



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA INVITES COMMUNITY TO FREE CONCERT HONORING JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

On June 19, SLSO musicians, vocalists from the SLSO IN UNISON Chorus, and IN UNISON Scholars share music of celebration and remembrance at Greater Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist, a founding IN UNISON partner church

(May 26, 2022, St. Louis, MO) – Today, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra announced details of its free community concert in honor of Juneteenth on Sunday, June 19, 2022, from 2:00-3:00pm CDT. The concert, the SLSO's second annual commemoration of the Juneteenth Holiday, is held in collaboration with long-time IN UNISON partner Greater Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church at 1617 Euclid Ave., St. Louis, Rev. Earl Nance, Jr., pastor.

No tickets or RSVPs are required for this community celebration.

SLSO musicians and vocalists from the SLSO's IN UNISON Chorus and IN UNISON Scholars program will perform works by Black artists including Margaret Bonds, Florence Price, and more, as well as spirituals and hymns from Black American musical expression. Throughout the collaborative program, Rev. Nance and leadership from Greater Mount Carmel will teach about the importance of Juneteenth, a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans.

The SLSO's IN UNISON Program began in 1992 as a partnership between the institution and predominantly Black churches in the St. Louis area. In the 30 years since its founding, IN UNISON has grown to become the SLSO's flagship community outreach program, including:

- Partnerships with 30+ churches throughout the region.
- The acclaimed IN UNISON Chorus, a resident chorus that specializes in the performance and preservation of music from African American and African expression. The chorus performs with the SLSO several times each season.
- The IN UNISON Academy, a series of academic support programs that include mentorships, scholarships, fellowships, and Young Artist opportunities with the IN UNISON Chorus.

The SLSO's inaugural Juneteenth concert in 2021 was held at Washington Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, another IN UNISON partner church.

#### **Calendar listing:**

Members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and vocalists from the SLSO IN UNISON Chorus honor Juneteenth in a free community concert at Greater Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, 1617 N.





Euclid Ave., St. Louis. The concert includes music by Florence Price, traditional spirituals, and more, interwoven with teachings about the importance of the federal holiday. No tickets are required.

## Sunday, June 19, 2022, 2:00pm Greater Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, 1617 N. Euclid Ave., St. Louis, MO 63113

Members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra
Vocalists from the SLSO IN UNISON Chorus | Kevin McBeth, director

Repertoire includes traditional spirituals, art songs of Florence Price, and more announced from the stage.

IN UNISON is supported by Bayer Fund.

### **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 <a href="Music Director Stéphane Denève">Music Director Stéphane Denève</a>. 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 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 <a href="slso.org">slso.org</a>.

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