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## STÉPHANE DENÈVE AND THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCE 2020/2021 SEASON, THE ORCHESTRA'S 141ST AND DENÈVE'S SECOND AS MUSIC DIRECTOR

### Highlights include:

- In his second season as SLSO Music Director, Stéphane Denève and the SLSO celebrate the orchestra's great versatility in repertoire across genre and time, performing masterworks of the classical canon, including: Stravinsky's *The Firebird* Suite, Mahler's Symphony No. 3, Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* Suite, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, Sibelius' Symphony No. 2, Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, Dvořák's Symphony No. 8, a concert version of Puccini's masterpiece *Turandot*, and the SLSO's first performances of Honegger's *Joan of Arc at the Stake* and Florence Price's Symphony No. 3.
- Denève and the SLSO showcase great music of our day by giving the St. Louis premieres of 18 works by 15 composers of today, including John Adams, Thomas Adès, Tan Dun, Sebastian Fagerlund, Helen Grime, Jake Heggie, James MacMillan, Wynton Marsalis, Jessie Montgomery, Caroline Shaw, Bent Sørensen, Andrea Tarrodi, and Joan Tower, with world premieres of SLSO commissions by Stacy Garrop and an additional composer to be announced at a later date. Denève offers a deep dive into the works of James MacMillan, programming three of his pieces and inviting the composer to conduct the SLSO. In total, the season introduces 24 works to the SLSO audience.
- A two-week festival led by Denève in November—*History. Her Story. Our Future.*—explores influential historical female figures through works including John Adams' "Lola Montez Does the Spider Dance" from *Golden Girls of the West*, Berlioz's *The Death of Cleopatra*, Saint-Saëns' Bacchanale from *Samson and Delilah*, selections from Bizet's opera *Carmen*, "Dance of the Seven Veils" from Strauss' opera *Salome*, Schmitt's *The Tragedy of Salome* Suite, and the SLSO's first performances of Arthur Honegger's monumental oratorio *Joan of Arc at the Stake*. The festival also will include talks, special events, and additional concerts: SLSO Crafted, *Live at the Pulitzer*, the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra—all designed to encourage a dialogue with audiences to help understand the past and shape the future.
- Grammy-winning Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti will be the SLSO's 2020/2021 Artist-in-Residence, joining the SLSO on two classical programs, performing Szymanowski's Violin Concerto No. 2 and the first SLSO performances of Wynton Marsalis' Violin Concerto. Among other residency activities, she will present the first "Benedetti Session" in the United States, a workshop designed to meet the needs of young strings players and their teachers.
- The 20/21 season includes all performing ensembles of the SLSO family, with the St. Louis Symphony Chorus featured in five programs and the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus also performing on a classical program for the first time in 10 years.
- The SLSO celebrates the 26th anniversary of Amy Kaiser as Director of the St. Louis Symphony



Chorus—and her 50-year career as a choral director—as she retires from the SLSO at the end of the 20/21 season.

- The SLSO continues to enhance audience accessibility by reserving a block of free seats for Denève to host community partners at each of the concerts he leads, and offering tickets to all classical concerts starting at \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids—changes initiated by Denève in his inaugural season as Music Director that were met with enthusiastic reception. Responding to overwhelming audience demand, the SLSO offers an expanded SLSO Crafted series, with three casual happy-hour concerts that connect listeners more closely to the stories behind music.
- The St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra begins its 51st season with an appearance on NPR’s nationally syndicated show *From the Top* in September and concerts at Powell Hall in November, March, and June.
- Artists making their SLSO debuts include pianists Alice Sara Ott, Beatrice Rana, and Lise de la Salle; violinists Nicola Benedetti and Simone Porter; and vocalists Gaëlle Arquez, Jamie Barton, Janai Brugger, Jonathan Burton, and David Leigh. Conductors making their SLSO debuts include Elim Chan, James MacMillan, and Thomas Søndergård.

**(February 4, 2020, St. Louis, MO)** – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Stéphane Denève announced details for the Orchestra’s 2020/2021 season, the orchestra’s 141st and Denève’s second as Music Director.

**Stéphane Denève, Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra**, said, “My role as SLSO Music Director brings me great joy. There is a unique spirit about the St. Louis community, and our incredibly warm orchestra embodies this completely. The special sound of this orchestra inspired me as I shaped our second season together, which celebrates the SLSO’s great versatility in a broad variety of repertoire. This season intends to inspire a dialogue around some of the most important ideas of today: about where we’ve been, where we are going, and how we give a voice to people who haven’t been heard in the past. Through guest artists, SLSO family members, past and current musical voices, and the repertoire we perform, we are honored to elevate the stories about and voices of some who have paved and are paving the path toward greater equality in our society.”

Denève crafted the 20/21 season with orchestral and operatic repertoire that spans genre and time, shaping a dialogue around music inspired by and written by women. Denève and the SLSO open the 20/21 season with *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman No. 1* by former SLSO Composer-in-Residence Joan Tower, a musical homage to a season honoring risk-taking and influential women throughout history and in today’s world, sparking a season-long conversation around some of the pivotal ideas of today. Throughout the season, the SLSO’s programming elevates the voices and stories of people who have, and are today, working towards greater equality.

