



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[February 11, 2025]

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**ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 146th SEASON CELEBRATES OPENING OF  
EXPANDED AND RENOVATED HOME,  
POWELL HALL AT THE JACK C. TAYLOR MUSIC CENTER**

**2025/2026 season highlights include:**

*The Jack C. Taylor Music Center opens following a two-year, \$140 million expansion and renovation, transforming the audience and artist experience*

*Music Director Stéphane Denève leads a reopening performance for the venue's neighbors and community and an opening weekend celebration with mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato**; venue welcomes entire region for community open house in November*

*World premieres of three SLSO commissions: **Nathalie Joachim's** Family (composed for the SLSO IN UNISON® Chorus), **James Lee III's** Fanfare for Universal Hope, and **Kevin Puts' House of Tomorrow** (song cycle with **Joyce DiDonato** and members of the St. Louis Symphony Chorus); SLSO co-commissions and St. Louis premieres of **Carlos Simon's Double Concerto** with violinist **Hilary Hahn** and cellist **Seth Parker Woods** and a new work by **Jasmine Guo***

*Commitment to music of today, with 40 percent of pieces on classical programs by living composers, including four pieces by **Kevin Puts**, who will serve as composer in residence*

***Denève** conducts pillars of the symphonic repertoire, including Richard Strauss' Ein Heldenleben; Sergei Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2; Benjamin Britten's War Requiem; Igor Stravinsky's complete score to the ballet, The Firebird; W.A. Mozart's The Magic Flute in its entirety; Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 5; Maurice Ravel's complete Daphnis and Chloé; and Igor Stravinsky's Pulcinella Suite with dancers from Saint Louis Dance Theatre*

*New chamber music series, featuring two programs curated by and performed with visiting artists, violinist **Augustin Hadelich** and pianist **Orli Shaham***

*Introduction of recital series, with performances by acclaimed pianists **Víkingur Ólafsson** and **Isata Kanneh-Mason***

*Denève welcomes his predecessors, **David Robertson** (Music Director 2005-2018) and SLSO Conductor Laureate **Leonard Slatkin** (Music Director 1979-1996), alongside returning conductors **Hannu Lintu**, **Nicholas McGegan**, **John Storgårds**, and **Xian Zhang**; plus returning pianists **Emanuel Ax**, **Stewart Goodyear**, **Víkingur Ólafsson**, **Orli Shaham**, **Jean-Yves***



**Thibaudet, and Joyce Yang; violinists Augustin Hadelich, Hilary Hahn, Leila Josefowicz, and Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider; vocalists Christine Goerke, John Matthew Myers, Sherezade Panthaki, and Philippe Sly; and ensembles The St. Louis Children's Choirs and Saint Louis Dance Theatre**

Artists new to the SLSO include conductors **Ryan Bancroft, Tabita Berglund, Kevin John Edusei, Dima Slobodeniouk, and Anna Sułkowska-Migoń; pianists Isata Kanneh-Mason, Jan Lisiecki, and Gabriela Montero; cellists Seth Parker Woods and Kian Soltani; vocalists Ben Bliss, Ian Bostridge, Sara Couden, Joyce DiDonato, Rainelle Krause, and Roderick Williams; trio Time for Three; saxophonist Steven Banks; and sheng player Wu Wei**

More concerts to be announced, including chamber music at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation and The Sheldon; happy hour concerts; Concerts for Kids; and additional specials

**(February 11, 2025, St. Louis, MO)** – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra (SLSO) and Stéphane Denève, The Joseph and Emily Rauh Pulitzer Music Director, announced programming for the orchestra's 2025/2026 season, the orchestra's 146th and Denève's seventh as Music Director. This celebratory season welcomes the community back to the SLSO's concert venue following two years of construction. The Jack C. Taylor Music Center includes a complete renovation of Powell Hall—the historic venue built in the 1920s that has served as the orchestra's home since 1968—and a 64,000-square-foot expansion. Designed with community service at its forefront, the project preserves the civic treasure for generations to come, transforms the audience and artist experience, and makes music more accessible.

**Stéphane Denève, The Joseph and Emily Rauh Pulitzer Music Director of the SLSO,** said, "From the celebratory first notes of Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* to the world premiere of Nathalie Joachim's all-embracing *Family* to close our season, I dreamed of a festive musical journey that will serve and unite our entire community through the joy of music, resonating again in our wonderfully restored Powell Hall. This new season is filled with vibrant, compelling, and diverse repertoire, accelerating our belief that our home—this 'House of Tomorrow' as our composer in residence Kevin Puts calls it in his monumental new piece—is for everybody. Our musical offering looks towards the future but will also commemorate important moments in history—the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and America's 250th birthday. I cannot wait to feel the momentum of this new era with our immensely talented musicians, chorus members, and outstanding guest artists."

