



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S FEBRUARY 2025 CONCERTS SPAN GENRES,
FROM CLASSICAL TO COUNTRY TO ROCK AND ROLL**

BLACKSTAR SYMPHONY: The Music of David Bowie explores the rock star's final album at Stifel Theatre, with special guests and longtime collaborators, February 7

Denève and the SLSO give the world premiere of Anna Clyne's *PALETTE*, a concerto for orchestra that uses emerging Augmented Orchestra technology; program also includes Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 with Nikolai Lugansky and Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* Overture-Fantasy, February 14-15

Conductor David Afkham makes his SLSO debut conducting Brahms' Symphony No. 1, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24 with pianist Saleem Ashkar, and the first SLSO performances of Outi Tarkiainen's *The Ring of Fire and Love*, February 21 and 23

The SLSO celebrates the world of baseball with *Double Play*, featuring St. Louis Cardinals player-turned-musician Adam Wainwright in his SLSO debut; program showcases Americana through baseball-related music, with special appearances by sportscaster Joe Buck and Cardinals organist Dwayne Hilton, February 22

The SLSO, St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus, and Grammy Award-winning vocalist Donald Lawrence celebrate Black musical expression in the annual *Lift Every Voice* concert, February 28

(January 2, 2025, St. Louis, MO) – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra announced details of its February 2025 concerts, featuring the world premiere of a new concerto for orchestra, collaborations with vocalists Adam Wainwright and Donald Lawrence, and an exploration of the music of David Bowie.

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased at slo.org 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).

While the transformational expansion and renovation of Powell Hall continues, the SLSO will perform February concerts at Stifel Theatre (February 7, 22, 28) and the Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri–St. Louis (February 14-15, 21, 23). Shuttle service will be available for all classical concerts starting at \$15 per seat. Shuttles for performances at the Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL will depart from Plaza Frontenac and free parking is



available on the UMSL campus. Shuttles for Stifel Theatre will depart from Plaza Frontenac and St. Louis Community College–Forest Park.

BLACKSTAR SYMPHONY: The Music of David Bowie

Friday, February 7, 2025, 7:30pm CST

Stifel Theatre

1400 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103

Donny McCaslin, Artistic Director and saxophone **(SLSO debut)**

Tim Davies, conductor **(SLSO debut)**

John Cameron Mitchell, guest artist **(SLSO debut)**

Gail Ann Dorsey, vocals **(SLSO debut)**

David Poe, vocals **(SLSO debut)**

Tim Lefebvre, bass **(SLSO debut)**

Jason Lindner, keyboard **(SLSO debut)**

Nate Wood, drums **(SLSO debut)**

Program announced from the stage.

BLACKSTAR SYMPHONY: The Music of David Bowie immerses audiences in the sonic tapestry of David Bowie’s final, critically acclaimed album, *Blackstar*, reimagined for full orchestra. The concert includes orchestral arrangements of *Blackstar* performed in its entirety, including “Lazarus,” “Blackstar,” “I Can’t Give Everything Away,” and more. The performance also includes hits from throughout Bowie’s 50-year career, including touchstones like “Space Oddity,” “Life on Mars,” and “Heroes.” The SLSO will collaborate with the jazz quartet that recorded the *Blackstar* album alongside Bowie. Joining these acclaimed musicians are Bowie’s original bandmate and lifelong friend Gail Ann Dorsey who performed the iconic bass on Bowie and Queen’s *Under Pressure*, as well as Tony Award-winner and Golden Globe nominee, John Cameron Mitchell. These musical forces combine to bring their electrifying take on the music of one of the most influential artists of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Tchaikovsky’s Romeo and Juliet: The Romantics

Friday, February 14, 7:30pm CST

Saturday, February 15, 7:30pm CST

Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri–St. Louis

1 Touhill Circle, St. Louis, MO 63121

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Nikolai Lugansky, piano

Jody Elff, sound design

Luke Kritzeck, lighting design



Anna Clyne *PALETTE (World Premiere, SLSO commission)*
Sergei Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky *Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy*

The SLSO and Music Director Stéphane Denève give the world premiere of *PALETTE*, a new concerto for orchestra by Anna Clyne, one of today's most in-demand composers. *PALETTE* explores the conversation between visual art and music, and utilizes emerging "Augmented Orchestra" technology, as well as lighting design, to enhance the experience. Since the start of Denève's tenure as SLSO Music Director in 2019, Clyne has been one of the orchestra's most-performed composers of today. Nikolai Lugansky, among the top Sergei Rachmaninoff interpreters, is the soloist in Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, described by Denève as "a pure expression of love." The theme of love continues in Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's celebration of passion and connection in *Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy*.

Brahms' First Symphony: Labor of Love

Friday, February 21, 10:30am CST*

Sunday, February 23, 3:00pm CST

**Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri–St. Louis
1 Touhill Circle, St. Louis, MO 63121**

David Afkham, conductor (**SLSO debut**)
Saleem Ashkar, piano

Outi Tarkiainen *The Ring of Fire and Love (First SLSO performances)*
W.A. Mozart Piano Concerto No. 24
Johannes Brahms Symphony No. 1

**Coffee Concert series supported by Lutheran Senior Services. Refreshments provided by Kaldi's Coffee and Eddie's Southtown Donuts.*

Conductor David Afkham makes his SLSO debut in a program of struggle, then exultation. In *The Ring of Fire and Love*, Finnish composer Outi Tarkiainen explores the earth-shattering moment of a child's birth. Pianist Saleem Ashkar, in his second appearance with the SLSO, brings searching intelligence to W.A. Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24, dramatic music written at a time of personal joy. Johannes Brahms toiled over his Symphony No. 1 for decades, producing a life-affirming journey from darkness to light.

Double Play featuring Adam Wainwright

Saturday, February 22, 7:30pm CST

Stifel Theatre

1400 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103

John Morris Russell, conductor (**SLSO debut**)



Adam Wainwright, vocals and guitar (**SLSO debut**)
Dwayne Hilton, organ (**SLSO debut**)
Joe Buck, narrator

Repertoire announced from the stage.

The SLSO celebrates two of St. Louis' greatest loves—music and baseball—in a special event celebrating all the drama of America's favorite pastime with former St. Louis Cardinals All-Star pitcher-turned-musician Adam Wainwright. Wainwright teams up with the SLSO for new orchestral takes of songs from his 2024 country album *Hey Y'all*. The evening also features Americana classics by Scott Joplin, John Philip Sousa, and James Horner, as well as a special rendition of the poem "Casey at Bat"—narrated by acclaimed sportscaster Joe Buck. Cardinals' organist Dwayne Hilton showcases the stadium organ in the concert hall.

Lift Every Voice: Black History Month Celebration

Friday, February 28, 7:30pm CST

Stifel Theatre

1400 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103

Kevin McBeth, conductor
Donald Lawrence, vocals (**SLSO debut**)
St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus | Kevin McBeth, director

Repertoire announced later.
Supported by Bayer Fund.

In its annual celebration of Black History Month, the SLSO and St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus team up for a joyful celebration. The IN UNISON Chorus, a resident chorus of the SLSO for 30 years, specializes in performing and preserving music from the African diaspora. Grammy Award-winning vocalist Donald Lawrence shines in this concert highlighting the magnificent variety and depth of Black musical expression.

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® 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.



St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra

Stéphane Denève : Music Director

News

The transformational expansion and renovation of its historic home, Powell Hall, slated to be completed in September 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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