Denève will lead a two-week festival from November 10-22, 2020: *History. Her Story. Our Future*. Focused on women who challenged convention and changed the conversation throughout history, Denève conducts the SLSO in works including John Adams’ “Lola Montez Does the Spider Dance” from *Golden Girls of the West*, Berlioz’s *The Death of Cleopatra*, Saint-Saëns’ *Bacchanale* from *Samson*



and *Delilah*, selections from Bizet's opera *Carmen*, "Dance of the Seven Veils" from Strauss' opera *Salome*, and Schmitt's *The Tragedy of Salome Suite*. The festival culminates in the SLSO's first performances of Arthur Honegger's moving oratorio *Joan of Arc at the Stake*, stage directed by James Robinson, Artistic Director of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, with a cast of distinguished soloists, the St. Louis Symphony Chorus, and the St. Louis Children's Choirs. The festival also will include an SLSO Crafted concert, a *Live at the Pulitzer* concert, and a St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra concert. The festival will further engage the community and encourage dialogues about critical issues of today with speakers and pre-concert lectures that explore these themes. More information about *History. Her Story. Our Future.* will be available this summer.

A champion of the music of today, the upcoming season sees Denève conduct works by John Adams, Tan Dun, Stacy Garrop, James MacMillan, Jessie Montgomery, and Joan Tower in the weeks he leads the SLSO. Programming for the 20/21 season also features pillars of the classical canon, including Stravinsky's *The Firebird Suite*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 3*, Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet Suite*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*, Dvořák's *Symphony No. 8*, and a concert version of Puccini's operatic masterpiece *Turandot*.

The SLSO performs two world premieres during the 20/21 season: an SLSO commission, in partnership with the League of American Orchestras, by Stacy Garrop premiered by Denève and the SLSO on September 25-27, 2020, titled *Goddess Triptych*. The second will be performed by Denève and the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus on April 30-May 1. The SLSO also gives its first performance on April 9-11, 2021, of a piece by Jessie Montgomery co-commissioned by the SLSO, under conductor Gemma New, as well as the first performance of a full symphonic orchestration of Montgomery's *Starburst* on September 19-20, 2020. In addition, the SLSO gives the U.S. premiere of Helen Grime's *Violin Concerto*, featuring frequent SLSO guest artist Leila Josefowicz, who collaborated with the SLSO on the Grammy Award-nominated recording of John Adams' *Scheherazade.2*. In total, 24 pieces are SLSO premieres in the 20/21 season. Eighteen of those pieces are by 15 composers of our time.

The season features all performing ensembles of the SLSO family. The St. Louis Symphony Chorus will perform on five programs in total: one with guest conductor Karina Canellakis performing works by Brahms and four with Denève: Mahler's *Symphony No. 3*, Honegger's *Joan of Arc at the Stake*, Poulenc's *Stabat Mater* and *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and Puccini's *Turandot*. The SLSO celebrates the 26th anniversary of Amy Kaiser as Director of the chorus and her retirement at the end of the 20/21 season. In addition to its annual Gospel Christmas and Lift Every Voice concerts, the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus—which specializes in the performance and preservation of music from African and African-American cultures—will perform on a classical program for the first time in more than ten years, joining Denève on April 30-May 1 for the world premiere of a new work, commissioned especially for the chorus. The SLSO celebrates Kevin McBeth, who will mark his tenth anniversary directing the IN UNISON Chorus. The St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra begins its 51st season with an appearance on NPR's nationally syndicated show *From the Top* in September and with its concerts at Powell Hall in November, March, and June.



Included in Denève's weeks leading the SLSO this season, he will conduct the ceremonial opening of the SLSO's season with the free Forest Park concert for the St. Louis community on September 16, 2020. Over the past 50 years, the SLSO has performed 33 free community concerts in Forest Park, entertaining hundreds of thousands of St. Louisans on Art Hill. In 2004, this special event became an annual tradition, thanks to the generosity of Mary Ann Lee, and serves as the unofficial start of the orchestra's season. Denève will also conduct three SLSO Crafted concerts—casual, happy-hour concerts with food and drinks designed to draw the listener closer to the stories behind the music, following a successful launch of the concert series during his inaugural season as Music Director. In addition to his work on stage, Denève is committed to advancing the SLSO's deep relationships and service to the St. Louis region. He will experience and participate in the SLSO's rich and varied education and community engagement efforts.

Denève opens the classical season on September 19-20, 2020. Superstar violinist Hilary Hahn joins Denève and the SLSO in performances of Sibelius' Violin Concerto—a concerto originally premiered in the United States by virtuoso Maud Powell during a time when men dominated the classical music landscape. The program continues with the SLSO premiere of Jessie Montgomery's *Starburst*, a full-orchestra adaptation commissioned by the SLSO from the original string orchestra version co-arranged by Jannina Norpoth. Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy* and Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries* from *Die Walküre* conclude the program. Denève concludes the classical season with the first performances of Puccini's *Turandot* by the SLSO in more than 35 years, with opera great Christine Goerke in the title role, along with the SLSO debuts of tenor Jonathan Burton as Calaf, soprano Janai Brugger as Liù, and bass David Leigh as Timur.

