



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[November 10, 2021]

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**THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WELCOMES AUDIENCES TO CELEBRATE THE
HOLIDAY SEASON WITH THE GIFT OF LIVE MUSIC AT 17 CONCERTS, DECEMBER 3, 2021
THROUGH JANUARY 2, 2022**

On December 3-5, guest conductor Nicholas McGegan leads the SLSO in Baroque music by J.S. Bach and C.P.E. Bach, featuring SLSO musicians as soloists: cellist Yin Xiong, Principal Violist Beth Guterman Chu, and violist Andrew François

A Gospel Christmas returns December 9 with guest artist Oleta Adams joining the SLSO, members of the IN UNISON Chorus, and conductor Kevin McBeth

On December 11-12, the SLSO presents *The Muppet Christmas Carol in Concert*, with the orchestra performing the score while the film plays, led by Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress

The SLSO offers seven Mercy Holiday Celebration concerts: two for the first time at Lindenwood University in St. Charles (December 15-16) and five at Powell Hall (December 17-19), led by Bob Bernhardt featuring singer Denzal Sinclair

Music Director Stéphane Denève leads two New Year's Eve Celebration concerts, a fun-filled tradition that this year includes performances of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with pianist Michelle Cann in her SLSO debut and *An American in Paris*, plus the world premiere of Stefan Freund's *Voyageur Fantasy* featuring Principal Horn Roger Kaza

On January 2, 2022, Childress leads the SLSO in a single performance of Disney and Pixar's *Up* while the film plays on Powell Hall's big screen

(November 10, 2021, St. Louis, MO) – The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Stéphane Denève invite audiences to celebrate the holiday season with the orchestra in six different programs December 3-January 2. Concerts take place at Powell Hall in Grand Center and, new this year, at Lindenwood University in St. Charles.

Tickets for these concerts are on sale now and can be purchased at slo.org/tickets or by calling the SLSO Box Office at 314-534-1700.

Concerts include:



- **December 3-5:** Conductor Nicholas McGegan, a longtime SLSO collaborator, returns to lead a program of Baroque music by J.S. Bach and C.P.E. Bach featuring three SLSO musicians as soloists.
- **December 9:** An SLSO tradition, A Gospel Christmas returns with IN UNISON Chorus Director Kevin McBeth leading the SLSO, members of the IN UNISON Chorus, and guest artist Oleta Adams in this soulful celebration.
- **December 11-12 (three concerts):** The SLSO performs the Miles Goodman score to *The Muppet Christmas Carol* while the film plays on Powell Hall's big screen, led by Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress.
- **December 15-16:** The SLSO takes its Mercy Holiday Celebration on the road, spreading cheer at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri.
- **December 17-19 (five concerts):** Bob Bernhardt leads the annual Mercy Holiday Celebration, as the orchestra and vocalist Denzal Sinclair fill Powell Hall with the sounds of the holiday season.
- **December 31 (two concerts):** Music Director Stéphane Denève leads the New Year's Eve Celebration, which includes performances of George Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and *Rhapsody in Blue* with pianist Michelle Cann in her SLSO debut, the world premiere of Stefan Freund's *Voyageur Fantasy*—a horn concerto featuring Principal Horn Roger Kaza, plus other surprises. A matinee and evening concert are offered this year.
- **January 2:** Childress returns to lead another touching film score, Michael Giacchino's music to Disney and Pixar's *Up*.

Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test is required for all audience members 12 and older at every Powell Hall event. Beginning December 1, children younger than 12 do not need proof of a negative test to attend. All patrons are required to wear masks while inside Powell Hall. Visit slo.org/protocols for more information.

The SLSO's 142nd season runs through June 2022. For more information, visit slo.org.

Calendar listings:

Longtime SLSO collaborator, conductor Nicholas McGegan returns for a festive family reunion in concerts December 3-5 at Powell Hall. He leads the SLSO in Baroque music from the Bach family, including two of J.S. Bach's sparkling Brandenburg Concertos. SLSO musicians take the spotlight on this program, with cellist Yin Xiong performing C.P.E. Bach's Cello Concerto in A major, while the viola team of Beth Guterman Chu and Andrew François are featured in J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 6.