**Marie-Hélène Bernard, SLSO President and CEO,** said, "The 25/26 season realizes our vision of an expanded concert venue that welcomes the community wholeheartedly, supports the immense talents of our 400-plus resident artists, and centers music as a catalyst to gather, learn, and celebrate. Stéphane and our team have crafted a season that showcases the vitality of symphonic music, welcoming an outstanding roster of guest artists, performing treasured classics, and building on our history of fostering the future of our art form. We anticipate with



excitement sharing meaningful experiences with our audiences both at the renovated Powell Hall and throughout the region.”

**Bjorn Ranheim and Chris Tantillo, co-chairs of the SLSO Musicians’ Council**, said, “The musicians of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra are thrilled to return to our beloved Powell Hall for a season full of orchestral fireworks. Celebrating the past, present, and future of the organization will be an incredibly powerful experience in our beautifully restored and revitalized home. We look forward to welcoming the community back and continuing our mission of enriching people’s lives through the power of music.”

Curated and Compose Your Own Subscriptions are on sale now. Single tickets go on sale later in 2025. Visit [slo.org/season](https://slo.org/season) or call the Box Office at 314-534-1700 for more information.

### **REOPENING THE SLSO’S HOME**

The 146th season welcomes audiences to experience the Jack C. Taylor Music Center, for the first time since the completion of a transformational expansion and renovation project. The \$140 million project, designed by the internationally acclaimed architecture firm Snøhetta, centers the SLSO’s priorities on artistic excellence, community engagement, and education leadership. The project provides new and improved amenities for audiences and artists, while preserving and enhancing the internationally recognized acoustics and aesthetics of the concert hall. A new Education and Learning Center provides additional space for the SLSO’s two resident choruses, its Youth Orchestra, and a robust portfolio of education and community programs.

A season-long celebration of Powell Hall’s reopening, programming showcases the virtuosity and nimbleness of the orchestra musicians and guest artists, and includes a wide variety of music, responding to the community’s diverse tastes and interests. Pillars of orchestral repertoire share programs with music by composers of today with 40 percent of pieces on classical concerts by living composers. While looking to today’s and tomorrow’s musical voices, Denève and the SLSO also honor important moments in history, notably the 80th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II through performances of war-time and war-inspired pieces, and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, building on the SLSO’s long-held priority of elevating music by American voices. Broadening the definition of what a symphonic organization can achieve, programming also includes films with scores performed live, cross-genre collaborations and presentations, chamber music in multiple settings, holiday commemorations, happy hour concerts, and a new recital series.

On September 19, Denève leads the orchestra for the first time in the renovated Powell Hall, inaugurating the Jack C. Taylor Music Center with a ceremonial ribbon cutting and special performance for the venue’s neighbors and community partners.

On September 26-28, Denève opens the season with a triumphant trio of fanfares by Aaron Copland, Joan Tower, and a world premiere by James Lee III, and leads the world premiere of



Kevin Puts' *House of Tomorrow*, written for and featuring acclaimed mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** and members of the St. Louis Symphony Chorus on a text adapted from the poet Kahlil Gibran. Richard Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben* closes the program.

On November 8, the SLSO will welcome the community to a free day of music. Additional details about this and other reopening events will be shared later.

### **SEASON HIGHLIGHTS WITH DENÈVE**

Denève opens the season with the celebratory free community concert on Art Hill in Forest Park, an annual tradition that draws tens of thousands of people and serves as the ceremonial start of the SLSO's season, performed in memory of longtime SLSO supporter Mary Ann Lee (September 17).

Denève welcomes a roster of internationally recognized guest artists to St. Louis, including violinist **Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider** for a program that pairs two iconic Romantic pieces: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Sergei Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2 (November 1-2). On November 7 and 9, the SLSO commemorates the 80th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II with performances of Benjamin Britten's monumental *War Requiem*, with the St. Louis Symphony Chorus, The St. Louis Children's Choirs, and a stellar cast of vocalists: soprano **Christine Goerke**, tenor **Ian Bostridge**, and baritone **Roderick Williams**.

Denève leads a rare complete performance of Igor Stravinsky's score to the ballet, *The Firebird*, and his close friend and collaborator, **Jean-Yves Thibaudet**, joins for Aram Khachaturian's Piano Concerto (November 21-22). The New Year's Eve concert features pianist **Stewart Goodyear** in George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* in a French and American-themed musical celebration led by Denève (December 31).

Furthering Denève's interest in artistic collaborations, **Saint Louis Dance Theatre** dancers perform original choreography by **Kirven Douthit-Boyd** alongside the orchestra for Igor Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* Suite (January 10-11). The program also includes signature Denève programming with music by Claude Debussy and Albert Roussel.

For the first time on the Powell Hall stage, the orchestra performs Mozart's complete concert version of the opera, *The Magic Flute*, with Denève, the St. Louis Symphony Chorus, and The St. Louis Children's Choirs, and a cast of vocalists including tenor **Ben Bliss** as Tamino and coloratura soprano **Rainelle Krause** as The Queen of the Night (February 20 and 22), advancing Denève's commitment to large-scale choral and operatic performances.