Denève maintains a commitment to fostering meaningful artistic relationships between the SLSO and the world's leading artists. He has named Grammy Award-winning Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti the orchestra's 20/21 Artist-in-Residence. She will collaborate with the SLSO on two classical programs, giving the first St. Louis performances of Wynton Marsalis' Violin Concerto, written specifically for her, with conductor James Gaffigan (**October 2-3, 2020**) and Szymanowski's Violin Concerto No. 2 with Denève and the SLSO (**February 5-6, 2021**). A fierce advocate for music education, Benedetti will host the first of her "Benedetti Sessions" in the United States in St. Louis during her residency. The workshop addresses the needs of young music students and their teachers.

Denève also collaborates with acclaimed pianists Leif Ove Andsnes on Grieg's Piano Concerto (**March 6-7, 2021**) in Andsnes' first SLSO appearances in nearly 15 years. Beatrice Rana, silver medalist at the 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, makes her SLSO debut with Denève, performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 (**September 25-27, 2020**). Denève also works with violinist Hilary Hahn in her first SLSO appearance since 2003 (**September 19-20, 2020**). Pianists Emanuel Ax, Hélène Grimaud, Kirill Gerstein, and Stephen Hough all return for programs with the SLSO. Mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton, winner of the 2013 BBC Singer of the World Competition, makes her SLSO debut on works by Elgar and Jake Heggie (**December 5-6, 2020**).



Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin rings in 2021 with the SLSO at the annual New Year’s Eve concert. He then leads the first classical concert of the new year with a program of works including *Made in America* by Joan Tower (the SLSO’s Composer-in-Residence from 1985 to 1988), Barber’s Violin Concerto, and Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra on January 15-16, 2021. He will be joined by violinist Simone Porter in her debut with the SLSO.

The SLSO sustains its audience experience and accessibility efforts begun during Denève’s inaugural season as Music Director. Denève will again host community partners for free each week he leads the SLSO in Stéphane’s Seats, a dedicated block of seats near the stage for students, teachers, and other community members to see the SLSO in person. Due to overwhelming popularity, the SLSO will continue to offer \$15 tickets to each classical concert—a pricing change made during the 19/20 season inspired by Denève’s desire to make SLSO concerts accessible for more people. In addition, new pricing options will be available for classical concerts, offering more seats at lower prices on the orchestra level. The SLSO’s student ticket program continues to welcome thousands of students to Powell Hall each year with \$10 tickets to classical concerts. Following a pilot program during the 19/20 season, the SLSO will offer Live At Powell Hall Premium Passes to audience members during Live At Powell Hall performances throughout the 20/21 season. These passes provide special benefits during film showings, guest artist visits, and tribute performances.

Subscriptions for the Classical Season, both curated and compose your own, go on sale **February 4, 2020**. Single tickets will go on sale in July 2020. To purchase tickets, visit [slo.org/en/tickets/season-tickets/](https://slo.org/en/tickets/season-tickets/)

### **PREMIERES AND FIRST PERFORMANCES**

The 20/21 season includes the SLSO premieres of 24 different works. Eighteen of those works are by 15 composers of today. Music Director Stéphane Denève remains committed to discovering and performing works by living artists that will enter and become mainstays of the orchestral repertoire.

#### **World Premieres**

- **Stacy GARROP** *Goddess Triptych\** **(September 25-27, 2020)**
- **TBD** New work for the IN UNISON Chorus and SLSO\* **(April 30-May 1, 2021)**

#### **U.S. Premiere**

- **Helen GRIME** Violin Concerto **(October 30 and November 1, 2020)**

#### **SLSO Premieres**

- **Jessie MONTGOMERY** *Starburst\*\** **(September 19-20, 2020)**
- **Wynton MARSALIS** Violin Concerto **(October 2-3, 2020)**
- **HAYDN** Symphony No. 64, “Tempora mutantur” **(October 10-11, 2020)**
- **Thomas ADÈS** Piano Concerto **(October 10-11, 2020)**
- **John ADAMS** “Lola Montez Does the Spider Dance” from *Golden Girls of the West* **(November 13-14, 2020)**



- **HONEGGER** *Joan of Arc at the Stake* (November 20-21, 2020)
- **Andrea TARRODI** *Liguria* (November 27-29, 2020)
- **Caroline SHAW** *Entr'acte* (December 5-6, 2020)
- **Jake HEGGIE** *The Work at Hand* (December 5-6, 2020)
- **Joan TOWER** *Made in America* (January 15-16, 2021)
- **Bent SØRENSEN** *Evening Land* (January 23-24, 2021)
- **Tan DUN** *Nu Shu: The Secret Songs of Women* (February 26-27, 2021)
- **James MacMILLAN** *The Death of Oscar* (March 6-7, 2021)
- **James MacMILLAN** *Larghetto for Orchestra* (March 13-14, 2021)
- **James MacMILLAN** *The World's Ransoming* (March 13-14, 2021)
- **MENDELSSOHN HENSEL** *Overture in C Major* (March 19-20, 2021)
- **POULENC** *Stabat Mater* (March 26-28, 2021)
- **POULENC** *Final Scene from Dialogues of the Carmelites* (March 26-28, 2021)
- **Jessie MONTGOMERY** *New work\*\*\** (April 9-11, 2021)
- **Sebastian FAGERLUND** *Drifts* (April 23-25, 2021)
- **PRICE** *Symphony No. 3* (April 30-May 1, 2021)

