

January 18, 2018

Best wishes for 2018! May it bring inspiration in music, always. Your commitment to the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra enables us to enrich lives through the power of music, and I offer my deepest thanks for your continued engagement. I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on your SLSO.

As we enter 2018, we continue our celebration of Music Director David Robertson and his legacy with the SLSO. We hope you will join us at Powell Hall for our Gala Celebration on April 14, as we reflect on David's remarkable 13 years at the helm of our storied institution. We are grateful for his innumerable contributions and know that he will bring the season to a rousing conclusion with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra joining the SLSO for Marsalis' *Swing Symphony* on May 4, 5 and 6.

This new year also marks the 50th Anniversary of Powell Hall as the home of the SLSO, and we invite you to join us on Saturday, January 20, as we open our home to celebrate Powell Hall at 50. That day, Historian Andrew Wanko from the Missouri History Museum will conduct a lecture on the building's history, beginning with its start as the St. Louis Theatre in the 1920s. You can also tour the hall and attend an open rehearsal with our Youth Orchestra. We will end the evening with a special screening of the last film shown at the St. Louis Theatre before it became Powell Hall: *The Sound of Music*. The Central Library is helping us celebrate with a special Powell Hall at 50 exhibit in its Grand Hall from January 16 – March 17. You can learn more about all these events at slo.org/powellat50.

Highlights of this season's musical offerings so far have included collaborations with renowned pianist Emanuel Ax for a two-week Mozart Celebration led by Music Director David Robertson; a rousing interpretation of Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony with Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin; a robust Symphony No. 4 by Tchaikovsky with esteemed guest conductor John Storgårds; and our impressive St. Louis Symphony Chorus showcased in several works, including Vivaldi's Gloria, led by SLSO's dear friend and guest conductor Nicholas McGegan. Our 17/18 Classical Season is made possible with support from the Centene Charitable Foundation, the Steward Family Foundation, and World Wide Technology, who joined to sponsor our remarkable 138th season.

As we reflect on the SLSO's artistic excellence under David Robertson's leadership, we look toward our future with Stéphane Denève, who returns to Powell Hall on February 2 – 3 for his first appearance with the SLSO since being appointed the orchestra's 13th music director on June 7, 2017. His appointment generated much excitement worldwide and positive coverage nationally in *The New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*. Stéphane, whose tenure as Music Director begins with the 19/20 season, will lead four programs with us during the 18/19 season as Music Director Designate.

Stéphane's long-time collaboration with our orchestra started 15 years ago, in 2003. A trusted collaborator on and off stage, he has conducted our orchestra seven times, offering a wide range of repertoire with music by 20 composers spanning four centuries, from the classics to contemporary works.

Norman Eaker, Chair, Board of Trustees Marie-Hélène Bernard, President & CEO

ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY CHORUS ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA
ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY IN UNISON CHORUS ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

Powell Hall 718 North Grand Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63103 314-533-2500 slo.org

As Stéphane shared during the announcement, “I’ve known this orchestra for a long time. We have a very organic relationship, which is full of trust and enthusiasm and mutual joy.” He is excited to play his part in developing programs that will bring our community together through music. We look forward to welcoming him, along with his wife, Åsa, and daughter, Alma.

Stéphane will be in St. Louis on January 30, when we announce our 18/19 season, a remarkable celebration of our orchestra. Developed around the theme From Our Family to Yours, the 18/19 season was curated with input from our musicians and will feature and world-class soloists, including several of our own SLSO musicians. The season also marks the 50th anniversary of Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin’s debut with the SLSO, a milestone you won’t want to miss.

This spring will see two important recording releases for the SLSO, recorded live at Powell Hall last season: John Adams Violin Concerto with Leila Josefowicz (on the Nonesuch label) and George Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* and Concerto in F with pianist Kirill Gerstein (on the Myrios Classics label). The SLSO returns to California for a four-city tour (January 15 – 19) and embarks on its first residency with American Ballet Theatre and Principal Dancer Misty Copeland in Lincoln, Nebraska (February 16 – 17).

As you may recall from our 16/17 Annual Report, the SLSO closed its fiscal year on August 31, 2017 with a surplus – the first this century – and an endowment that stands at approximately \$211 million in assets. Our focus to making music more accessible to all has been shaped by providing greater variety in programming, education programs for a growing number of schools, and community events that expose the SLSO to diverse communities. Our education and community programs reach more than 68,000 families each year. (Our musicians even appeared at a couple St. Louis Blues games to perform the National Anthem!) You can be assured that the SLSO will continue our unwavering commitment to deliver inspiring performances where St. Louisans live, learn, work, play, worship, and heal.

We are thrilled to announce that Wells Fargo Advisors is returning as our Summer at the Symphony series sponsor in 2018. Our summer series kicks off Mother’s Day weekend with *An American in Paris* on the big screen while the orchestra plays the score live and the summer series continues with musical tributes to George Michael, Pink Floyd, and Elton John. We also look forward to our continued partnership with Opera Theatre Saint Louis as 2018 marks our 40th season as its resident orchestra, and as we thank our colleague and General Director Timothy O’Leary for his extraordinary leadership and deep friendship.

I can’t thank you enough for giving so much life and meaning to the work we do. With your support, we continue to cultivate artistic excellence and institutional stability. We hope to see you often at the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in 2018.

Warmly,



Marie-Hélène Bernard
President and CEO

Norman Eaker, Chair, Board of Trustees Marie-Hélène Bernard, President & CEO

ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY CHORUS ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA
ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY IN UNISON CHORUS ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

Powell Hall 718 North Grand Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63103 314-533-2500 slso.org