



# New Season, New Era

**Annual Report Summary**  
2019/2020 Season—140th Year



**St. Louis Symphony  
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting your St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Our 2019/2020 season marked a new era in our 140-year history, as we welcomed Stéphane Denève as the SLSO's 13th Music Director. It was also a historic year, with COVID-19 impacting us all. Your SLSO continues on a creative, sustainable path, with substantial artistic and community impact in our region and world. Despite the impact of the pandemic, we are pleased to report a balanced budget for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2020, due to strong expense management, a Paycheck Protection Program loan, and—most importantly—your generosity.

This is a summary of our full Annual Report, which you can find online with our new Economic and Community Impact Report at [slo.org/impact](https://slo.org/impact).

As we reflect on the past season, we look forward with hope for the future and all the musical magic we will share together. From our SLSO family to yours, thank you.

  
 Marie-Hélène Bernard  
 President and CEO

“IN ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE, AUDIENCE GROWTH, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT, YOUR ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONTINUES ON A SOLID, SUSTAINABLE PATH.”



**Music, Experience, and Excellence**

The SLSO is a treasured cultural gem and important artistic export for the region. New Music Director Stéphane Denève programmed his inaugural season in St. Louis as a tribute to the Franco-American arch of musical friendship.



**A Season Paused...But Not Silenced**

In March, the impact of COVID-19 reached St. Louis. While the SLSO canceled or postponed 59 performances, it continued to share the power of music and connect with the community. Patrons continued their generous support, with more than 40 percent donating the ticket value from canceled concerts back to the SLSO.



**Audience and Community**

The SLSO is a world-renowned and community-supported orchestra. Proud to be part of the St. Louis region, concerts and programs are musical gifts to the community we call home. The SLSO focuses on delivering engaging and innovative programming that is accessible, so all guests feel they are a welcomed part of the SLSO family.

 <b>190,000+</b> PEOPLE EXPERIENCED THE SLSO LIVE AT POWELL HALL AND ACROSS THE REGION	 <b>430,000+</b> REACHED THROUGH OUR PUBLIC MEDIA PARTNERS	 <b>8,100+</b> HOURS CONTRIBUTED BY SYMPHONY VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS	 <b>252</b> CONCERTS AND FREE EVENTS/ PROGRAMS PERFORMED DURING THE SEASON	 <b>250,000+</b> PEOPLE REACHED BY SLSO SONGS OF AMERICA IN ITS FIRST MONTH	 <b>1,200+</b> HOURS OF #SLSOATHOME VIDEOS WERE WATCHED
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**Institutional Culture and Capacity**

The culture of the SLSO is that of a family, including the Symphony Chorus, IN UNISON Chorus, Youth Orchestra, and Symphony Volunteer Association, plus donors, patrons, and the St. Louis community. This season, the SLSO family welcomed its newest member, Stéphane Denève, for the orchestra's historic 140th season.

# MILESTONE MOMENTS FROM THE 2019/2020 SEASON



## BIENVENUE, STÉPHANE

Stéphane Denève kicked off his first season as SLSO Music Director with the annual free concert in Forest Park and a first pitch at Busch Stadium.



## STÉPHANE SEATS

For each of his concerts this season, Stéphane invited students, teachers, and community partners to attend for free as his guests in Stéphane Seats.



## CRAFTED

On November 15, the SLSO presented its first-ever Crafted Concert—a casual concert experience with food and drink offerings from local restaurants.

To read the full SLSO 2019/2020 Annual Report, visit [slo.org/impact](https://slo.org/impact).



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## GALA CELEBRATION AND NIGHTCAP

To celebrate the new season and new era, guests enjoyed a special evening at the Ritz-Carlton.



## YO50

The Youth Orchestra marked a special milestone in 2020: its 50th anniversary.



## SHARING MUSIC ON AIR AND ONLINE

When live performances came to an abrupt halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SLSO continued to share music with the community in a variety of ways.