\*SLSO commission

\*\*SLSO commission of the full orchestral version

\*\*\*SLSO co-commission

#### **ARTIST DEBUTS**

The SLSO welcomes the following musicians making their classical subscription season debuts with the orchestra during the 20/21 season:

#### **Conductors**

- **Elim Chan** (November 27-29, 2020)
- **Thomas Søndergård** (January 23-24, 2021)
- **James MacMillan** (March 13-14, 2021)

#### **Piano**

- **Beatrice Rana** (September 25-27, 2020)
- **Lise de la Salle** (March 19-20, 2021)
- **Alice Sara Ott** (April 23-25, 2021)

#### **Violin**

- **Nicola Benedetti** (October 2-3, 2020, and February 5-6, 2021)
- **Simone Porter** (January 15-16, 2021)

#### **Vocalists**

- **Gaëlle Arquez** (November 13-14, 2020)



- Jamie Barton **(December 5-6, 2020)**
- Janai Brugger **(May 6 and 8, 2021)**
- Jonathan Burton **(May 6 and 8, 2021)**
- David Leigh **(May 6 and 8, 2021)**

### **RETURNING ARTISTS**

#### **Conductor**

- James Gaffigan **(October 2-3, 2020)**
- John Storgårds **(October 10-11, 2020)**
- Jun Märkl **(October 30 and November 1, 2020)**
- Jane Glover **(November 6-8, 2020)**
- Cristian Măcelaru **(December 5-6, 2020)**
- Leonard Slatkin\* **(January 15-16, 2021)**
- Karina Canellakis **(February 13-14, 2021)**
- Nicholas McGegan **(March 19-20, 2021)**
- Gemma New\*\* **(April 9-11, 2021)**
- Hannu Lintu **(April 23-25, 2021)**

#### **Piano**

- Kirill Gerstein **(October 10-11, 2020)**
- Stephen Hough **(November 27-29, 2020)**
- Hélène Grimaud **(January 23-24, 2021)**
- Leif Ove Andsnes **(March 6-7, 2021)**
- Emanuel Ax **(April 9-11, 2021)**

#### **Violin**

- Hilary Hahn **(September 19-20, 2020)**
- Leila Josefowicz **(October 30 and November 1, 2020)**

#### **Vocalist**

- Tamara Mumford **(October 16-17, 2020)**
- Jennifer Johnson Cano **(February 13-14, 2021)**
- Siobhan Stagg **(March 26-28, 2021)**
- Christine Goerke **(May 6 and 8, 2021)**

#### **SLSO musicians**

- Xiaoxiao Qiang, violin **(November 6-8, 2020)**
- Shannon Williams, viola **(November 6-8, 2020)**
- Elizabeth Chung, cello **(December 5-6, 2020)**
- Allegra Lilly, harp **(February 26-27, 2021)**
- Cally Banham, English horn **(March 13-14, 2021)**



\*SLSO Conductor Laureate

\*\*SLSO Resident Conductor

### SLSO FAMILY

#### St. Louis Symphony Chorus

Denève continues his extraordinary relationship with the St. Louis Symphony Chorus in the 20/21 season, collaborating with the chorus on four programs, including: Mahler's Symphony No. 3 (**October 16-17, 2020**), Honegger's *Joan of Arc at the Stake* (**November 20-21, 2020**), Poulenc's *Stabat Mater* and *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (**March 26-28, 2021**), and Puccini's *Turandot: Opera in Concert* (**May 6 & 8, 2021**). The chorus also works with conductor Karina Canellakis on Brahms' *Schicksalslied (Song of Destiny)*, *Nänie*, and *Alto Rhapsody* (**February 13-14, 2021**).

This season marks Amy Kaiser's 26th anniversary as Director of the St. Louis Symphony Chorus and 50th year as a choral director. Throughout the season, the SLSO will honor Kaiser's contributions to the St. Louis Symphony Chorus as she plans to retire at the end of the season. Four of the choral works in the 20/21 season Kaiser has never done in her career. "How exciting to end a 50-year career with discovery and adventure," she said.

#### St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus

For the first time since 2009, the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus—a unique ensemble that interprets, performs, and preserves music of African and African-American cultures—will join Denève and the orchestra for a classical concert (**April 30-May 1, 2021**), performing the world premiere of a SLSO-commissioned work.

The chorus will again host its popular Gospel Christmas concert (**December 10, 2020**). The chorus will also be featured in its annual Lift Every Voice: Celebrating Black History Month concert on **February 19, 2021**. The season marks the tenth anniversary of Kevin McBeth directing the chorus.

