



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S APRIL CONCERTS INCLUDE MONUMENTAL SYMPHONIES, CONCERT FOR TEENS, AND CHAMBER MUSIC; ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR SAMUEL HOLLISTER MAKES HIS CLASSICAL SUBSCRIPTION DEBUT

SLSO musicians share chamber music from the late 20th and early 21st centuries by Morton Feldman, Philip Glass, David Lang, Steve Reich, and Igor Stravinsky at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, April 7-8

Music Director Stéphane Denève leads the orchestra in an SLSO co-commissioned piece—Carlos Simon's *Double Concerto Suite* with superstar soloists Hilary Hahn and Seth Parker Woods—alongside Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 5*, April 10-12

Cross-genre ensemble Tower of Power collaborates with the SLSO for a one-night-only concert, April 15

Conductor Hannu Lintu leads guest pianist Jan Lisiecki in his SLSO debut on Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 9*; concerts also include Ottorino Respighi's *Church Windows*, Richard Wagner's *Prelude to Act I of Lohengrin*, and the St. Louis premiere of Samy Moussa's *Elysium*, April 18-19

SLSO Assistant Conductor Samuel Hollister makes his classical subscription debut, leading pianist Gabriela Montero in Sergei Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3*, along with Gabriella Smith's *Tumblebird Contrails* and Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Symphony No. 3*, April 24-25

The SLSO and conductor Samuel Hollister explore the emotion behind music in a new concert offering designed for teenagers: *Cinematic Symphony*, April 26

In the final Live at The Sheldon chamber music concert, SLSO violists Shannon Farrell Williams and Chris Tantillo lead performances of music by Johannes Brahms, José Elizondo, Dobrinka Tabakova, and Ralph Vaughan Williams, April 30

(March 18, 2026, St. Louis, MO) – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra announced details of its April 2026 concerts. Highlights include performances of Gustav Mahler's soul-searching *Symphony No. 5*, a genre-defying concert with R&B and funk band Tower of Power, a concert for teenagers designed around film music, and chamber music performances at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation and The Sheldon.

SLSO Assistant Conductor Samuel Hollister makes his classical subscription debut in a program anchored by Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Symphony No. 3* on April 24-25. Hollister has led the orchestra in



several special concerts, education events, and run-out concerts. He has served as Assistant Conductor since 2024. He replaces Ryan Bancroft, who withdrew from his SLSO debut due to personal reasons.

Tickets for all concerts are on sale now. Tickets 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. 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, or listen to the orchestra's podcast, *Noted*, which explores classical concerts, available on slo.org.

Live at the Pulitzer | Dialogues and Conversations

Tuesday, April 7, 7:30pm CDT

Wednesday, April 8, 7:30pm CDT

Pulitzer Arts Foundation

3716 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, MO, 63108

Erin Schreiber, violin

Shawn Weil, violin

Shannon Farrell Williams, viola

Yin Xiong, cello

Jennifer Nitchman, flute

Kevin Ritenauer, percussion

Johanna Ballou, keyboard

David Lang

Igor Stravinsky

Steve Reich

Morton Feldman

Philip Glass

“Before Glory” from *Mystery Sonatas* (**First SLSO performance**)

Three Pieces for String Quartet

Vermont Counterpoint for Flute & Tape

The Viola in My Life 1

String Quartet No. 3, “Mishima”

Art and music come together as SLSO musicians perform adventurous chamber music by composers of today, curated by composer Christopher Stark, within the galleries of the Pulitzer Arts Foundation. The SLSO brings back classic works from the Live at the Pulitzer series to celebrate the 25-year history of the Pulitzer Arts Foundation. From minimalism to abstract expressionism, this concert features a wide range of styles that reflect the curation of Emily Rauh Pulitzer's exhibition, *Dialogues and Conversations*. Curated by St. Louis-based composer Christopher Stark, the program features music by some of the most prominent composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including Morton Feldman, Philip Glass, David Lang, Steve Reich, and Igor Stravinsky.

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 Suite (First SLSO performances/SLSO Co-Commission)*
Gustav Mahler *Symphony No. 5*

Presented by the Whitaker Foundation

With its tremendous emotional range, breathtaking melodies, and the exceptional virtuosity required of its musicians, Gustav Mahler’s Fifth Symphony creates a soul-stirring orchestral experience. Written while vacationing in an Austrian resort town, Mahler surveyed two milestone moments in his life from which to draw his musical ideas: his near-death experience and his marriage to Alma Schindler. This monumental symphony is paired with a new concerto by Carlos Simon performed by two of the brightest stars in the string world: three-time Grammy Award-winning violinist Hilary Hahn and Grammy-nominated cellist Seth Parker Woods.

Tower of Power
Wednesday, April 15, 7:30pm CDT

Damon Gupton, conductor
Tower of Power

Repertoire announced from the stage.

