



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY CONCERTS FOR 2021/2022 SEASON; SINGLE TICKETS FOR ALL FALL CONCERTS NOW ON SALE

IN UNISON Chorus Director Kevin McBeth leads the SLSO, singer/pianist Oleta Adams, and members of the **IN UNISON** Chorus in the popular Gospel Christmas concert, December 9

Led by Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress, the SLSO performs Disney in Concert: *The Muppet Christmas Carol* while the film plays on Powell Hall's big screen, December 11-12

An annual tradition, the SLSO's Mercy Holiday Celebration presents five concerts at a festive Powell Hall, December 17-19, and, for the first time, at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts at Lindenwood University in St. Charles for two concerts, December 15-16

Music Director Stéphane Denève leads two performances of the SLSO's surprise-filled New Year's Eve concert on December 31, with afternoon and evening performances

Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress leads an afternoon of adventure while the SLSO performs Disney in Concert: *Up* with the film, January 2, 2022

(July 20, 2021, St. Louis, MO) – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra announced its line-up of holiday concerts at Powell Hall and throughout the St. Louis community. Single tickets for all fall 2021 concerts go on sale July 22 to the public, including classical concerts and Live At Powell Hall performances.

Tickets are available for purchase on slo.org or by calling the Box Office at 314-534-1700.

Each year, the SLSO welcomes 40,000 visitors during the month of December to enjoy a variety of musical performances. This year, from Thanksgiving through January 2, Powell Hall will be decked out in its holiday finest, providing a picturesque backdrop for a variety of musical programming.

A beloved tradition for more than 25 years, members of the St. Louis Symphony **IN UNISON** Chorus—a resident SLSO chorus that specializes in the performance and preservation of music of African and African American traditions—join the SLSO for the annual Gospel Christmas concert on December 9. Led by **IN UNISON** Chorus Director Kevin McBeth, and joined by chart-topping gospel and soul songstress Oleta Adams, Gospel Christmas is a soulful celebration of holiday spirit. This year's Gospel Christmas concerts are the third collaboration between Adams and McBeth. She last performed in the 2018 *Lift Every Voice: Celebrating Black History Month* concert with the SLSO and **IN UNISON** Chorus.



The SLSO presents a special program of familiar and contemporary holiday music at the Mercy Holiday Celebration concerts December 15-19, led by conductor Bob Bernhardt. Canadian jazz vocalist Denzal Sinclair joins the SLSO in these concerts, bringing his signature smooth tone to holiday favorites. He last collaborated with the SLSO in 2019 for a concert tribute to Nat King Cole and Natalie Cole. This year, the Mercy Holiday Celebration also hits the road, with the SLSO spreading holiday cheer for two performances at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts at Lindenwood University in St. Charles on December 15-16, before returning home for five performances at Powell Hall December 17-19. Enjoy Powell Hall in its holiday best, complete with Santa Claus, at these concerts led by conductor Bob Bernhardt.

Movie lovers and families are invited to experience the power of film music performed by a live orchestra with two film presentations. On December 11-12, the SLSO brings Miles Goodman's score to life in Disney in Concert: *The Muppet Christmas Carol*. This adaptation of Charles Dickens' famous novel follows Ebenezer Scrooge's transformation on the big screen through Christmases past, present, and future, while the SLSO performs the music live. Then on January 2, 2022, the SLSO performs Michael Giacchino's Grammy®, Golden Globe®, and Academy Award®-winning score to Disney and Pixar's *Up*, the tale of a retired salesman who is whisked away on a journey of a lifetime by thousands of balloons tied to his house. SLSO Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress leads both musical adventures with the SLSO while the films play on Powell Hall's big screen. Childress made her SLSO conducting and performance debuts with the orchestra in spring 2021 concerts at Powell Hall.

Holidays with the SLSO include a treasured tradition: the annual New Year's Eve Celebration concert. For the first time, both a matinee and an evening performance are offered, with Music Director Stéphane Denève ringing in 2022 with these surprise-filled concerts. With repertoire traditionally kept secret for these concerts, Denève will announce musical selections from the stage in his second New Year's Eve Celebration concert. He first led the annual concert to ring in 2020.

Single tickets for these concerts go on sale July 22, along with single tickets for all fall concerts, including ten classical music programs, designed by Denève to celebrate the resilience of the human spirit.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The SLSO will maintain its operating plan that adheres to the highest standards of health and safety for patrons, musicians, and staff. The SLSO will follow CDC guidelines upon reopening: fully vaccinated patrons can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing. For those who are not fully vaccinated, it is recommended that you continue to distance and wear an effective face covering. The SLSO will continue to monitor COVID-19 developments in consultation with the city, local health departments, and medical consultants. The SLSO continues to collaborate with a team of medical experts on safety protocols and is committed to providing patrons with a safe and welcoming environment to experience the power of music. Learn more about the SLSO's health and safety



protocols for concerts [here](#).