#### St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra

The St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra will perform three concerts during its 2020/2021 season. Founded in 1970 by SLSO Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin, the Youth Orchestra has had a significant impact on the region's young musicians. The concerts are scheduled for **November 22, 2020**, **March 21, 2021**, and **June 6, 2021**, each at 3 p.m. Program details will be announced at a later date. [slo.org/en/edu/youth-orchestra/yo-concerts/](https://slo.org/en/edu/youth-orchestra/yo-concerts/)

As a part of the YO's 50th anniversary celebration observed during the 19/20 season, the YO will be featured on National Public Radio's nationally syndicated show *From the Top* in September 2020. Recorded during the Youth Orchestra's May 31, 2020, concert, *From the Top* features the talent of the entire Youth Orchestra, along with host, pianist Lara Downes; soloists; and a chamber ensemble.

### HOLIDAY AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Each year, the SLSO welcomes more than 40,000 guests to concerts between Thanksgiving and New





Year's Eve. The SLSO continues its holiday traditions with a wide array of seasonal performances that bring the holiday spirit to life:

- Led by IN UNISON Chorus Director Kevin McBeth, the SLSO and the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus celebrate the popular annual concert, A Gospel Christmas. This concert is supported by Bayer Fund (**December 10, 2020**).
- Powell Hall will be filled with enchantment for the Mercy Holiday Celebration concerts. The festive performances feature timeless classics, carols, familiar favorites, and a visit from Santa Claus (**December 18-20, 2020**).
- Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin will help St. Louis ring in the New Year with the annual New Year's Eve Celebration Concert. The program is an enchanting evening full of magical music and unforgettable surprises (**December 31, 2020**).
- IN UNISON Chorus Director Kevin McBeth will lead the SLSO and the IN UNISON Chorus in its annual concert, *Lift Every Voice*, celebrating African-American culture and music with a soulful celebration of song. The chorus is among the first symphony choruses to specialize in music of African and African-American cultures. This concert is supported by Bayer Fund (**February 19, 2021**).

#### SLSO CRAFTED

The SLSO Crafted concert series expands in the 20/21 season to three concerts. These happy-hour concerts, starting at 6:30pm Fridays, present one hour of music with commentary from Denève, and includes food and drinks before and after the concert. The 20/21 dates are **November 13, 2020**, **March 5, 2021**, and **May 7, 2021**, with works by Saint-Saëns, Schmitt, Sibelius, Strauss, and others.

#### ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY: LIVE AT THE PULITZER

The Pulitzer Arts Foundation and the SLSO continue their unique partnership: *Live at the Pulitzer*. These intimate concerts are the intersection of art and music, with SLSO soloists and chamber ensembles performing works from the 20th and 21st centuries. Begun in 2004, the programming for each Pulitzer concert complements current exhibits at the Tadao Ando-designed Pulitzer building. The 20/21 Pulitzer series are curated in partnership with SLSO Creative Partner Tim Munro and are a key part of Denève's and the SLSO's continued commitment to music of our time. Programs and details about events in the 20/21 season will be announced in August 2020. [slo.org/pulitzer](https://slo.org/pulitzer)

#### LIVE AT POWELL HALL

Through the SLSO's Live at Powell Hall concerts, audiences experience a wide range of music: popular artists, films on the big screen, and tributes to crowd-favorite musicians. Live at Powell Hall concerts open with the final installment of the Harry Potter saga: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part Two* (**September 11-13, 2020**). The SLSO continues its journey through the Star Wars universe with performances of the score to *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* (**April 15-18, 2021**). A full schedule of

20/21 Live at Powell Hall concerts—including classic films on the big screen, popular artists, and tribute performances—will be announced in Spring 2020. [slo.org/liveatpowell/](https://slo.org/liveatpowell/)

### **FAMILY AND EDUCATION CONCERTS**

The SLSO performs three inventive and interactive Family and Education Concerts during the 20/21 season, each designed to engage and capture the imagination of younger listeners. Committed to nurturing the next generation of musicians, the SLSO began concerts for schoolchildren in 1921 under Music Director Rudolph Ganz, one of the first orchestras to institute an education program in the country, making the 20/21 season the 100th anniversary of the SLSO's Education Concerts. Family Concert dates are **October 18, 2020, February 21, 2021, and May 9, 2021**. More details will be announced this spring. [slo.org/family/](https://slo.org/family/) [slo.org/educationconcerts/](https://slo.org/educationconcerts/)

### **OPERA THEATRE OF SAINT LOUIS**

Continuing a robust relationship, the SLSO will continue to serve as the resident orchestra of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis during its spring 2021 Festival Season, the 44th year of this extraordinary partnership. The 20/21 season sees a deepening of this relationship, with OTSL Artistic Director James Robinson staging the SLSO's performances of Honegger's oratorio *Joan of Arc at the Stake* (**November 20-21, 2020**). Additionally, the SLSO will work with several laureates of OTSL's prestigious Gerding Young Artist Program: Jamie Barton, Jennifer Johnson Cano, Christine Goerke, and David Leigh.