Denève shares his lifelong respect and admiration for his personal friend, prolific film composer John Williams, in a program that includes excerpts from Williams' scores to *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Star Wars*, and *E.T.* alongside the first SLSO performances of Kevin Puts' *Contact*, a triple concerto performed by trio **Time for Three** (March 20 and 22).



Welcoming back the acclaimed pianist and former SLSO touring partner **Víkingur Ólafsson**, Denève leads Beethoven's Emperor Piano Concerto, a new SLSO co-commission by Jasmine Guo as part of the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commission program, and Kevin Puts' Concerto for Orchestra, premiered by the SLSO in 2023 (March 27-28). Denève leads another SLSO co-commissioned work, Carlos Simon's Double Concerto with star violinist **Hilary Hahn** and cellist **Seth Parker Woods**, alongside Gustav Mahler's massive Symphony No. 5 (April 10-12).

Denève brings the entire SLSO roster of musicians together for the final symphonic concert of the season. The SLSO IN UNISON® Chorus, with the unique mission of performing and preserving music from the African diaspora, gives the world premiere of *Family*, composed by Nathalie Joachim following many conversations with chorus members. The concert opens with SLSO's previously commissioned work, Kevin Puts' *Virelai*. The St. Louis Symphony Chorus joins the orchestra for Maurice Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloé*.

#### **RETURNING ARTISTS AND SLSO ENSEMBLES**

Many of the world's leading conductors return to the SLSO. **David Robertson**, who served as the 12th SLSO Music Director from 2005-2018, returns in a program that features music by Steve Mackey and Sarah Kirkland Snider, and pianist **Orli Shaham** on Robertson's own piano concerto, and Leonard Bernstein's Symphony No. 2, "The Age of Anxiety" (March 6-7). Conductor Laureate **Leonard Slatkin** leads the second week of classical concerts, welcoming back his friend, pianist **Emanuel Ax**, for Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25, Edward Elgar's Symphony No. 1, and his own *Schubertiade: An Orchestral Fantasy* (October 11-12).

Additional returning conductors include **John Storgårds**, in a program anchored by Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No. 15 (December 5-6); **Nicholas McGegan**, leading G.F. Handel's *Messiah* (December 12-14); **Xian Zhang** conducting Billy Childs' *Diaspora* (Saxophone Concerto) and Sergei Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 (February 6-7); and **Hannu Lintu** leading a program of works by Richard Wagner, W.A. Mozart, Samy Moussa, and Ottorino Respighi's rarely performed *Church Windows* (April 18-19).

Pianists making their SLSO returns include **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** on Aram Khachaturian's Piano Concerto (November 21-22); **Joyce Yang** on Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* (November 29-30); **Stewart Goodyear** on George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* (December 31); and **Víkingur Ólafsson** on Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor" (March 27-28) and in recital (March 26). Returning violinists include **Augustin Hadelich** on Sergei Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 (October 24-25) and in a program of chamber music with SLSO musicians (October 26); **Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider** on Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto (November 1-2); **Leila Josefowicz** on Alban Berg's Violin Concerto (March 14-15); and **Hilary Hahn** on Carlos Simon's Double Concerto (April 10-12).



Soprano **Christine Goerke**, in Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* (November 7 and 9), as well as most of the vocal cast for Handel's *Messiah*: soprano **Sherezade Panthaki**, tenor **John Matthew Myers**, and baritone **Philippe Sly** (December 12-14) also return.

The **St. Louis Symphony Chorus**, which has performed repertoire from the entire choral-orchestral canon to critical acclaim since its formation in the 1976/1977 season, performs alongside the SLSO under the direction of Erin Freeman. In the 25/26 season, the chorus performs Kevin Puts' *House of Tomorrow* (September 26-28); Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* (November 7 and 9); G.F. Handel's *Messiah* (December 12-14); W.A. Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (February 20 and 22); Maurice Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloé* (May 8-10).

The **St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON® Chorus**, which preserves and performs music from the African diaspora and is directed by Kevin McBeth in his 15th season, returns for its annual holiday-time soulful celebration: IN UNISON® Christmas (December 19). The chorus performs its annual Lift Every Voice: Celebrating Black History Month concert, also under McBeth's direction and featuring vocalist **Rosephanye Dunn Powell** (February 27). The chorus joins the SLSO in the final classical concerts of the season, performing the world premiere of Nathalie Joachim's *Family* (May 8-10).

The **St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra**, the region's premiere training orchestra for young musicians aged 12-22, will present three concerts in its 56th season. Concert details will be announced later.

#### **ARTIST DEBUTS**

Throughout the 25/26 season, many acclaimed artists will make their SLSO debut.

Five conductors make their debuts on symphonic programs, including **Tabita Berglund** in a program of Russian and Scandinavian music (October 24-25); **Kevin John Edusei** with Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 (November 29-30); **Dima Slobodeniouk** leading a concerto for sheng and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 (January 24-25); **Anna Sułkowska-Migoń** in a program with Polish connections, alongside Rimsky-Korskov's *Scheherazade* (March 14-15); and **Ryan Bancroft** leading Copland's Symphony No. 3 (April 24-25).

