



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES DETAILS FOR HOLIDAY CONCERTS AT POWELL HALL AT THE JACK C. TAYLOR MUSIC CENTER

Double reed instruments take the spotlight in a chamber music concert at The Sheldon, December 4, curated by oboist Xiomara Mass and bassoonist Julia Paine

Frequent guest conductor John Storgårds leads the first SLSO performances of Clara Wieck Schumann's Three Romances, Haydn's Cello Concerto in C major with Kian Soltani in his SLSO debut, and Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No. 15, December 5-6

Conductor Nicholas McGegan leads the orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Chorus, and soloists Sherezade Panthaki, Sara Couden, John Matthew Myers, and Philippe Sly in G.F. Handel's timeless masterpiece, *Messiah*, December 12-14

The orchestra teams up with the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus and the Clark Sisters for an annual tradition, IN UNISON Christmas, led by Kevin McBeth, December 18-19

Stuart Malina leads the annual Mercy Holiday Celebration, featuring vocalist Kennedy Holmes, December 20-23

The orchestra continues its film series with the John Williams-scored holiday hit, *Home Alone*, December 27-28

Music Director Stéphane Denève transports audiences to a French café in the annual New Year's Eve Celebration, with French and American music by Leonard Bernstein, Georges Bizet, George Gershwin, and Jacques Offenbach, including Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, December 31

(October 30, 2025, St. Louis, MO) – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra announced details of its December 2025 concerts, inviting audiences to experience the magic of live orchestral music during the holiday season. Most concerts take place at Powell Hall at the Jack C. Taylor Music Center, which will be bedecked in holiday decorations for the first time since a two-year transformational expansion and renovation. Concerts include beloved holiday traditions like the IN UNISON Christmas and Mercy Holiday Celebration concerts, G.F. Handel's *Messiah*, performances of the score to *Home Alone*, and more.

Tickets for all concerts are on sale now. Tickets may be purchased at slso.org or by calling the Box Office at 314-534-1700. A full concert calendar is available at slso.org or on the SLSO's mobile app available for



iOS or Android. Audiences can attend a Pre-Concert Conversation, an engaging discussion about the music and artists on the program, one hour prior to each classical concert.

Live at The Sheldon | Reeds in Turn

Thursday, December 4, 7:30pm CST

The Sheldon

3648 Washington Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63108

Xiomara Mass, curator and oboe

Julia Paine, curator and bassoon

Ann Choomack, flute

Tzuying Huang, clarinet

Blaine Dodson, horn

Peter Henderson, piano

Eugène Bozza

Scherzo **(First SLSO performance)**

Heitor Villa-Lobos

Duo **(First SLSO performance)**

New work by Mizzou New Music Initiative composer

Vincent D'Indy

Chanson et danses **(First SLSO performance)**

Jeff Scott

Startin' Sumthin' **(First SLSO performance)**

Florent Schmitt

A Tour d'anches **(First SLSO performance)**

Júlio Medaglia

Belle Epoque in Sud-America Suite **(First SLSO performance)**

Sponsored by the Sinquefeld Charitable Foundation. Welcomed by Classic 107.3.

A high-energy “tour of reeds” centers this chamber concert curated by Xiomara Mass, SLSO second oboe, and Julia Paine, SLSO second bassoon—the second Live at The Sheldon concert of the season. SLSO wind players share the rapid passages and dynamic ranges of works by composers such as Eugène Bozza, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Jeff Scott, and Júlio Medaglia, with a tilt to the music of South America.

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

**Coffee Concert Series supported by EverTrue. Complimentary refreshments courtesy of Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Co. and Eddie's Southtown*



Donuts.

Conductor John Storgårds, a frequent SLSO collaborator, returns to lead a kaleidoscopic program that begins with the first SLSO performances of Clara Schumann's Three Romances, arranged for orchestra by Benjamin de Murashkin. Wistful and intimate, Schumann's work gracefully represents her musical output—primary focusing on music for piano. Joseph Haydn's Cello Concerto, though exceptionally difficult to master, is leisurely and elegant. Cellist Kian Soltani, whose emotional connection with audiences has captivated many, makes his St. Louis debut. Then, Dmitri Shostakovich's final symphony, his Fifteenth, is a blend of the composer's memories, transformed into an epic symphonic memoir with calls to other famous works, including the *William Tell* Overture.