### **BROADCAST PARTNERSHIPS**

The SLSO continues its partnerships with two of the St. Louis region's most important media outlets—**St. Louis Public Radio, 90.7-KWMU** and **the Nine Network of Public Media**. St. Louis Public Radio broadcasts and live streams the entire SLSO Saturday night Classical series for an 11th year, with broadcasts resuming in September 2020. The Nine Network features SLSO performances on its *Night at the Symphony* program, now in its sixth season and airing the first Sunday of each month at 5:00pm.

The SLSO reaches national audiences through media opportunities, this time with *From The Top*, a nationally broadcast weekly program on NPR. The YO concert in May 2020 will be recorded by *From The Top* and broadcast in September.

### **Stéphane Denève, Music Director**

Stéphane Denève is Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the Brussels Philharmonic, Principal Guest Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, and Director of the Centre for Future Orchestral Repertoire (CffOR). He has previously served as Chief Conductor of Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra (SWR) and Music Director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Recognized internationally for the exceptional quality of his performances and programming, he regularly appears at major concert venues with the world's greatest orchestras and soloists. He has a special affinity for the music of his native France, and is a passionate advocate for music of the 21st century.



St. Louis Symphony  
Orchestra

stéphane denève : music director



Recent engagements include appearances with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Vienna Symphony, DSO Berlin, NHK Symphony, Munich Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France, Czech Philharmonic, and Rotterdam Philharmonic. In North America he made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2012 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, with whom he has appeared several times both in Boston and at Tanglewood, and he regularly conducts The Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony and Toronto Symphony. He is also a popular guest at many of the US summer music festivals, including Bravo! Vail, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Hollywood Bowl, Blossom Music Festival, Festival Napa Valley, Grand Teton Music Festival, and Music Academy of the West.

He enjoys close relationships with many of the world's leading solo artists, including Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Yo-Yo Ma, Nikolaj Znaider, James Ehnes, Leif Ove Andsnes, Leonidas Kavakos, Nicholas Angelich, Lang Lang, Frank Peter Zimmermann, Gil Shaham, Emanuel Ax, Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, Lars Vogt, Nikolai Lugansky, Paul Lewis, Joshua Bell, Hilary Hahn, and Augustin Hadelich.

In the field of opera, Stéphane Denève led a new production of *Pelléas et Mélisande* with the Netherlands Opera at the 2019 Holland Festival. Elsewhere, he has led productions at the Royal Opera House, Glyndebourne Festival, La Scala, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Saito Kinen Festival, Gran Teatro de Liceu, La Monnaie, Deutsche Oper Am Rhein, and at the Opéra National de Paris.

As a recording artist, he has won critical acclaim for his recordings of the works of Poulenc, Debussy, Ravel, Roussel, Franck and Connesson. He is a triple winner of the Diapason d'Or of the Year, has been shortlisted for Gramophone's Artist of the Year Award, and has won the prize for symphonic music at the International Classical Music Awards. His most recent releases include a live recording of Honegger's *Joan of Arc at the Stake* with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and two discs of the works of Guillaume Connesson with the Brussels Philharmonic (the first of which was awarded the Diapason d'Or de l'année, Caecilia Award, and *Classica* magazine's CHOC of the Year).

A graduate and prize-winner of the Paris Conservatoire, Stéphane Denève worked closely in his early career with Sir Georg Solti, Georges Prêtre and Seiji Ozawa. A gifted communicator and educator, he is committed to inspiring the next generation of musicians and listeners, and has worked regularly with young people in programs such as those of the Tanglewood Music Center, New World Symphony, the Colburn School, the European Union Youth Orchestra, and the Music Academy of the West.

For further information, please visit [slo.org/Deneve](https://slo.org/Deneve).

### **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.

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).

# # #



ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 2020/2021 CLASSICAL SEASON CALENDAR

**Opening Weekend: Uncommon Women**

**Saturday, September 19, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, September 20, 3:00pm**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Hilary Hahn, violin

**Joan TOWER**

*Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman No. 1*

**SIBELIUS**

Violin Concerto

**Jessie MONTGOMERY**

*Starburst*

**(First SLSO performances, SLSO commission of full-orchestral version, co-arranged with Jannina Norpoth)**

**TCHAIKOVSKY**

*Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy*

**WAGNER**

*Ride of the Valkyries from Die Walküre*

**Stéphane Conducts *The Firebird***

**Friday, September 25, 10:30am\***

**Saturday, September 26, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, September 27, 3:00pm**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Beatrice Rana, piano **(SLSO debut)**

**Stacy GARROP**

*Goddess Triptych (WORLD PREMIERE, SLSO commission)*

**PROKOFIEV**

Piano Concerto No. 3

**DUKAS**

*La Péri*

**STRAVINSKY**

*The Firebird Suite*

*Presented by The Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation*

*\*Refreshments courtesy of Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Co. and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts*

**Benedetti Plays Marsalis**

**Friday, October 2, 8:00pm**

**Saturday, October 3, 8:00pm**

James Gaffigan, conductor

Nicola Benedetti, violin **(SLSO debut)**



**DEBUSSY** *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*  
**Wynton MARSALIS** Violin Concerto (**First SLSO performances**)  
**PROKOFIEV** Symphony No. 7