Tower of Power—the R&B and funk band and horn section—teams up with the SLSO for a night of genre-crossing performances. Fusing their signature funk and soul with sweeping symphonic arrangements, this concert transforms iconic hits like “What Is Hip?” and “You’re Still a Young Man” with lush orchestrations. The band’s powerhouse horns and irresistible grooves meet the grandeur of the orchestra in a one-night-only event centered on rhythm, energy, and excitement.

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**)

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



Jan Lisiecki, “perhaps the most ‘complete’ pianist of his age” (*BBC Music Magazine*), performs one of Mozart’s spellbinding piano concertos at the center of a deeply spiritual program that muses on the interplay of shadow and light. Returning to the SLSO podium, frequent SLSO guest Hannu Lintu leads the orchestra through Richard Wagner’s melodies of Lohengrin, inspired by a holy relic. Samy Moussa expresses his vision of timelessness and paradise in *Elysium*. The program concludes with the mysticism and wonder of Ottorino Respighi’s *Church Windows*, a suite of music based on Gregorian chant.

Rachmaninoff’s Third | Taking Flight

Friday, April 24, 10:30am CDT*

Saturday, April 25, 7:30pm CDT

Samuel Hollister, conductor (**SLSO classical subscription debut**)

Gabriela Montero, piano (**SLSO debut**)

Gabriella Smith

Tumblebird Contrails

Sergei Prokofiev

Piano Concerto No. 3

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Symphony No. 3

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

Like birds soaring through the sky or fingers sweeping across piano keys, this program promises an experience of awe-inspiring beauty. Assistant Conductor Samuel Hollister makes his SLSO classical debut leading the orchestra in Sergei Rachmaninoff’s exhilarating Third Symphony and an imaginative work that gazes skyward by composer and environmentalist Gabriella Smith. Gabriela Montero takes on Prokofiev’s emotionally turbulent Third Piano Concerto in her SLSO debut. Listeners have described Montero’s playing as wonderfully imaginative with a monster technique.

Note: Due to personal reasons, originally scheduled conductor Ryan Bancroft has withdrawn from these performances. Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 3 replaces Copland’s Symphony No. 3 on the program.

Concerts for Teens: Cinematic Symphony

Sunday, April 26, 3:00pm CDT

Samuel Hollister, conductor

Peter Henderson, piano

Program includes excerpts from:

John Williams

Flight to Neverland from *Hook*

Richard Wagner

Ride of the Valkyries

Joe Hisaishi

“Reprise” from *Spirited Away* Suite



Igor Stravinsky	<i>The Firebird Suite</i> (1919 version)
John Williams	<i>The Imperial March</i> from <i>The Empire Strikes Back</i>
Gustav Holst	<i>Mars, the Bringer of War</i> from <i>The Planets</i>
Joe Hisaishi	“One Summer’s Day” from <i>Spirited Away</i> Suite
Dmitri Shostakovich	Piano Concerto No. 2
John Williams	<i>Princess Leia’s Theme</i> from <i>Star Wars</i>
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> Overture-Fantasy
Valerie Coleman	<i>Umoja: Anthem of Unity</i>
Joe Hisaishi	Symphonic Variation: “Merry-Go-Round and Cave of Mind”

Most enjoyed by ages 12+. Concerts for Kids are inclusive of people with sensory sensitivities. Accommodations will be provided so that everyone may enjoy the experience of live orchestral music.

Discover the power of music in movies as the SLSO brings beloved film scores to life, revealing the composers' art of creating heart-pounding and unforgettable moments. This immersive performance, led by SLSO Assistant Conductor Samuel Hollister, will change the way soundtracks are heard. Cinematic Symphony provides a bridge between concerts for families with young children and full-length orchestral performances—perfect for teens and parents to enjoy together.

Live at The Sheldon | Lucid Dreams

The Sheldon

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

Thursday, April 30, 7:30pm CDT

Chris Tantillo, curator and viola
Shannon Farrell Williams, curator and viola
Hannah Ji, violin
Jessica Cheng Hellwege, violin
Melissa Brooks, cello
Bjorn Ranheim, cello

José Elizondo	<i>Danzas Latinoamericanas</i> for two violas (First SLSO performance)
New work by Mizzou New Music Initiative composer	
Ralph Vaughan Williams	<i>Phantasy Quintet</i> (First SLSO performance)
Dobrinka Tabakova	<i>Organum Light</i> (First SLSO performance)
Johannes Brahms	String Sextet No. 1

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

SLSO string musicians take center stage in this chamber concert curated by SLSO violists Chris Tantillo and Shannon Williams. Johannes Brahms’ soulful String Sextet showcases the boldness of a young composer on the rise while works by José Elizondo and Ralph Vaughan Williams convey dreamy, colorful



landscapes. Dobrinka Tabakova was inspired by the particles that come together to create pure, powerful light in her piece.

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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