

STL SYMPHONY  
LIVE AT POWELL HALL

DAVID ROBERTSON | MUSIC DIRECTOR

2015/2016  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

136<sup>TH</sup> SEASON



*Music Tells the Story*

2015/2016  
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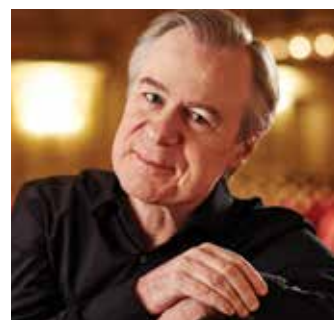
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Inspired by musical storytelling, our 2015/2016 season featured a broad variety of programming and notable artistic partnerships. Messiaen's *Des canyons aux étoiles... (From the Canyons to the Stars...)*, performed for a sold-out audience in St. Louis and on tour in California, included stunning visuals by photographer Deborah O'Grady.

I love the way that music can tell a story, either in partnership with real words or dispensing entirely with the words and partnering with our emotions. We made our 15/16 programs unique, so that whether you experienced *Peter and the Wolf*, or Beethoven's Sixth Symphony as familiar works or as your very first time hearing them played live, your sense of the wonder that this music contains is amplified beyond what you expected when you came in.

These performances were made so extraordinary because of the talent we have on stage. I am deeply grateful for the leadership of my artistic team, Amy Kaiser, Director of the St. Louis Symphony Chorus; Kevin McBeth, Director of the IN UNISON Chorus; Steven Jarvi, Resident Conductor and Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, and the 91 members of the St. Louis Symphony—outstanding musicians who have dedicated a lifetime to mastering their craft, who are part of the fabric of our community.

Great music played by a great orchestra does more than entertain us—it brings us together and touches our lives in ways that are profound and transformational. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for making this possible and for sharing in this journey with us. You are truly the hero of our story and the inspiration for our music-making.

**DAVID ROBERTSON**  
Music Director



We are delighted to share our Annual Report with you and celebrate highlights of the St. Louis Symphony's 136th Season, "Music Tells the Story." Our story, as an institution and cultural landmark, belongs to you—chapters present and past written with the loyal dedication, vision and generosity of friends like you, who support great music-making year after year. With your steadfast support, we achieved balanced cash operating results this season.

Thanks to the entire St. Louis Symphony team on and off the stage, we are proud to report the best bottom line financial results in many years. Audiences and sales for our Live at Powell Hall events reached their highest numbers since the inception of the series in 2010. And contrary to national trends, our classical audiences and sales increased for the third consecutive year.

In terms of philanthropic support, we concluded FY2016 with our best ever Annual Campaign total—\$7.68 million from 5,394 donors; 30% of which were new. In addition to annual giving, impressive results were achieved in building the St. Louis Symphony Endowment Trust. Significant contributions were received as part of ongoing efforts to secure endowment funding commensurate with the orchestra's needs. As of August 31, 2016, endowment related assets under management exceeded \$200 million.

In July, we marked the passing of a dear friend, Jack C. Taylor. Jack's extraordinarily generous and strategic investments established the St. Louis Symphony Endowment Trust, which inspired thousands of friends to join in supporting the Symphony, sustaining artistic and music education programs for generations to come.

Thank you again for playing your part. Your active participation, giving, attending concerts and volunteering is critical and deeply appreciated. You make possible the excellence of concert experiences that foster meaningful connections among audiences, our community and the world's finest musicians.

**BARRY H. BERACHA**  
Chair, Board of Trustees

**MARIE-HÉLÈNE BERNARD**  
President and CEO

*Tell us your story*

*Thank you for sharing your favorite experiences and what you love about the St. Louis Symphony.*

"This year marks my 40th year as a season subscriber. I have seen the orchestra progress... to the vibrant, friendly and world-class orchestra that it is today!"

— T. ROBERTSEN

"A performance of Verdi's *Requiem* a few years ago with the trumpets in the balcony... I nearly fell out of my seat!"

— G. ALLEN

"Attending a concert with my aunt when I was 10; I have loved classical music ever since."

— DR. T.A. SCHNEIDER

"One Sunday, the Symphony played Ravel's *Bolero*—the performance elicited a story in my imagination that took my soul soaring... The joy of it is so intoxicating that I keep returning year after year—for 45 years!"

— B. ANDERSON

"My dad loved the Symphony. He took me regularly as I grew up. We are now taking our grandsons to *Fantasia*, etc.; they love it. What a wonderful way to reach out to young people."

— ANONYMOUS

\*Executive Committee member





*“David Robertson, the St. Louis Symphony’s music director, shaped ‘Canyons’ with a sure hand... The orchestra responded with playing of focus and fire.”*

—ALEX ROSS, THE NEW YORKER



## ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ON TOUR

A core part of what we do to achieve our mission to enrich people’s lives through the power of music, is to take the artistry of the Symphony on tour regionally, across the United States and abroad. In fact, touring remains essential for most major professional orchestras to build reputation and attract top talent. You help us represent St. Louis at its very best as a vibrant American city, home to a world-class orchestra. Wherever we go, the name of St. Louis goes with us.

### California Tour

From January 27 to February 2, 2016, the St. Louis Symphony embarked on its third tour of California in seven seasons. The first set of concerts in Aliso Viejo and Palm Desert featured John Adams’ Saxophone Concerto paired with Mahler’s Fifth Symphony. Later, in Berkeley and Los Angeles, the orchestra reprised its multimedia concerts featuring Messiaen’s *Des canyons aux étoiles...* In addition to public concerts in Berkeley, the orchestra participated in a residency, which included two symposia and an educational concert.