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**Haydn, Adès, and Brahms**  
**Saturday, October 10, 8:00pm**  
**Sunday, October 11, 3:00pm**

John Storgårds, conductor  
Kirill Gerstein, piano

**HAYDN** Symphony No. 64, "Tempora mutantur" (**First SLSO performances**)  
**Thomas ADÈS** Piano Concerto (**First SLSO performances**)  
**BRAHMS** Symphony No. 1

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**Denève Conducts Mahler**  
**Friday, October 16, 8:00pm**  
**Saturday, October 17, 8:00pm**

Stéphane Denève, conductor  
Tamara Mumford, mezzo-soprano  
Women of the St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Amy Kaiser, director  
St. Louis Children's Choirs | Barbara Berner, artistic director

**MAHLER** Symphony No. 3

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**Musical Rebels: Leila and Ludwig**  
**Friday, October 30, 10:30am\***  
**Sunday, November 1, 3:00pm**

Jun Märkl, conductor  
Leila Josefowicz, violin

**MENDELSSOHN** *The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave)*  
**Helen GRIME** Violin Concerto (**U.S. PREMIERE**)



**BEETHOVEN**                      Symphony No. 3, “Eroica”

*Presented by The Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation*

*\*Refreshments courtesy of Kaldi’s Coffee Roasting Co. and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts*

**Jane Glover’s Mozart**

**Friday, November 6, 8:00pm**

**Saturday, November 7, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, November 8, 3:00pm**

Jane Glover, conductor  
Xiaoxiao Qiang, violin  
Shannon Williams, viola

- MOZART**                      Symphony No. 36, K. 425, “Linz”
- MOZART**                      Sinfonia concertante, K. 364
- MOZART**                      Symphony No. 38, K. 504, “Prague”

**FESTIVAL: *History. Her Story. Our Future.***

**Hear Their Stories**

**Friday, November 13, 10:30am\***

**Saturday, November 14, 8:00pm**

Stéphane Denève, conductor  
Gaëlle Arquez, mezzo-soprano (**SLSO debut**)

- John ADAMS**                      “Lola Montez Does the Spider Dance” from *Girls of the Golden West*  
**(First SLSO performances)**
- BERLIOZ**                      *The Death of Cleopatra*
- SAINT-SAËNS**                      Bacchanale from *Samson and Delilah*
- BIZET**                      Selections from *Carmen*
- R. STRAUSS**                      “Dance of the Seven Veils” from *Salome*
- SCHMITT**                      *The Tragedy of Salome Suite*

*\*Refreshments courtesy of Kaldi’s Coffee Roasting Co. and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts*

**FESTIVAL: *History. Her Story. Our Future.***



***Joan of Arc at the Stake***

**Friday, November 20, 8:00pm**

**Saturday, November 21, 3:00pm**

Stéphane Denève, conductor  
St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Amy Kaiser, director  
St. Louis Children’s Choirs | Barbara Berner, artistic director  
James Robinson, stage director

**HONEGGER** *Joan of Arc at the Stake (First SLSO performances)*

**Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini**

**Friday, November 27, 8:00pm**

**Saturday, November 28, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, November 29, 3:00pm**

Elim Chan, conductor (SLSO debut)  
Stephen Hough, piano

**Andrea TARRODI** *Liguria (First SLSO performances)*  
**RACHMANINOFF** *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*  
**TCHAIKOVSKY** *Symphony No. 2, “Little Russian”*

*Presented by The Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation*

**Rapture and Loss**

**Saturday, December 5, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, December 6, 3:00pm**

Cristian Măcelaru, conductor  
Jamie Barton, mezzo-soprano (SLSO debut)  
Elizabeth Chung, cello

**Caroline SHAW** *Entr’acte (First SLSO performances)*  
**ELGAR** *Sea Pictures*  
**Jake HEGGIE** *The Work at Hand (First SLSO performances)*  
**SCHUBERT** *Symphony No. 8, “Unfinished”*





**Made in America**

**Friday, January 15, 10:30am\***

**Saturday, January 16, 8:00pm**

Leonard Slatkin, conductor

Simone Porter, violin (**SLSO debut**)

<b>Joan TOWER</b>	<i>Made in America (First SLSO performances)</i>
<b>BARBER</b>	Violin Concerto
<b>BARTÓK</b>	Concerto for Orchestra

*\*Refreshments courtesy of Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Co. and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts*

**Hélène Grimaud Plays Mozart**

**Saturday, January 23, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, January 24, 3:00pm**

Thomas Søndergård, conductor (**SLSO debut**)

Hélène Grimaud, piano

<b>Bent SØRENSEN</b>	<i>Evening Land (First SLSO performance)</i>
<b>MOZART</b>	Piano Concerto No. 20, K. 466
<b>RACHMANINOFF</b>	Symphony No. 1

**Juliet and Romeo**

**Friday, February 5, 10:30am\***

**Friday, February 5, 8:00pm**

**Saturday, February 6, 8:00pm**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Nicola Benedetti, violin

<b>RAVEL</b>	<i>Mother Goose Suite</i>
<b>SZYMANOWSKI</b>	Violin Concerto No. 2
<b>PROKOFIEV</b>	<i>Romeo and Juliet Suite</i>

