



Sharing the Power of Music

Annual Report Summary

2020/2021 Season—141st Year

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**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director

“Thanks to your generosity, the SLSO evolved creatively to engage and serve our St. Louis community through music.”

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your steadfast support during our 2020/2021 season. Thanks to your generosity, our institution evolved creatively to engage and serve our St. Louis community through music and the SLSO has an exciting future ahead.

The power of music and philanthropy emerged as constant themes of the 20/21 season. We were overjoyed to have our orchestra perform live for smaller audiences at Powell Hall this season—one of only a few orchestras nationwide to do so. The performances that Stéphane and SLSO musicians shared with us remain some of our most powerful and transformative experiences.

Despite the continued impact of the pandemic, the SLSO remains financially solid, due to strong charitable giving, thoughtful expense management, federal assistance, and shared sacrifices by musicians and staff. For the fiscal year ending August 31, 2021, the SLSO is reporting an operating loss of \$1.4 million, which was offset by federal assistance, enabling the SLSO to post a budget surplus for its fifth consecutive year. The SLSO also presented a balanced budget for its sixth year in a row.

This is a summary of our full Annual Report, which you can find online at slo.org/impact.

We are grateful that your continued and generous support, which enabled us to maintain our musical mission, making music accessible to all. From your SLSO family, thank you.



Marie-Hélène Bernard
President and CEO

Steve Finerty, Chair, Board of Trustees, Music Director Stéphane Denève, and Marie-Hélène Bernard, President and CEO



Music, Experience, and Excellence

For more than 140 years, the SLSO has been a treasured cultural institution, important artistic export, and musical ambassador for the St. Louis region. This was especially true during the 2020/2021 season, as the SLSO family shared music in new, creative ways. People in St. Louis and beyond—including in 15 countries—experienced the power of music over the past year through SLSO programs, generating more than 4.5 million impressions.



Audience and Community

From bringing concerts to neighborhoods, creating musical partnerships, and providing meaningful educational experiences and teacher support, the SLSO is honored to be a part of the artistic fabric of the St. Louis region and proud to be a community-supported orchestra.



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.



9,500+
people experienced the SLSO live at Powell Hall and across the region



730,000+
reached through our public media partners—including new year-round radio broadcasts



4,300+
attended virtual SLSO events, including Lunch & Learns plus Family and Education programs



4.5M
reached through social media and digital projects



139
concerts, free events, and video projects during the season



Milestone Moments from the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra's 2020/2021 Season

Welcome, Stephanie ▾

Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress officially became a part of the SLSO family in late 2020.



Return to live concerts ▲

Musicians and audiences returned to Powell Hall for live concerts in October, November, and March through June. More than 7,300 people attended these concerts.



First digital concerts + livestream >

With a new camera system installed, the SLSO transformed Powell Hall into a recording studio for 11 digital concerts, plus one livestreamed performance.



SLSO On the Go ▲

When musicians weren't in Powell Hall performing and recording concerts, they were performing nearly 60 *SLSO On the Go* concerts throughout St. Louis.



Congratulations, Kevin ▲

Kevin McBeth celebrated 10 years in his role as the SLSO's IN UNISON Chorus Director.



SLSO SoundLab ▲

The SLSO created this four episode video series to explore the intersections of music and science.

Stéphane ♥ St. Louis ▲

The SLSO and Stéphane extended his contract through the 2025/2026 season.

To read the full SLSO 2020/2021 Annual Report, visit slo.org/impact



St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

stéphane denève : music director