



**St. Louis Symphony  
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director

**: news**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[January 14, 2020]

Contacts: St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: Eric Dundon [ericd@slo.org](mailto:ericd@slo.org), 314-286-4134  
National/International: Nikki Scandalios [nikki@scandaliospr.com](mailto:nikki@scandaliospr.com), 704-340-4094

**STÉPHANE DENÈVE, ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, AND ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY  
CHORUS CELEBRATE BEETHOVEN'S 250TH BIRTHDAY WITH HIS MONUMENTAL  
SYMPHONY NO. 9, FEBRUARY 7-9**

**Four vocal soloists make their SLSO debuts for the spectacular work; SLSO also performs the St. Louis premiere of Kevin Puts' *Silent Night Elegy*, which commemorates World War I's one-day Christmas truce**

(January 14, 2020, St. Louis, MO) – St. Louis Symphony Orchestra Music Director Stéphane Denève will bring his interpretation of Beethoven's landmark final symphony to Powell Hall for the first time alongside the SLSO premiere of a Pulitzer Prize-winning piece co-commissioned by the orchestra in concerts on February 7-9. Soprano Ellie Dehn, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano, tenor Issachah Savage, and bass-baritone Davóne Tines all make their SLSO debuts, and Amy Kaiser's St. Louis Symphony Chorus sings in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9—performed in the composer's 250th birth year. They all convene for concerts on Friday, February 7, and Saturday, February 8, at 8:00pm, and Sunday, February 9, at 3:00pm.

Opening the program is the SLSO premiere of St. Louis native Kevin Puts' *Silent Night Elegy*, music taken from his Pulitzer Prize-winning opera *Silent Night*. The piece is one of 16 the SLSO performs this season by composers of our time.

Nearly every moment in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony has been hailed as industry-changing, expanding the definition of a symphony beyond measure. From the order of the movements to the inclusion of the human voice in a symphonic work, Beethoven's Ninth's groundbreaking musical innovation enraptures. Its iconic final movement, featuring the *Ode to Joy* theme, four vocal soloists, and a full chorus, has often been described as a symphony within a symphony.

Acclaimed vocalists—soprano Ellie Dehn; St. Louis native, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis alumna, and mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano; tenor Issachah Savage; and Opera Theatre alumnus Davóne Tines—make their debuts with the SLSO.

**Calendar listing**

**Friday, February 7, 2020, 8:00pm**

**Saturday, February 8, 2020, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, February 9, 2020, 3:00pm**

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



**St. Louis Symphony  
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



Stéphane Denève, conductor  
Ellie Dehn, soprano  
Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo-soprano  
Issachah Savage, tenor  
Davóne Tines, bass-baritone  
St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Amy Kaiser, director

**Kevin PUTS** *Silent Night Elegy* (SLSO Co-commission)  
**BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 9

Audiences can attend the free Pre-Concert Conversation at 7:00pm Friday and Saturday and at 2:00pm Sunday in the auditorium. This weekend, the conversations are hosted by St. Louis Symphony Chorus Director Amy Kaiser.

Tune in to St. Louis Public Radio on Saturday, February 8, at 8:00pm for the live broadcast of the performance. Listen on air (90.7 FM KWMU) or online ([stlpublicradio.org/listen.php](http://stlpublicradio.org/listen.php)). Interviews at intermission include Denève and Johnson Cano.

The 19/20 SLSO Classical Season is presented by World Wide Technology and the Steward Family Foundation and runs through May 9, 2020.

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased at [slo.org](http://slo.org) or by calling the Box Office at 314-534-1700.

#### **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.

The SLSO musical family also includes two resident choruses: the St. Louis Symphony Chorus, founded in 1976 by Music Director Jerzy Semkow; and the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus, an ensemble focused on the music of African-American and African cultures since 1994; and the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, founded by Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin in 1970.

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 presents St. Louis Symphony Live at the Pulitzer, a four-program series at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation. The SLSO also serves as the resident orchestra for Opera Theatre Saint Louis, with the upcoming season marking the 43rd year of the partnership.



**St. Louis Symphony  
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director

**:** news

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, financial, audience growth, and community impact, and looks toward the future with Stéphane Denève. Denève begins his tenure as the SLSO's 13th Music Director with the 19/20 season. For more information, visit [slo.org](http://slo.org).

# # #