



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**
stéphane denève : music director



[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 11, 2020]

Contacts:

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: Eric Dundon ericd@slo.org, (314) 286-4134

National/International: Nikki Scandalios nikki@scandaliospr.com, (704) 340-4094

**STÉPHANE DENÈVE AND THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCE A
REIMAGINED FALL 2020 SEASON, THE ORCHESTRA'S 141ST AND
DENÈVE'S SECOND AS MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**SLSO continues 2020/2021 season commitment to elevating voices, storytelling, and
dialogue with SLSO artists and the community on air and online**

**Previously scheduled live concerts through December 2020 will be replaced with digital
content and smaller-format, limited-capacity live performances and events as local
conditions safely permit; Annual Forest Park concert to be rescheduled to spring 2021**

(August 11, 2020, St. Louis, MO) – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Stéphane Denève announced details of their reimagined fall 2020 season. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, previously planned live concerts through December are being replaced with digital programming and new live offerings, as conditions permit. The annual concert in Forest Park, the SLSO's celebratory season-opening concert, is postponed to spring 2021. The SLSO is implementing a progressive hybrid approach to the fall season, with offerings that reflect Denève's vision for the season. The SLSO will continue to deliver dynamic digital content, including new and archival performances on air and online, as well as virtual events and activities. The SLSO will gradually phase in live concerts and events, as conditions safely permit, and will announce details for these programs as soon as they are confirmed.

Stéphane Denève, Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, said, "One piece we were set to perform this fall was Haydn's Symphony No. 64, 'Tempora Mutantur.' Translated, this means 'The times are changed. We are also changed with them.' Never has that idea been more meaningful and relevant than today. While we face these challenging and uncertain times, music builds bridges, sparks dialogue, provides comfort and peace, and inspires us to take action. It gives a voice to the voiceless. Music transcends space and touches our hearts—we remain united. I look forward to the day when we can be together at magnificent Powell Hall with our fantastic orchestra musicians, talented St. Louis Symphony Chorus and IN UNISON Chorus members, St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra musicians, staff, volunteers, and our unparalleled audiences. Until then, we are committed more than ever to stay connected through every platform available to us."

Marie-Hélène Bernard, President and CEO of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, said, "Reimagining the SLSO offers exciting opportunities to make music accessible to all through creative means. We are committed to sharing powerful musical experiences while carefully managing a safe return to Powell



Hall. In the meantime, the events and activities we are shaping will showcase the extraordinary versatility and nimbleness of our gifted orchestra. We are deeply grateful for the support of our donors and patrons and value the trust our audiences and community invest in us. We promise to take very good care of them.”

The SLSO provides new and expanded ways to remain engaged with music this fall, with programming created around the orchestra’s versatility, sparking dialogue, and celebrating storytelling—Denève’s original vision for the season. The SLSO remains committed to providing a safe environment when in-person events can resume and will communicate all health and safety protocols and procedures as live programming is announced. The SLSO plans to resume the 2020/2021 season as previously announced in January 2021. To stay up to date on the SLSO’s schedule and programming, visit slo.org.

Radio and Television Broadcasts

The SLSO will continue to rebroadcast concerts each Saturday at 8:00pm CDT on 90.7 KWMU St. Louis Public Radio and online (news.stlpublicradio.org/#stream/0). Earlier in 2020, broadcasts were expanded from the 24-concert classical season to a permanent fixture on air, providing year-round access to critically acclaimed SLSO concerts. Rebroadcasts feature commentary from SLSO Creative Partner Tim Munro and St. Louis Public Radio’s Robert Peterson, along with interviews with the world’s leading conductors and artists, giving listeners an inside look into the repertoire performed and the many community programs the SLSO offers. Upcoming rebroadcasts include a 2011 performance of Verdi’s monumental *Messa da Requiem*, Tchaikovsky’s *Violin Concerto* with Karen Gomyo, and Stravinsky’s *Petrushka*. The 20/21 season marks the 11th year of this robust partnership between the SLSO and 90.7 KWMU St. Louis Public Radio.

Additionally, patrons can watch SLSO concerts filmed at Powell Hall on the first Sunday of each month at 5:00pm CDT on Nine PBS in a continuing partnership with the Nine Network of Public Media. These hourlong broadcasts feature the SLSO performing compelling works in the classical canon. Upcoming programs include Music Director Stéphane Denève leading a concert of works by Ravel and Guillaume Connesson, as well as a performance of Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons* with SLSO violinists as the featured soloists.

New Online Programming

Expanding on its digital offerings and responding to the overwhelmingly positive feedback to last month’s [SLSO Songs of America project](#), the SLSO will launch a collection of episodic web series that provide, at no cost, poignant music performances available on demand on the SLSO’s YouTube page, SLSO Stories, and on social media. These series will elevate the diversity of voices in the industry and St. Louis community and serve as the building blocks for the reimagined fall season. Web series include:

- **Songs of America:** Launched the week of July 4, this series explores the incredible variety of voices in American music, recorded at the orchestra’s home in Powell Hall and filmed at notable locations across St. Louis. The first installments of this web series included works by



Sam Cooke, W.C. Handy, Scott Joplin, and George Walker, performed in partnership with St. Louis artists Kennedy Holmes, Adam Maness, Brian Owens, Malena Smith, and The 442s and filmed at locations including the Scott Joplin State Historic Site, Malcolm W. Martin Memorial Park, First Baptist Church-St. Louis, Kiener Plaza, and Soldiers Memorial Military Museum. In its first month, *Songs of America* reached more than 250,000 in St. Louis and across the country.

