. Navy and was stationed on the USS Enterprise, which would become the most decorated warship of World War II. His work as a Hellcat pilot earned him the Navy Air Medal and two Distinguished Flying Crosses. In 1957, he founded Executive Leasing Company, which was later renamed to Enterprise in 1969 in recognition of the aircraft carrier on which he served.

It is estimated that Taylor personally gave more than \$1 billion to local organizations during his lifetime, including Forest Park Forever, Washington University in St. Louis, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, and many more.

Taylor’s philanthropic legacy continues through the leadership and service of his family and through the ongoing generosity of the Crawford Taylor Foundation, which he founded in 1997 to support the improvement of the St. Louis region. A \$30 million gift from the foundation supports Music For All, the SLSO’s \$155 million fundraising campaign that supports the creation of the Music Center.

The Jack C. Taylor Music Center is expected to open in September 2025 in time for the SLSO’s 146th season and the centennial of Powell Hall.

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 145th year with the 2024/2025 season and its sixth with [Stéphane Denève, The Joseph and Emily Rauh Pulitzer Music Director](#). Widely considered one of the leading American orchestras, the Grammy®



St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra

Stéphane Denève : Music Director

News

Award-winning SLSO maintains its commitment to artistic excellence, educational impact, and community collaborations—all in service to its mission of enriching lives through the power of music.

The transformational expansion and renovation of its historic home, Powell Hall, slated to be completed in 2025, builds on the institution's momentum as a civic leader in convening individuals, creators, and ideas, while fostering a culture welcoming to all. Committed to building community through compelling and inclusive musical experiences, the SLSO continues its longstanding focus on equity, diversity, inclusion, and access, embracing 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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