*\*Refreshments courtesy of Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Co. and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts*



**Brahms, Canellakis, and Cano**

**Saturday, February 13, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, February 14, 3:00pm**

Karina Canellakis, conductor

Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo-soprano

St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Amy Kaiser, director

<b>BRAHMS</b>	<i>Schicksalslied (Song of Destiny)</i>
<b>BRAHMS</b>	<i>Nänie</i>
<b>BRAHMS</b>	Alto Rhapsody
<b>LUTOSŁAWSKI</b>	Concerto for Orchestra

**Secret Songs**

**Friday, February 26, 10:30am\***

**Friday, February 26, 8:00pm**

**Saturday, February 27, 8:00pm**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Allegra Lilly, harp

<b>Tan DUN</b>	<i>Nu Shu: The Secret Songs of Women (First SLSO performances)</i>
<b>RIMSKY-KORSAKOV</b>	<i>Scheherazade</i>

*\*Refreshments courtesy of Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Co. and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts*

**Sibelius with Stéphane**

**Saturday, March 6, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, March 7, 3:00pm**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Leif Ove Andsnes, piano

<b>James MacMILLAN</b>	<i>The Death of Oscar (First SLSO performances)</i>
<b>GRIEG</b>	Piano Concerto



SIBELIUS

Symphony No. 2

**MacMillan Conducts MacMillan**

**Saturday, March 13, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, March 14, 3:00pm**

James MacMillan, conductor (**SLSO debut**)

Cally Banham, English horn

**RIMSKY-KORSAKOV**

*Russian Easter Overture*

**James MacMILLAN**

*The World's Ransoming* (**First SLSO performances**)

**James MacMILLAN**

*Larghetto for Orchestra* (**First SLSO performances**)

**TCHAIKOVSKY**

*Francesca da Rimini: Symphonic Fantasy After Dante*

**Felix and Fanny**

**Friday, March 19, 10:30am\***

**Saturday, March 20, 8:00pm**

Nicholas McGegan, conductor

Lise de la Salle, piano (**SLSO debut**)

**HAYDN**

Symphony No. 85, "The Queen"

**MOZART**

Piano Concerto No. 9, K. 271, "Jenamy"

**MENDELSSOHN HENSEL**

Overture in C Major (**First SLSO performances**)

**MENDELSSOHN**

Symphony No. 4, "Italian"

*\*Refreshments courtesy of Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Co. and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts*

**Beethoven's Fifth Symphony**

**Friday, March 26, 8:00pm**

**Saturday, March 27, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, March 28, 3:00pm**

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Siobhan Stagg, soprano

St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Amy Kaiser, director



**BEETHOVEN**                      Symphony No. 5  
**POULENC**                        *Stabat Mater* (First SLSO performances)  
**POULENC**                        Final Scene from *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (First SLSO performances)

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**An American Century with Gemma and Manny**

Friday, April 9, 8:00pm  
Saturday, April 10, 8:00pm  
Sunday, April 11, 3:00pm

Gemma New, conductor  
Emanuel Ax, piano

**COPLAND**                        *Appalachian Spring Suite*  
**John ADAMS**                    *Century Rolls*  
**Jessie MONTGOMERY**        New work (First SLSO performances, SLSO co-commission)  
**GERSHWIN (arr. BENNETT)** *Porgy and Bess: A Symphonic Picture*

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**Tchaikovsky with Alice Sara Ott**

Friday, April 23, 10:30am\*  
Saturday, April 24, 8:00pm  
Sunday, April 25, 3:00pm

Hannu Lintu, conductor  
Alice Sara Ott, piano (SLSO debut)

**Sebastian FAGERLUND**        *Drifts* (First SLSO performances)  
**TCHAIKOVSKY**                    Piano Concerto No. 1  
**NIELSEN**                         Symphony No. 5

\*Refreshments courtesy of Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Co. and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts

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**In Unison: Dvořák and Price**

Friday, April 30, 8:00pm  
Saturday, May 1, 8:00pm



St. Louis Symphony  
Orchestra

stéphane denève : music director

: news

Stéphane Denève, conductor  
St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus | Kevin McBeth, director

**DVOŘÁK**                      Symphony No. 8  
**TBD**                              New work (**WORLD PREMIERE, SLSO commission**)  
**Florence PRICE**              Symphony No. 3 (**First SLSO performances**)

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**Turandot**

**Thursday, May 6, 8:00pm**

**Saturday, May 8, 8:00pm**

Stéphane Denève, conductor  
Christine Goerke, soprano (Turandot)  
Jonathan Burton, tenor (Calaf) (**SLSO debut**)  
Janai Brugger, soprano (Liù) (**SLSO debut**)  
David Leigh, bass (Timur) (**SLSO debut**)  
St. Louis Symphony Chorus | Amy Kaiser, director  
St. Louis Children's Choirs | Barbara Berner, artistic director

**PUCCINI**                      *Turandot: Opera in Concert*

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**PROGRAMS, DATES, AND ARTISTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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