Nic McGegan's Bach

Friday, December 3, 2021, at 7:30pm CT

Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 8:00pm CT

Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 3:00pm CT



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Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Yin Xiong, cello
Beth Guterman Chu, viola
Andrew François, viola

C.P.E. BACH	Sinfonia in C major
C.P.E. BACH	Cello Concerto in A major (First SLSO performances)
C.P.E. BACH	Sinfonia in E minor (First SLSO performances)
J.S. BACH	Brandenburg Concerto No. 6
J.S. BACH	Brandenburg Concerto No. 1

These concerts are presented by the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

Audiences can attend the free Pre-Concert Conversation at 6:30pm Friday, 7:00pm Saturday, and 2:00pm Sunday in the auditorium. This week, the conversation is led by pianist Peter Henderson. Tune in to 90.7 KWMU St. Louis Public Radio or Classic 107.3 on Saturday, December 4, at 8:00pm for a live broadcast of the performance. Listen on air (90.7 FM KWMU or 107.3 FM) or online (news.stlpublicradio.org or classic1073.org).

Ring in the holiday season with gospel renditions of holiday favorites on December 9. The SLSO and IN UNISON Chorus, directed by Kevin McBeth, share this soulful celebration, joined by acclaimed singer and pianist Oleta Adams.

Gospel Christmas with Oleta Adams

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

Kevin McBeth, conductor
Oleta Adams, vocals
Members of the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus | Kevin McBeth, director

IN UNISON is supported by Bayer Fund.

Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, and all the beloved Muppets star in an adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale, *The Christmas Carol*. Follow Ebenezer Scrooge's transformation on the big screen through Christmases past, present, and future, while the SLSO performs the score by Miles Goodman live in three concerts, December 11-12.



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

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

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

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

Stephanie Childress, conductor

Miles GOODMAN

The Muppet Christmas Carol in Concert

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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 jazz singer Denzal Sinclair. This treasured tradition will put you in the holiday spirit and show you why thousands of St. Louisans make this concert an annual tradition. Concerts take place in St. Charles (December 15-16) and at Powell Hall (December 17-19).

Mercy Holiday Celebration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

Denzal Sinclair, vocals

These concerts are presented by Mercy. Media support provided by KEZK.

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' most beloved traditions, including the world premiere of a new horn concerto by Stefan Freund, performed by Principal Horn Roger Kaza. Pianist



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Michelle Cann makes her SLSO debut, performing George Gershwin's jazzy *Rhapsody in Blue*. This year, matinee and evening concerts are offered.

New Year's Eve Celebration

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

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

Stéphane Denève, conductor

Michelle Cann, piano (**SLSO debut**)

Roger Kaza, horn

George GERSHWIN

An American in Paris

George GERSHWIN

Rhapsody in Blue

Stefan FREUND

Voyageur Fantasy (World Premiere)

Additional repertoire announced from the stage.

Retired balloon salesman Carl prepares to fly away with thousands of balloons to a world of his childhood dreams in Disney and Pixar's *Up*. Enjoy the film live with the SLSO performing the adventurous and heart-warming score by Michael Giacchino. SLSO Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress leads this concert, perfect for the young and young at heart.

Live at Powell Hall | Disney and Pixar's *Up* in Concert

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

Stephanie Childress, conductor

Michael GIACCHINO

Up in Concert

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About the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

Celebrated as a leading American orchestra, 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](#). The SLSO maintains its commitment to artistic excellence, educational impact, and community collaborations, honoring its mission of enriching lives through the power of music.

The SLSO serves as a convener of individuals, creators, and ideas, and is committed to building community through compelling and inclusive musical experiences. As it continues its longstanding



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focus on equity, diversity, inclusion, and access, the SLSO embraces its strengths as a responsive, nimble organization, while investing in partnerships locally and elevating its presence globally. For more information, visit slo.org.

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