Instrumentalists making their SLSO debuts include: pianists **Jan Lisiecki** performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9, "Jeunehomme" (April 18-19), **Gabriela Montero** performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 (April 24-25), and **Isata Kanneh-Mason** in a recital with music by Beethoven, Ravel, and Tabakova (May 14); cellists **Kian Soltani** on Haydn's Cello Concerto in C major (December 5-6), and **Seth Parker Woods** in Carlos Simon's Double Concerto (April 10-12); sheng player **Wu Wei** on Jukka Tiensuu's *Teoton*, a concerto for sheng (January 24-25); and saxophonist **Steven Banks**, an international ambassador for his instrument, who performs Billy Childs' *Diaspora* (February 6-7).



**Time for Three**—a trio consisting of violinists Nick Kendall and Charles Yang, and double bassist Ranaan Meyer—debut on Kevin Puts’ *Contact* (March 20 and 22).

Vocalists making their debuts include mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** singing the world premiere of Kevin Puts’ *House of Tomorrow* (September 25-27); tenor **Ian Bostridge** and baritone **Roderick Williams** in Britten’s *War Requiem* (November 7 and 9); contralto **Sara Couden** in Handel’s *Messiah* (December 12-14); and tenor **Ben Bliss** and soprano **Rainelle Krause** in Mozart’s *The Magic Flute* (February 20 and 22).

### **WORLD PREMIERES, COMMISSIONS, AND FIRST SLSO PERFORMANCES**

More than 20 pieces enter the SLSO’s repertoire during the 2025/2026 season, including 15 works by living composers. In addition to world premieres by Nathalie Joachim, James Lee III, and Kevin Puts, the SLSO performs works by living composers including Billy Childs, Guillaume Connesson, Reena Esmail, Samy Moussa, David Robertson, Leonard Slatkin, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Jukka Tiensuu, and Joan Tower. Nearly 40 percent of the pieces on symphonic programs are by living composers.

#### **World premieres**

**James Lee III’s** *Fanfare for Universal Hope* builds on the composer’s relationship with Denève and the orchestra as one of the SLSO’s most-performed composers in recent years. Since 2019, the SLSO has performed four of Lee’s pieces, including the 2023 world premiere of the SLSO-commissioned *Visions of Cahokia*, inspired by the indigenous civilization near present-day St. Louis.

**Kevin Puts’** *House of Tomorrow* is a new song cycle based on texts by Kahlil Gibran, the writer, poet, and artist. Mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato delivers the world premiere performance alongside the SLSO and members of the St. Louis Symphony Chorus. Puts serves as composer in residence during the SLSO’s 25/26 season, and the orchestra will play three additional pieces by him: *Contact*, *Concerto for Orchestra*, and *Virelai*. The latter two were SLSO commissions premiered in 2023 and 2019 respectively.

**Nathalie Joachim’s** *Family* takes inspiration from the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON® Chorus, a resident chorus with the unique mission to perform and preserve music from the African diaspora. Joachim logged many conversations with IN UNISON® Chorus singers, utilizing their words as the text for her piece.

#### **SLSO Co-commissions**

A new work by **Jasmine Guo** is part of the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commission program of the League of American Orchestras, connecting female composers with orchestras to commission new work. The SLSO previously participated in the program as the lead commissioner of Stacy Garrop’s *Goddess Triptych*, premiered in March 2022.



**Carlos Simon's** Double Concerto will receive its Midwest premiere with the SLSO and violinist Hilary Hahn and cellist Seth Parker Woods.

**First SLSO performances**

- Joan Tower** *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman No. 1* **(September 26-28)**
- Leonard Slatkin** *Schubertiade: An Orchestral Fantasy* **(October 11-12)**
- Harald Sæverud** *The Ballad of Revolt* **(October 24-25)**
- Guillaume Connesson** *Maslenitsa* **(November 21-22)**
- Clara Wieck Schumann (orch. de Murashkin)** *Three Romances* **(December 5-6)**
- Jukka Tiensuu** *Teoton* (Concerto for Sheng and Orchestra) **(January 24-25)**
- Reena Esmail** *RE|Member* **(February 6-7)**
- Billy Childs** *Diaspora* (Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra) **(February 6-7)**
- David Robertson** *Light forming, A Piano Concerto* **(March 6-7)**
- Sarah Kirkland Snider** *Something for the Dark* **(March 6-7)**
- Grażyna Bacewicz** *Overture* **(March 14-15)**
- Kevin Puts** *Contact* **(March 20 & 22)**
- Samy Moussa** *Elysium* **(April 18-19)**

**Chamber music and recitals**

In a two-concert series, the SLSO presents acclaimed guest artists in chamber music concerts they curate, collaborating with orchestra musicians in a more intimate setting. Violinist **Augustin Hadelich** curates the October 26 program and pianist **Orli Shaham** leads the March 8 concert.