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

G.F. Handel's *Messiah* has stood the test of time. Originally written as a retelling of Jesus' life through text compiled from the King James Bible, the oratorio has gained prominence as a holiday favorite, especially the "Hallelujah Chorus." Nicholas McGegan, one of the world's foremost experts on Handel's music, conducts the SLSO and St. Louis Symphony Chorus in this beloved holiday tradition. Joining McGegan is a quartet of vocal soloists, including soprano Sherezade Panthaki, mezzo-soprano Sara Couden in her SLSO debut, tenor John Matthew Myers, and bass-baritone Philippe Sly.

IN UNISON Christmas with the Clark Sisters

Thursday, December 18, 7:30pm CST

Friday, December 19, 7:30pm CST

Kevin McBeth, conductor

The Clark Sisters, vocals

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

Repertoire and additional artists announced later.

Supported by Bayer Fund.



A beloved holiday tradition for decades, the SLSO and St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus celebrate the season with soulful melodies of Christmas favorites. This year, the ensembles are joined by gospel legends the Clark Sisters. This festive concert brings together a beautiful blend of gospel, jazz, and traditional holiday tunes. As a group, the Clark Sisters have won two Grammy Awards and are the highest-selling female gospel group in history. In 2020, the Clark Sisters were honored with the James Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award at the 35th Annual Stellar Awards. In 2022, the group was inducted into the Black Music & Entertainment Walk of Fame.

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
Kennedy Holmes, vocals
St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Erin Freeman, director

Repertoire and additional artists announced later.

Presented by Mercy.

Experience the magic of the holidays as St. Louis native Kennedy Holmes joins the SLSO to perform seasonal favorites and exciting twists on timeless classics. A cherished tradition, this festive performance promises to fill the air with cheer. From the joyous sounds of sleigh bells to new renditions of beloved tunes, this concert brings the holiday season to life in a way that only the SLSO and hometown favorite Holmes can. Holmes originally rose to fame during season 15 of the NBC hit show “The Voice” and has since performed with the SLSO several times.

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, artistic director

John Williams

Home Alone

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A true holiday favorite, this beloved comedy classic features renowned composer John Williams’ charming and delightful score performed live by the SLSO. Macaulay Culkin stars as Kevin McCallister, an 8-year-old boy who’s accidentally left behind when his family leaves for Christmas vacation and who must defend his home against two bungling thieves. Hilarious and heart-warming,



Home Alone is fun for the entire family. The SLSO is joined by the St. Louis Children's Choirs for this holiday treat.

New Year's Eve Celebration

Wednesday, December 31, 7:30pm CST

Stéphane Denève, conductor
Stewart Goodyear, piano

Leonard Bernstein	<i>Candide Overture</i>
Georges Bizet	Selections from <i>L'Arlésienne</i>
Jacques Offenbach	Excerpts from <i>Gaîté Parisienne</i>
<i>Orchestrated by Manuel Rosenthal</i>	
George Gershwin	<i>Rhapsody in Blue</i>
<i>Orchestrated by Ferde Grofé</i>	
George Gershwin	<i>An American in Paris</i>
<i>Revised by Frank Campbell-Watson</i>	

Break out the bubbly and ring in the new year in style with the SLSO's sparkling New Year's Eve Celebration, led by Music Director Stéphane Denève. Denève pays homage to two countries in this rousing program: his native France and his adopted home of the US, concluding with George Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, capturing the essence of his two home nations. Canadian pianist Stewart Goodyear returns to the SLSO for Gershwin's iconic *Rhapsody in Blue*.

About the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

Celebrated as one of today's most innovative, exciting, and enduring orchestras, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra is the second-oldest orchestra in the country, marking its 146th year with the 2025/26 season and its eighth 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 transformational project that expands and renovates the orchestra's historic home, Powell Hall—designed by Snøhetta and creating the Jack C. Taylor Music Center—opened in September 2025. This milestone builds on the institution's momentum as a civic leader in convening individuals, creators, and ideas, while fostering a culture welcoming to all. For more information, visit slo.org.

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