

St. Louis Symphony Volunteer Association

SVA Committee and Team Descriptions: Fiscal Year 2025/2026

President: Suzanne Seibel | SVAPresident@SLSO.org

Data Research and Analysis – The Data Research and 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 thorough the Executive Committee for approval. This team also responds to requests from the SLSO office staff with specific needs, mindful of confidentiality and privacy of the data used.

Program Timing: As needed throughout the year

Contact: Jim Moore, Team Leader

Education and Community Partnerships – VP: Steve Seele

SVAEducationVP@SLSO.org

Express the Music – This program has undergone a redesign and is returning in an experimental pilot phase with the 25/26 symphony season. Secondary students will express themselves in various written forms after listening to a selected piece of music. Their work will be acknowledged for its creativity and depth of expression. Volunteers will help facilitate this process.

Contact: Rose Ingraham, Chair; Patty Kaplan, Vice Chair

SVAexpressthemusic@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

Instrument Playground- This program has been on hiatus with the temporary closing of Powell Hall but is currently being reimagined. Once a traveling program with volunteers taking instruments into schools for students to directly experience, the program now assists members of the Youth Orchestra at concerts for children. Volunteers answer questions and make sure all participants have a chance to see the instruments and musicians up close. The ability to play an instrument is helpful but not required.

Program Timing: This program has been available at all SLSO Concerts for Children and Tiny Tunes Concerts. Other opportunities and locations may arise.

Contact: Harry Moppins, Chair; Christine Henry, Vice Chair |
SVInstrumentPlayground@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 take 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 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, we bring concertgoers together as a community as they prepare to enter the hall for the concert. Volunteers may receive a ticket to the concert when serving based on availability.

Program Timing: Coffee Concerts begin at 10:30 AM on Friday mornings. Coffee service begins approximately 9:00 AM.

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

Education Concert Hosts – This 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 their safe and expedient arrival and departure during education concerts. Volunteers school buses and other arriving attendees, escort and accompany school groups as requested, and staff a table of sensory items for neurodivergent students. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket to the morning's concerts.

Program Timing: Education Concerts begin at 9:30 AM and 11 AM. Volunteers arrive seventy-five minutes before the concert and leave after all the buses are loaded for departure.

Contact: Elizabeth Crosby, Co-Leader | SVAEduAmbassadors@SLSO.org

Janis Foertmeyer, Co-Leader janis0314@gmail.com

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

Program Timing: Volunteers arrive seventy-five minutes before the concert begins.

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

Powell Hall/Jack C. Taylor Music Center Tours – Tour guides show guests the beauty and the behind-the-scenes areas of Powell Hall along with the new Jack C. Taylor Music Center. They provide the historical significance of Powell Hall and insight into the architecture and amenities of the 67,000 sq. ft. addition. Tours will resume in January 2026 with all guides being trained along with an insider's perspective on Powell Hall. Volunteer tour guides giving tours to children must pass a background check.

Program Timing: Tour dates vary throughout the year.

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

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

Program Timing: YO activities occur throughout the school year

Contact: Stephanie Randall, Team Leader, Martha Duchild, Co-Lead | SVAYouthOrchestra@SLSO.org

Philanthropy and Stewardship – VP: Debbie Miali

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 the SLSO staff. In particular, committee members email, call, and write their local legislators

regarding important upcoming events and legislation focused on 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: Training and opportunities to contact legislators take place throughout the year. Citizens Day for the Arts in Jefferson City is in February.

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

Ambassadors – The Ambassadors greet and welcome concert guests to Symphony events. With the return to Powell Hall there are new opportunities to be greeters at the doors, way finders on each level of the music center, staffing the SVA desk in the lobby. Ambassadors also serve as Hosts on the shuttle bus from Plaza Frontenac to Powell Hall, checking patrons on and off the bus. They are also Valet Greeters welcoming and directing patrons who utilize this service available to donors to the SLSO. Ambassadors play a key role at the free Art Hill concert which opens each SLSO season, passing out brochures and Steph-fans to the patrons while sharing their enthusiasm and esteem for the SLSO.

Program Timing: September-June

Contact: Jim Moore, Chair; Willard Moseley, Vice Chair |
SVAAmbassadors@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: Debbie Dillon, Chair, VACANT, Vice Chair |

Friends Committee – This program supports the SLSO development team to sustain and to increase support for the Annual Campaign. This committee is an integral part of improving the outreach to, and stewardship of, the Friends of the 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: Linda Seibert, Chair, Margie Knapp, Vice Chair | SVAFriends@SLSO.org

Membership – VP: Kathy Norwood SVAMembershipVP@SLSO.org

Communications – This team addresses the communications projects that support SVA needs. In conjunction with the SVA President, Executive Committee and Manager of Volunteer Programs, the 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 communications, including group emails and forwarded SLSO announcements.

Program Timing: Activities vary 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 to the SVA's Flickr account for later use in publications such as 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

Membership Meetings and Events – Committee members arrange General Membership Meetings and special SVA events within budget guidelines, including creating the invitations, selecting the menus, maintaining RSVP's, coordinating any needed table seating, and check-in of guests at these events.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

Contact: Terri Ciccolella, Chair; Jean Kennedy, 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; Kevin McBeth, IN UNISON Chorus Director; and Shannon Wood,

Principal Tympanist, just to name a few. Each Zoom meeting begins with a celebratory toast, and the committee supplies the 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 launches 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 occasionally staff informational tables at various SLSO events in a recruiting effort.

Program Timing: Throughout the year

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

Mentoring: Committee is currently under construction

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: Sharongay Pearline, Chair; Judy Brown-Rowden, Vice Chair |

SVAPickandChoose@SLSO.org

Membership Engagement Team – This team keeps members engaged when they are experiencing a life event such as an illness, death of a family member, or any joyous occasion in need of acknowledging. A handwritten and personal note is sent to the SVA member.

Program Timing: As needed throughout the year.

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

Membership Directory – Team members compile and update members' information, maintaining the membership spreadsheets and produce the SVA membership and activity directories for committees. Excel and other computer and editing skills are essential. *Due to confidentiality and privacy needs members are selected for this team.*

Program Timing: Ongoing

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

Hospitality Team – Team members bake several dozen of their favorite cookies, join together with other bakers in a home and construct small packages of cookies which are distributed to the musicians, office staff, the members of the two choruses, stage crews and ushers throughout the season as a thank you for their efforts. This is a great way to meet other SVA members while doing something nice (and appreciated) by the SLSO musicians and staff.

Program Timing: Throughout the SLSO season

Contact: Janice Seele, Marjorie Smith, Co-Team Leads