The SLSO introduces a new two-concert recital series, presenting acclaimed musicians in solo works on Powell Hall's stage. Inaugural artists in this series include pianists **Víkingur Ólafsson**, performing Beethoven's final three piano sonatas (March 26), and **Isata Kanneh-Mason**, presenting Beethoven's famous "Moonlight" sonata alongside works by Maurice Ravel and Dobrinka Tabakova (May 14).

Additional information about the SLSO's Live at the Pulitzer (chamber music exploring the intersection of visual and aural art by composers of today, performed at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation) and Live at The Sheldon (music from the entire chamber music library curated and performed by SLSO musicians at The Sheldon) will be announced later.

**Films with live score**

The SLSO continues its popular film series, performing acclaimed scores live while the movie plays overhead. Films in the 25/26 season include *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone™* (October 3-5), *The Lion King* (November 15-16), *Home Alone* (December 27-28), and *The Wizard of Oz* (January 30-February 1). The SLSO presents *Marvel Infinity Saga in Concert*, a cross-film journey through Marvel's most exciting moments (May 1-3).

**Holiday and special programming**



Broadening the definition of a symphony concert, the SLSO plans several special events to respond to patrons' diverse tastes.

The SLSO pays tribute to the memory of St. Louis icon Chuck Berry in a brand new program celebrating the rock legend's 100th birthday and in collaboration with the Chuck Berry estate (October 17-18). Curated and arranged by prolific composer **Carlos Simon**, the SLSO explores the legacy of jazz great John Coltrane, led by **Edwin Outwater** and featuring saxophonist **Joe Lovano** (February 28).

Holiday concerts include the popular IN UNISON® Christmas concert, previously known as Gospel Christmas (December 19), which features the IN UNISON® Chorus led by Kevin McBeth. The Mercy Holiday Celebration presents five concerts of beloved holiday music with conductor **Stuart Malina** at Powell Hall (December 20-21 and 23). Denève leads the annual New Year's Eve Celebration Concert, featuring pianist **Stewart Goodyear** and music by Leonard Bernstein, Georges Bizet, and George Gershwin (December 31). The SLSO also performs its annual Lift Every Voice: Celebrating Black History Month concert with the IN UNISON® Chorus and vocalist **Rosephanye Dunn Powell** (February 27).

Additional special concerts, happy hour concerts, and Concerts for Kids, will be announced later.

### **OPERA THEATRE OF SAINT LOUIS**

The SLSO will conclude its season as the resident orchestra of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis (OTSL), the 49th year of this partnership. The 2026 Festival Season runs May 23–June 28, 2026. Programming for OTSL's 2026 Festival Season will be announced later this summer. The current 2025 Festival Season takes place this May and June, marking the occasion of OTSL's 50th anniversary; tickets and more information can be found at [ExperienceOpera.org](https://www.experienceopera.org).

### **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.

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 music from the African diaspora. 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 March 2023, the SLSO broke ground on a 65,000-square foot expansion and renovation of the orchestra's home, Powell Hall—the first major renovation project at the historic Grand Center building since it became the SLSO's permanent home in 1968. Led by the internationally acclaimed architecture firm Snøhetta, the project will transform the audience and artistic experience while protecting Powell Hall's historic character and celebrated acoustics, creating a state-of-the-art center for community, innovation, and powerful music experiences. While construction is underway, the SLSO will perform throughout the community. The revitalized Powell Hall will open in September 2025, coinciding with the building's centennial.

An integral part of the vibrant St. Louis community, the SLSO 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 region each year at medical facilities, places of worship, community centers, and schools. For 20 years, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: Live at the Pulitzer series has highlighted today's leading musical voices through innovative performances in collaboration with, and reaction to the exhibitions at, the Pulitzer Arts Foundation. The SLSO has served as the resident orchestra for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis for more than 45 years. The orchestra also continues to foster impactful artistic collaborations, including a chamber music series with The Sheldon, as well as regular partnerships with The Muny, Saint Louis Dance Theatre, the Saint Louis Art Museum, and others. Beyond the St. Louis region, the SLSO's impact is realized through Saturday night concert broadcasts on St. Louis Public Radio and Classic 107.3, acclaimed recordings, regular touring activity, and a digital portfolio that includes a robust online education platform with 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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## **St. Louis Symphony Orchestra 2025/2026 Season Calendar**

*Updated February 3, 2025. Additional concerts announced later.*

*Concerts take place at Powell Hall at the Jack C. Taylor Music Center, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103 unless otherwise noted.*

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### **SLSO in Forest Park**

**Wednesday, September 17, 7:00pm CDT**

**Art Hill in Forest Park, 35 Fine Arts Drive, St. Louis, MO 63110**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