### Regional Presence

The St. Louis Symphony visited Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on September 9, 2016, performing at Southeast Missouri State University’s Bedell Performance Hall. On September 27, 2016, Resident Conductor Steven Jarvi led the orchestra at the Missouri Theatre in Columbia, Missouri, as part of the University Concert Series. The Symphony has performed at the University of Missouri for nine consecutive seasons—bringing great music to community members outside of St. Louis who may not have the opportunity to travel to Powell Hall.



# COMMUNITY & EDUCATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

You are our partner in bringing music to the places where people live, learn, worship and heal, nearly every day of the St. Louis Symphony's season. We engage our audiences—veteran and new—in a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, classical music and the orchestral experience. For many, these programs have served as a starting point for their own musical exploration and future St. Louis Symphony experiences.

## IN UNISON

In addition to partnerships with more than 40 churches and the 120-member Chorus, the St. Louis Symphony's IN UNISON program offers avenues for young people of diverse backgrounds to study music and explore careers in arts administration. A 15/16 pilot mentorship program connected participants with musicians of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra.

## St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra

During its 15/16 season, the Youth Orchestra included 105 aspiring musicians, ages 12-22, from 46 partner schools in Greater St. Louis. All three of its concerts at Powell Hall brought record crowds, and the ensemble was featured on The Nine Network's *Night at the Symphony* program.

## SymphonyCares

The St. Louis Symphony marked five years of its partnership with Saint Louis University Cancer Center, performing for patients receiving chemotherapy. Innovative music therapy programs also bring solace and help with healing to patients and caregivers at children's hospitals, involving the St. Louis Symphony in groundbreaking programs and research studies.

## Music Without Boundaries

Since 2005, Music Without Boundaries has used the power of music to foster a greater understanding of our region's diverse cultural resources, both among immigrant/refugee populations, as well as between them and the native-born population. During the 15/16 season, the St. Louis Symphony welcomed new immigrants and refugees to Family Concerts and presented a world music concert at the International Institute of St. Louis.



Photo Credit: Wayne Crosslin, International Institute



**4,721**  
people reached  
through 116 events in  
35 different zip codes



**105**  
Youth Orchestra  
musicians from  
46 partner schools



**25,000+**  
students attended  
Education Concerts



*“Making beautiful music accessible to people of any budget. Thank you!”*

— FREE COMMUNITY EVENT ATTENDEE



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Operating Results: Fiscal Year 2016

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015-AUGUST 31, 2016 (\$ in Thousands)

#### REVENUE

##### EARNED REVENUE

Ticket Revenue	\$6,871
Fee and Tour Revenue	1,463
Other Earned Revenue	491

**Total Earned Revenue 8,825**

##### CONTRIBUTED REVENUE

Annual Campaign	7,680
Special Gifts, Gala and Volunteer Activities Reserve	1,441
	(141)

**Total Contributed Revenue 8,980**

##### ENDOWMENT AND OTHER REVENUE

Endowment Draw	9,820
Other Miscellaneous	744

**Total Endowment and Other Revenue 10,564**

**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE \$28,369**

#### EXPENSES

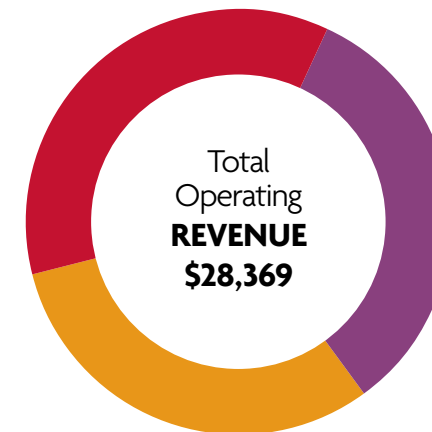
Artistic / Concert Production; Community Partnerships, Education and Youth Orchestra	\$20,345
Marketing and Public Relations	2,874
Fundraising	1,631
Facilities	1,488
General and Administrative	2,892
Less Depreciation and Pension Adjustments	(1,089)

**ADJUSTED OPERATING EXPENSES \$28,141**

**37%**  
Endowment and Other Revenue

**32%**  
Contributed Revenue

**31%**  
Earned Revenue



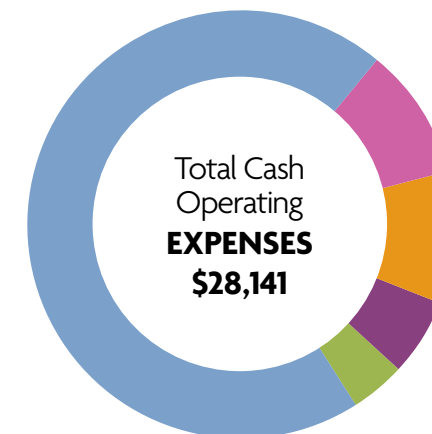
**70%**  
Artistic/Concert Production; Community and Education Programs

**10%**  
Marketing and Public Relations

**10%**  
General and Administrative

**6%**  
Fundraising

**4%**  
Facilities



#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION August 31, 2016

(\$ in Thousands)

##### ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$5,036
Investments held by the Symphony	12,330
Investments held by the Endowment Trust	170,448
Receivables	39,831
Other Assets	880
Property and Equipment (net)	3,203

**Total Assets \$231,728**

##### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

###### Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	791
Deferred Revenue	3,863
Notes and Line of Credit Payable	-
NPV of Annuity Obligations	596
Net Pension Liability	13,684

**Total Liabilities 18,934**

###### Net Assets

Unrestricted	
Net Investment in Property and Equipment	3,203
Unrestricted	26,896
Temporarily Restricted	18,694
Permanently Restricted	164,001

**Total Net Assets 212,794**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$231,728**