ADDITIONAL CONCERTS AND SPRING 2022 PROGRAMMING

Details about Spring 2022 concerts, the popular *St. Louis Symphony: Live at the Pulitzer* concerts, choral performances, additional performances of films with orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra concerts, and Family and Education concerts will be announced in September.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra will perform the following concerts in Fall 2021. Unless otherwise noted, all concerts will take place at Powell Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103.

Live at Powell Hall | A Gospel Christmas

Thursday, December 9, 2021, at 7:30pm CST

Kevin McBeth, conductor

Oleta Adams, vocals

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra IN UNISON Chorus | Kevin McBeth, director

Ring in the holiday season with gospel renditions of holiday favorites. Returning to Powell Hall, guest artist Oleta Adams joins the SLSO and IN UNISON Chorus, directed by Kevin McBeth, to share in this soulful celebration.

Repertoire will be announced at a later date. IN UNISON is supported by Bayer Fund.

Live at Powell Hall | Disney in Concert: *The Muppet Christmas Carol*

Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 2:00pm CST

Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 7:00pm CST

Sunday, December 12, 2021, at 2:00pm CST

Stephanie Childress, conductor

Miles GOODMAN

The Muppet Christmas Carol

Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, and all the beloved Muppets star in their adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale. Follow Ebenezer Scrooge's transformation on the big screen through Christmases past, present, and future, while the SLSO performs the music live.

Live at Powell Hall | Mercy Holiday Celebration



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Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 7:30pm CST

Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 7:30pm CST

J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts, Lindenwood University, 2300 W. Clay St., St. Charles, MO 63301

Friday, December 17, 2021, at 2:00pm CST

Friday, December 17, 2021, at 7:30pm CST

Saturday, December 18, 2021, at 2:00pm CST

Saturday, December 18, 2021, at 7:30pm CST

Sunday, December 19, 2021, at 2:00pm CST

Powell Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

Denzal Sinclair, vocals

Check laughter and cheer off your holiday list at the SLSO's Holiday Celebration. Sing along to your favorite holiday classics performed by the orchestra and Denzal Sinclair and, enjoy a special visit from Santa Claus himself.

Repertoire will be announced at a later date. These concerts are presented by Mercy.

Live at Powell Hall | New Year's Eve Celebration

Friday, December 31, 2021, at 2:00pm CST

Friday, December 31, 2021, at 7:30pm CST

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Music Director Stéphane Denève and the SLSO ring in 2022 at the New Year's Eve Celebration. Enjoy musical favorites and great surprises at one of St. Louis' best-kept secrets.

Repertoire announced from the stage.

Live at Powell Hall | Disney in Concert: Up

Sunday, January 2, 2022, at 2:00pm CST

Stephanie Childress, conductor

Michael GIACCHINO *Up*



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Retired balloon salesman Carl prepares to fly away with thousands of balloons to a world of his childhood dreams, and is joined by an eager 8-year-old Russell in Disney and Pixar's *Up*. Enjoy the film live with the SLSO performing the score of the Disney Pixar favorite.

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 142nd year with the 2021/2022 season and its third 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; and the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus, an ensemble founded in 1994 and focused on the music of African American and African cultures. The SLSO family also includes the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, founded by Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin in 1970.

The dynamic partnership with Stéphane Denève is seen through his visionary storytelling, which is at the heart of the SLSO's artistic profile and has resulted in stronger connections with artists, as well as the elevation of the SLSO's role as music education leader. 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. In 2021, the SLSO marks the 100th anniversary of its education concerts. It presents *St. Louis Symphony: Live at the Pulitzer*, a collaboration with the Pulitzer Arts Foundation centered on music of today. The SLSO also serves as the resident orchestra for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis.

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. The SLSO is also growing its digital presence that helps make music accessible to all.

This expanding content portfolio includes digital concerts filmed at Powell Hall on the SLSO's new high-definition camera equipment, videos series such as *Songs of America*, virtual Lunch & Learn events, and a robust online education program platform that features curriculum materials, Instrument Playground Online, and SLSO SoundLab—a four-part video series for teachers, students, and families to create music and engage in the science of sound.

Since the arrival of Marie-Hélène Bernard as President and CEO in 2015, the SLSO has realigned its mission to making music more accessible, while fostering a culture of radical welcome and belonging for all. Building on current momentum, the SLSO serves as a convener of individuals, creators, and



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ideas, and is committed to build community through compelling and inclusive musical experiences. Having sharpened its longstanding focus on equity, diversity, inclusion, and access, the SLSO embraces its strengths as a responsive, nimble organization while invigorating partnerships locally and elevating its presence globally. For more information, visit slo.org.

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