*Repertoire and additional artists announced later.*

*Performed in memory of Mary Ann Lee.*

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### **Opening Weekend**

#### **Fanfare for Powell Hall**

**Friday, September 26, 10:30am CDT**

**Saturday, September 27, 7:30pm CDT**

**Sunday, September 28, 3:00pm CDT**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano **(SLSO debut)**

Members of the St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Erin Freeman, director

**Aaron Copland**

*Fanfare for the Common Man*

**Joan Tower**

*Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman No. 1 (First SLSO performances)*

**James Lee III**

*Fanfare for Universal Hope (World Premiere/SLSO commission)*

**Kevin Puts**

*House of Tomorrow (World Premiere/SLSO commission)*

**Richard Strauss**

*Ein Heldenleben*

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### **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone™ in Concert**

**Friday, October 3, 7:00pm CDT**

**Saturday, October 4, 2:00pm CDT**

**Saturday, October 4, 7:00pm CDT**

**Sunday, October 5, 2:00pm CDT**



**John Williams**

*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

*Additional artists announced later.*

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## **Slatkin and Ax**

### **Hope and Humanity**

**Saturday, October 11, 7:30pm CDT**

**Sunday, October 12, 3:00pm CDT**

Leonard Slatkin, conductor

Emanuel Ax, piano

**Leonard Slatkin**

*Schubertiade: An Orchestral Fantasy (First SLSO performances)*

**W.A. Mozart**

Piano Concerto No. 25

**Edward Elgar**

Symphony No. 1

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## **Chuck Berry's Birthday Bash**

**Friday, October 17, 7:00pm CDT**

**Saturday, October 18, 2:00pm CDT**

**Saturday, October 18, 7:00pm CDT**

*Repertoire and additional artists announced later.*

*Presented in collaboration with the Chuck Berry estate.*

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## **Prokofiev and Sibelius**

### **From Dark to Light**

**Friday, October 24, 10:30am CDT**

**Saturday, October 25, 7:30pm CDT**

Tabita Berglund, conductor **(SLSO debut)**

Augustin Hadelich, violin

**Harald Sæverud**

*The Ballad of Revolt (First SLSO performances)*



**Sergei Prokofiev**  
**Jean Sibelius**

Violin Concerto No. 2  
Symphony No. 2

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**Chamber Music with Augustin Hadelich**  
**Sunday, October 26, 3:00pm CDT**

Augustin Hadelich, violin & curator

*Repertoire and additional artists announced later.*

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**Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff**  
**Passion and Drama**  
**Saturday, November 1, 7:30pm CDT**  
**Sunday, November 2, 3:00pm CST**

Stéphane Denève, conductor  
Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider, violin

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** Violin Concerto  
**Sergei Rachmaninoff** Symphony No. 2

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**Britten's War Requiem**  
**A Call for Peace**  
**Friday, November 7, 7:30pm CST**  
**Sunday, November 9, 3:00pm CST**

Stéphane Denève, conductor  
Christine Goerke, soprano  
Ian Bostridge, tenor (**SLSO debut**)  
Roderick Williams, baritone (**SLSO debut**)  
St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Erin Freeman, director  
The St. Louis Children's Choirs | Dr. Alyson Moore, artistic director

**Benjamin Britten** *War Requiem*



*Christine Goerke's performances are made possible by a generous gift from the Sarah Bryan Miller Fund.*

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### ***The Lion King in Concert***

**Saturday, November 15, 2:00pm CST**

**Saturday, November 15, 7:00pm CST**

**Sunday, November 16, 2:00pm CST**

**Hans Zimmer**

*The Lion King*

*Additional artists announced later.*

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### **Stravinsky's Firebird**

#### **Flame and Fantasy**

**Friday, November 21, 10:30am CST**

**Saturday, November 22, 7:30pm CST**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano

**Guillaume Connesson** *Maslenitsa (First SLSO performances)*

**Aram Khachaturian** *Piano Concerto*

**Igor Stravinsky** *The Firebird*

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### **Beethoven's Seventh**

#### **Energy and Reverie**

**Saturday, November 29, 7:30pm CST**

**Sunday, November 30, 3:00pm CST**

Kevin John Edusei, conductor (**SLSO debut**)

Joyce Yang, piano

**Béla Bartók** *Dance Suite*

**Sergei Rachmaninoff** *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*

**Ludwig van Beethoven** *Symphony No. 7*



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**Shostakovich's 15th  
Rebellion and Reckoning**  
Friday, December 5, 10:30am CST  
Saturday, December 6, 7:30pm CST

John Storgårds, conductor  
Kian Soltani, cello (**SLSO debut**)

**Clara Wieck Schumann**      Three Romances (**First SLSO performances**)  
*Orchestrated by Benjamin de Murashkin*  
**Joseph Haydn**              Cello Concerto in C major  
**Dmitri Shostakovich**      Symphony No. 15

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**Handel's Messiah**  
**Joyful Praise**  
Friday, December 12, 7:30pm CST  
Saturday, December 13, 7:30pm CST  
Sunday, December 14, 3:00pm CST