- The most recent installment—released on August 8—is a performance of “Anchors Aweigh,” the march song of the U.S. Navy, by SLSO musicians in celebration of the commissioning of the USS St. Louis this month.
- **Music of Our Time:** In keeping with Denève’s commitment to extraordinary music by composers of today, *Music of Our Time* elevates the voices of living composers. This series continues the SLSO’s 15+ year partnership with the Pulitzer Arts Foundation in presenting the intersection of art and music through solo and small chamber performances, a virtual continuation of the regular *Live at the Pulitzer* concerts.
- **Songs of the Holidays:** This series celebrates life’s moments that bring joy and unity. *Songs of the Holidays* reworks holiday classics and presents them in new ways.

The SLSO expanded its portfolio of [virtual events](#) for patrons to deepen their understanding of the orchestra and its musicians. Monthly [Lunch and Learns](#) offer in-depth discussions on topics of interest to the community, with recent guests including Music Director Stéphane Denève, SLSO President and CEO Marie-Hélène Bernard, SLSO IN UNISON Chorus Director Kevin McBeth, St. Louis Symphony Chorus Director Amy Kaiser, and the celebrated composer Nathalie Joachim, whom the SLSO has commissioned to compose a new piece featuring the SLSO’s IN UNISON Chorus. Monthly Coffee Talks with Musicians events allow donors and subscribers to interact online with SLSO musicians, while Whitaker Zoom Happy Hours prior to select concert rebroadcasts on St. Louis Public Radio provide a social event for SLSO donors and subscribers.

On-demand Podcast

New this fall, the SLSO introduces **SLSO Soundbites**, an on-demand podcast in partnership with Classic 107.3, The Voice for the Arts in St. Louis. The podcast will feature Music Director Stéphane Denève, SLSO musicians, and composers and artists from around the world in one-on-one conversations about classical music and its connection to today’s world, elevating voices, celebrating the diversity in music, and exploring emerging music of today—bedrocks of Denève’s Music Directorship. Hosted by John Clare, a Symphony Hall on SiriusXM radio personality, the podcast will be available on Spotify, iTunes, [SLSO Stories](#), and Soundcloud.

Digital Magazine

Audiences can learn more about the SLSO and its musicians with stories from backstage, in Powell Hall, and throughout St. Louis at the orchestra’s [digital magazine, SLSO Stories](#). Launched in 2019, this companion site of [slo.org](#) features stories, photos, program notes, and videos about the various aspects of the SLSO—including concerts, community programs, education initiatives, special events,



and more. To date, more than 32,000 people have taken a deeper look at the SLSO through SLSO Stories.

Expanded Offerings for Families, Teachers, and Students

Each year, the SLSO serves tens of thousands of students and teachers throughout the St. Louis region. Given the current alterations to the educational landscape, the SLSO's Education Team created a series of resources to support teachers and help parents keep students engaged in music outside of the traditional classroom. Available for [download at slso.org](https://www.slsso.org) at no cost, resources include activity guides and were created around major ideas in orchestral music, including theme and variations, finding inspiration, and creating musical motifs for characters in literature and film. The orchestra's [Instrument Playground Online](#), presented by PNC Arts Alive, features videos, photos, and activities that introduce audiences to the instruments of the orchestra and the musicians who play them. Videos feature ten SLSO musicians—representing the four instrument families—being interviewed by local students, most of whom are musicians themselves.

Family and Education concerts announced for Fall 2020 will shift to an online format. These concerts include SLSO Sound Lab (Education and Family concerts): A modular, hands-on resource will be available to teachers in mid-October for use in virtual or in-class instruction. Additionally, a shared, live viewing event of SLSO Sound Lab, in which families will be able to virtually interact with content and story characters, will be available in late October. Additional details about these concerts will be announced at a later date.

The [St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra](#), which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, will continue, though full orchestra activity will be suspended for the fall. Foundational to the YO experience is that students have opportunities to learn from the musicians of the SLSO and collaborate with highly accomplished peers. Contingency plans during COVID-19 will allow students to continue mentorship and collaboration benefits through a combination of digital and possible in-person connections.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The SLSO developed concert and building procedures in partnership with a team of infectious disease specialists and epidemiologists affiliated with the Washington University School of Medicine and in coordination with other St. Louis venues, following the latest guidelines from St. Louis City and County. The SLSO is deeply grateful to Dr. Abigail Carlson and her team for their expertise and counsel in evaluating plans and protocols to ensure the safety of musicians, staff, and audience members. The SLSO also surveyed audience members about their expectations and comfort level for attending live events.

Based on the feedback from medical experts and patrons, and out of an abundance of caution, previously announced concerts through December 31—including concerts from spring 2020 rescheduled to fall 2020—will be replaced with digital content, with the season resuming in January 2021.



INFORMATION FOR SUBSCRIBERS

The SLSO is grateful to subscribers for the extraordinary dedication and support demonstrated during these unprecedented times.

For subscribers, the value of fall tickets will remain on account to use before December 31, 2021, either for spring concerts or a future subscription. Subscribers can donate the value of their fall tickets to the SLSO to help support the SLSO's musical mission or request a refund. Please call the Box Office at 314-534-1700 Monday through Friday, 10:00am to 3:00pm, or complete an online request at slo.org/fall2020.

The SLSO 2020-2021 Classical Series is presented by the Steward Family Foundation.

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.

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.

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 141st year with the 2020/2021 season and its second 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. For more information, visit slo.org.

#