



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH FOUR WEEKS
OF FESTIVE PERFORMANCES**

**Classical holiday programs include: performances of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*
(November 29-December 1) and Baroque favorites by Handel and Bach (December 6-8)**

**A one-night-only concert featuring Grammy Award winner Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz
at Lincoln Center Orchestra, December 4**

The annual Mercy Holiday Celebration, December 13-15

**A Gospel Christmas with St. Louis native and *The Voice* finalist Kennedy Holmes and the St.
Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus, December 18-19**

**Performances with films *Home Alone*, December 20-21, and *Beauty and the Beast*,
December 27-28**

**And the surprise-filled BMO Wealth Management New Year's Eve Celebration, led by SLSO
Music Director Stéphane Denève, December 31**

(November 11, 2019, St. Louis, MO) – The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Stéphane Denève invite audiences to celebrate the holiday season at Powell Hall with eight different programs between Thanksgiving weekend and New Year's Eve. Each year, the SLSO welcomes 40,000 visitors during the month of December to enjoy a variety of musical performances.

The season kicks off with performances of a timeless holiday classic, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. At these performances, the music from the ballet takes center stage on November 29 to December 1, with special lighting design and a performance with the St. Louis Children's Choirs.

After releasing a recording this year of his *Swing Symphony* with the SLSO to critical acclaim, jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Orchestra return to Powell Hall to perform holiday hits with a big band flair on December 4.

On December 6-8, the SLSO and conductor and harpsichordist Richard Egarr perform stately Baroque



works featuring three soloists from within the SLSO: violinists Kristin Ahlstrom and Angie Smart and flutist Andrea Kaplan. Repertoire includes Handel's *Water Music* Suite and *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, along with Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5.

The SLSO also presents a special program of familiar and contemporary holiday music at the Mercy Holiday Celebration December 13-15. The program features the Holiday Festival Chorus, a choir of high school students from throughout the St. Louis region. Enjoy Powell Hall in its holiday best with Santa Claus, reindeer, and carols.

Now a beloved tradition, the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus joins the SLSO for the annual Gospel Christmas concerts on December 18-19. This year, St. Louis native and fourth-place finisher on NBC's *The Voice*, Kennedy Holmes, brings her powerful vocals to this fan-favorite concert.

Families are invited to experience the music of the popular Christmas comedy, *Home Alone*, as the film plays on the big screen while the SLSO performs John Williams' score live December 20-21. Disney fans will be treated on December 27-28 with performances of the Academy Award-winning score of *Beauty and the Beast* while the animated classic plays on the big screen.

Holidays with the SLSO close with a treasured tradition: the BMO Wealth Management New Year's Eve concert. For the first time, SLSO Music Director Stéphane Denève brings his take on this fun-filled night of musical surprises.

Tickets for these concerts are on sale now and can be purchased slo.org/tickets or by calling the SLSO Box Office at 314-534-1700. Classical tickets start at \$15. Children's tickets are \$10 with the purchase of an adult ticket.

Calendar listing

The Nutcracker

Friday, November 29, 2019, 8:00pm

Saturday, November 30, 2019, 8:00pm

Sunday, December 1, 2019, 3:00pm

Powell Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

Andrew Grams, conductor

Luke Kritzeck, lighting designer

St. Louis Children's Choirs | Barbara Berner, artistic director

TCHAIKOVSKY *The Nutcracker*

Note: This is not a dance performance.

Presented by The Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation

Media support provided by KEZK and KMOX



The colorful orchestral music of Tchaikovsky's classic takes center stage. Bring the whole family to enjoy marches, battles, feasts, celebrations, and, of course, the popular "Waltz of the Flowers." Andrew Grams, who as a violinist knows *The Nutcracker* inside and out, makes his SLSO debut.

Attend the free Pre-Concert Conversation at 7:00pm Friday and Saturday, and 2:00pm Sunday. This week, pianist Peter Henderson will lead the discussion. Tune in to St. Louis Public Radio on Saturday, November 30, at 8:00pm for the live broadcast of the performance. Listen on air (90.7 FM KWMU) or online (stlpublicradio.org/listen.php).

Big Band Holidays: Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis
Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 7:30pm
Powell Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

Note: The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra will not perform on this program.

It's the most wonderful time of year! The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis are returning to Powell Hall. Featuring soulful, big band versions of classics like "Jingle Bells," "Joy to the World" and "Brazilian Sleigh Ride," *Big Band Holidays* is an uplifting holiday program that will brighten the season.

Baroque Fireworks
Friday, December 6, 2019, 10:30am*
Saturday, December 7, 2019, 8:00pm
Sunday, December 8, 2019, 3:00pm
Powell Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

Richard Egarr, director & harpsichord
Kristin Ahlstrom, violin
Andrea Kaplan, flute
Angie Smart, violin

HANDEL *Water Music Suite* (compiled by Richard Egarr)
HANDEL Sonata à 5, HWV 288
HANDEL *Music for the Royal Fireworks*
BACH Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D major
BACH Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D major



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**Refreshments courtesy of Kaldi's Coffee and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts*

Shuttle service available from West County. For more information, visit slo.org/shuttle.