Nicholas McGegan, conductor  
Sherezade Panthaki, soprano  
Sara Couden, contralto (**SLSO debut**)  
John Matthew Myers, tenor  
Philippe Sly, bass-baritone  
St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Erin Freeman, director

**G.F. Handel**              *Messiah*

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**IN UNISON® Christmas**  
Friday, December 19, 7:30pm CST

Kevin McBeth, conductor  
St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON® Chorus | Kevin McBeth, director

*Repertoire and additional artists announced later.*



*Supported by Bayer Fund.*

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## **Mercy Holiday Celebration**

**Saturday, December 20, 2:00pm & 7:30pm CST**

**Sunday, December 21, 2:00pm & 7:30pm CST**

**Tuesday, December 23, 2:00pm CST**

Stuart Malina, conductor

St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Erin Freeman, director

*Repertoire and additional artists announced later.*

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## **Home Alone in Concert**

**Saturday, December 27, 2:00pm & 7:00pm CST**

**Sunday, December 28, 2:00pm CST**

Joshua Gersen, conductor

The St. Louis Children's Choirs | Dr. Alyson Moore, director

**John Williams**

*Home Alone*

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## **New Year's Eve Celebration**

**Wednesday, December 31, 7:30pm CST**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Stewart Goodyear, piano

**Leonard Bernstein**      *Candide Overture*

**Georges Bizet**      Selections from *L'Arlésienne*

**Jacques Offenbach**      Excerpts from *Gaîté Parisienne*

**Orchestrated by Manuel Rosenthal**

**George Gershwin**      *Rhapsody in Blue*

**Orchestrated by Ferde Grofé**

**George Gershwin**      *An American in Paris*

**Revised by Frank Campbell-Watson**



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## Stravinsky and Debussy

### Music in Motion

Saturday, January 10, 7:30pm CST

Sunday, January 11, 3:00pm CST

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Saint Louis Dance Theatre

Kirven Douthit-Boyd, choreographer

<b>Igor Stravinsky</b>	“Dumbarton Oaks” Concerto
<b>Igor Stravinsky</b>	<i>Pulcinella</i> Suite
<b>Claude Debussy</b>	<i>Jeux</i>
<b>Albert Roussel</b>	Suite No. 2 from <i>Bacchus and Ariane</i>

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## Tchaikovsky’s Fourth

### Devotion and Destiny

Saturday, January 24, 7:30pm CST

Sunday, January 25, 3:00pm CST

Dima Slobodeniouk, conductor (**SLSO debut**)

Wu Wei, sheng (**SLSO debut**)

<b>Lotta Wennäkoski</b>	<i>Flounce</i>
<b>Jukka Tiensuu</b>	<i>Tecton</i> (Concerto for Sheng and Orchestra) ( <b>First SLSO performances</b> )
<b>Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky</b>	Symphony No. 4

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## The Wizard of Oz in Concert

Friday, January 30, 7:00pm CST

Saturday, January 31, 7:00pm CST

Sunday, February 1, 2:00pm CST

**Harold Arlen**                      *The Wizard of Oz*

*Additional artists announced later.*



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## Prokofiev and Childs

### Anthems of Resilience

Friday, February 6, 10:30am CST

Saturday, Feb 7, 7:30pm CST

Xian Zhang, conductor

Steven Banks, saxophone (**SLSO debut**)

Reena Esmail

*RE|Member* (**First SLSO performances**)

Billy Childs

*Diaspora* (Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra) (**First SLSO performances**)

Sergei Prokofiev

Symphony No. 5

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## Mozart's Magic Flute

### Opera in Concert

Friday, February 20, 7:30pm CST

Sun, February 22, 3:00pm CST

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Ben Bliss, tenor (Tamino) (**SLSO debut**)

Rainelle Krause, coloratura soprano (The Queen of the Night) (**SLSO debut**)

St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Erin Freeman, director

Members of The St. Louis Children's Choirs | Dr. Alyson Moore, artistic director

W.A. Mozart

*The Magic Flute*

*Additional artists announced later.*

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## Lift Every Voice

### Black History Month Celebration

Friday, February 27, 7:30pm CST

Kevin McBeth, conductor

Rosephanye Dunn Powell, vocals

St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON® Chorus | Kevin McBeth, director



*Repertoire announced later.*

*Supported by Bayer Fund.*

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## **John Coltrane Legacy for Orchestra**

**Saturday, February 28, 7:30pm CST**

Carlos Simon, curator & arranger

Edwin Outwater, conductor

Joe Lovano, saxophone **(SLSO debut)**

*Additional artists and repertoire announced later.*

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## **Bernstein and Robertson**

### **American Reflections**

**Friday, March 6, 10:30am CST**

**Saturday, March 7, 7:30pm CST**

David Robertson, conductor

Orli Shaham, piano

**Steven Mackey**

*Turn the Key*

**David Robertson**

*Light forming*, a Piano Concerto **(First SLSO performances)**

**Sarah Kirkland Snider**

*Something for the Dark* **(First SLSO performances)**

**Leonard Bernstein**

“The Age of Anxiety,” Symphony No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra

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## **Chamber Music with Orli Shaham**

**Sunday, March 8, 3:00pm CDT**

Orli Shaham, piano & curator

*Repertoire and additional artists announced later.*

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## **Scheherazade**



**Magic and Myth**

**Saturday, March 14, 7:30pm CDT**

**Sunday, March 15, 3:00pm CDT**

Anna Sutkowska-Migoń, conductor **(SLSO debut)**

Leila Josefowicz, violin

**Grażyna Bacewicz** Overture **(First SLSO performances)**

**Alban Berg** Violin Concerto

**Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov** *Scheherazade*

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**John Williams and Kevin Puts**

**A Cosmic Journey**

**Friday, March 20, 10:30am CDT**

**Sunday, March 22, 3:00pm CDT**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Time for Three **(SLSO debut)**

Ranaan Meyer, double bass

Nick Kendall, violin

Charles Yang, violin

**John Adams** *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*

**Kevin Puts** *Contact* **(First SLSO performances)**

**John Williams** Excerpts from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*

**John Williams** “Adventures on Earth” from *E.T.*

**John Williams** Selections from *Star Wars Suite*

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**Víkingur Ólafsson in Recital**

**Beethoven Piano Sonatas**

**Thursday, March 26, 7:30pm CDT**

Víkingur Ólafsson, piano

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Piano Sonata No. 30

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Piano Sonata No. 31

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Piano Sonata No. 32



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## Beethoven's Emperor Concerto

### Radiant Vision

Friday, March 27, 7:30pm CDT

Saturday, March 28, 7:30pm CDT

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Víkingur Ólafsson, piano

**Ludwig van Beethoven** *The Consecration of the House Overture*

**Jasmine Guo** New Work (**First SLSO performances/SLSO co-commission**)

**Kevin Puts** Concerto for Orchestra

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Piano Concerto No. 5

*Jasmine Guo's work was commissioned by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions Program, an initiative of the League of American Orchestras in partnership with the American Composers Orchestra.*

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## Mahler's Fifth

### Landscapes of Emotion

Friday, April 10, 7:30pm CDT

Saturday, April 11, 7:30pm CDT

Sunday, April 12, 3:00pm CDT

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Hilary Hahn, violin

Seth Parker Woods, cello (**SLSO debut**)

**Carlos Simon** Double Concerto (**First SLSO performances/SLSO Co-Commission**)

**Gustav Mahler** Symphony No. 5

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## From Mozart to Wagner

### Mysticism and Wonder

Saturday, April 18, 7:30pm CDT

Sunday, April 19, 3:00pm CDT



Hannu Lintu, conductor  
Jan Lisiecki, piano (**SLSO debut**)

<b>Richard Wagner</b>	Prelude to Act I from <i>Lohengrin</i>
<b>W.A. Mozart</b>	Piano Concerto No. 9, “Jeunehomme”
<b>Samy Moussa</b>	<i>Elysium</i> ( <b>First SLSO performances</b> )
<b>Ottorino Respighi</b>	<i>Church Windows</i>

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## Copland’s Third

### American Sky

Friday, April 24, 10:30am CDT

Saturday, April 25, 7:30pm CDT

Ryan Bancroft, conductor (**SLSO debut**)  
Gabriela Montero, piano (**SLSO debut**)

<b>Gabriella Smith</b>	<i>Tumblebird Contrails</i>
<b>Sergei Prokofiev</b>	Piano Concerto No. 3
<b>Aaron Copland</b>	Symphony No. 3

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## Marvel Infinity Saga in Concert

Friday, May 1, 7:00pm CDT

Saturday, May 2, 7:00pm CDT

Sunday, May 3, 2:00pm CDT

Samuel Hollister, conductor

**Various**                      Marvel Studios’ *Infinity Saga Concert Experience*

*Repertoire announced later.*

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## Ravel’s Daphnis and Chloé

### Love and Transformation

Friday, May 8, 7:30pm CDT



**Saturday, May 9, 7:30pm CDT**

**Sunday, May 10, 3:00pm CDT**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Kevin McBeth, conductor

St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON® Chorus | Kevin McBeth, director

St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Erin Freeman, director

**Kevin Puts**

*Virelai* (after Guillaume de Machaut)

**Nathalie Joachim**

*Family* (**World Premiere/SLSO Commission**)

**Maurice Ravel**

*Daphnis and Chloé*

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## **Isata Kanneh-Mason in Recital**

**Beethoven, Ravel, and Tabakova**

**Thursday, May 14, 7:30pm CDT**

Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor, “Moonlight”

**Maurice Ravel** *Gaspard de la nuit*

**Dobrinka Tabakova** *Nocturne*

**Dobrinka Tabakova** *Halo*

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Piano Sonata No. 21 in C major, “Waldstein”