Handel heralds the holidays. Brilliant brass gleam in the *Music for the Royal Fireworks* and *Water Music*. Then strings take center-stage for Bach's *Orchestral Suite No. 3*, featuring the famous "Air on a G string." Conductor Richard Egarr leads the orchestra from the harpsichord for Bach's *Brandenburg No. 5*, which features soloists from the SLSO.

Attend the free Pre-Concert Conversation at 9:30am Friday, 7:00pm Saturday, and 2:00pm Sunday. This week, pianist Peter Henderson will lead the discussion. Tune in to St. Louis Public Radio on Saturday, December 7, at 8:00pm for the live broadcast of the performance. Listen on air (90.7 FM KWMU) or online (stlpublicradio.org/listen.php).

Mercy Holiday Celebration

Friday, December 13, 2:00pm

Friday, December 13, 7:30pm

Saturday, December 14, 2:00pm

Saturday, December 14, 7:30pm

Sunday, December 15, 2:00pm

Sunday, December 15, 7:30pm*

Powell Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

Stuart Malina, conductor

Rachel Potter, vocals

Holiday Festival Chorus | Kevin McBeth, director

Presented by Mercy

Media support provided by KEZK and St. Louis Post Dispatch

**Tickets start at \$15 for this evening performance*

Check laughter and cheer off your holiday list at Mercy Holiday Celebration with the SLSO. Enjoy your favorite holiday classics performed by the SLSO and Holiday Festival Chorus and a special visit from Santa Claus himself. This unforgettable experience will put you in the holiday spirit and show you why thousands of St. Louisans make this concert an annual tradition.

A Gospel Christmas with Kennedy Holmes

Wednesday, December 18, 7:30pm

Thursday, December 19, 7:30pm



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Powell Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

Kevin McBeth, conductor
Kennedy Holmes, vocals
St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus

Supported by Bayer Fund

Media support provided by the St. Louis American

Celebrate the holiday season with the SLSO and IN UNISON Chorus as they perform Gospel renditions of your holiday favorites. This season's celebrations feature St. Louis native Kennedy Holmes, who placed fourth on Season 15 of NBC's hit show *The Voice*. This powerful performance is a perfect way to celebrate the joyous season.

***Home Alone* in Concert**

Friday, December 20, 7:00pm

Saturday, December 21, 2:00pm

Powell Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

Joshua Gersen, conductor
Webster University Chorale | Trent A. Patterson, director

Back by popular demand, the SLSO performs the 1990s holiday classic, *Home Alone*, complete with John Williams' whimsical score. When the McCallisters left on family vacation, they forgot one thing: Kevin! From plain cheese pizza to elaborate pranks, this cherished film will put you in the holiday spirit.

***Beauty and the Beast* in Concert**

Friday, December 27, 7:00pm

Saturday, December 28, 2:00pm

Saturday, December 28, 7:00pm

Powell Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

Norman Huynh, conductor

The treasured fairy tale – filled with fun, adventures and some of the most beloved Disney characters – comes to Powell Hall. This holiday season, share the fun, magic and music of a performance you'll never forget as the SLSO performs this Disney animated classic, featuring music and lyrics by the



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Academy Award-winning® Alan Menken and Howard Ashman.

BMO Wealth Management New Year's Eve Celebration
Monday, December 31, 2018, 7:30pm
Powell Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Repertoire will be announced from the stage
Presented by BMO Wealth Management

Music Director Stéphane Denève and the SLSO bring 2019 to a close at the BMO Wealth Management New Year's Eve Celebration. Enjoy an evening of music and surprises at St. Louis' best-kept secret. Bring family and friends together for this musical celebration you'll remember throughout 2020.

Tune in to St. Louis Public Radio for a live broadcast of the concert. Listen on air (90.7 FM KWMU) or online (stlpublicradio.org/listen.php).

About the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

Celebrated as one of today's most exciting and enduring orchestras, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra is the second-oldest orchestra in the country, marking its 140th year with the 2019/2020 season and its first with Music Director Stéphane Denève. Widely considered one of the world's finest orchestras, the SLSO maintains its commitment to artistic excellence, educational impact, and community connections – all in service to its mission of enriching lives through the power of music.

In addition to its regular concert performances at Powell Hall, which has been the permanent home of the SLSO for more than 50 years, the orchestra is an integral part of the diverse and vibrant St. Louis community, presenting dozens of free education and community programs and performances throughout the region each year. It has an ongoing commitment to championing music of our time, through commissions, a collaboration with the Mizzou New Music Initiative, and its popular St. Louis Symphony Live at the Pulitzer. The SLSO also serves as the resident orchestra for Opera Theatre Saint Louis, with the upcoming season marking the 43rd year of this unique partnership.

The Grammy Award-winning SLSO's impact beyond the St. Louis region is realized through weekly Saturday night concert broadcasts on St. Louis Public Radio, acclaimed recordings, and regular touring activity. A sought-after artistic partner by preeminent musicians and composers from across the globe, as well as by local and national organizations, the SLSO enjoys a long history of robust and enduring artistic collaborations that have developed and deepened over the years.

Today, the SLSO builds on the institution's current momentum on all fronts, including artistic,



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financial, audience growth, and community impact, and looks toward the future with Stéphane Denève. For more information, visit slo.org.

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