



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[November 10, 2022]

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**THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH LIVE
MUSIC AT 21 CONCERTS, DECEMBER 2-31, 2022**

On December 2-4, the holiday season begins with guest conductor Laurence Cummings and a cast of four vocalists making their SLSO debuts in G.F. Handel's *Messiah* alongside the St. Louis Symphony Chorus

Award-winning jazz vocalist Samara Joy and The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra come to St. Louis for their *Big Band Holidays* tour on December 5

On December 9-11, guest conductor Jane Glover leads the SLSO in a program W.A. Mozart's music, featuring Concertmaster David Halen on the Fourth Violin Concerto

A Gospel Christmas, an annual tradition, returns December 15 with the IN UNISON Chorus, led by Director Kevin McBeth with Grammy-nominated vocalist Sheléa

The SLSO offers seven Mercy Holiday Celebration concerts: five at Powell Hall (December 16-18) and, for the second year, two at Lindenwood University in St. Charles (December 20-21), led by conductor and trumpeter Byron Stripling

The SLSO presents *Home Alone* in Concert on December 22-23, with the orchestra performing John Williams' score while the film plays on the big screen, led by Norman Huynh

On December 29-30, John Debney leads the SLSO in the live score he composed to holiday favorite, *Elf*, while the movie plays on Powell Hall's big screen

Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress leads two New Year's Eve Celebration concerts on December 31 to wrap up 2022 and ring in the new year, a joyful SLSO tradition

(November 10, 2022, St. Louis, MO) – The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Stéphane Denève invite audiences to celebrate the holiday season with the orchestra in eight different programs December 2-31. Concerts take place at Powell Hall in Grand Center and, for the second year, at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts at Lindenwood University in St. Charles.

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



Concerts include:

- **Friday-Sunday, December 2-4:** Guest conductor Laurence Cummings leads the SLSO and St. Louis Symphony Chorus in a holiday favorite, G.F. Handel's *Messiah*, with vocalists Amanda Forsythe (soprano), Key'mon Murrah (countertenor), John Matthew Myers (tenor), and Jonathon Adams (baritone) making their SLSO debuts.
- **Monday, December 5:** The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra comes to Powell Hall on its *Big Band Holidays* tour featuring rising star vocalist Samara Joy.
- **Friday-Sunday, December 9-11:** Guest conductor and Mozart specialist Jane Glover returns to lead the SLSO in three performances of Mozart's music—his Symphonies No. 36 and 38, plus the Fourth Violin Concerto featuring SLSO Concertmaster David Halen.
- **Thursday, December 15:** IN UNISON Chorus Director Kevin McBeth leads the SLSO and the IN UNISON Chorus in A Gospel Christmas, a soulful SLSO holiday tradition, this year featuring Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter, and pianist Sheléa.
- **Friday-Sunday, December 16-18 (five concerts):** The SLSO's annual Mercy Holiday Celebration, led by conductor and trumpeter Byron Stripling, fills Powell Hall with sounds of the season, including a special visit from Santa Claus.
- **Tuesday-Wednesday, December 20-21:** The SLSO takes its Mercy Holiday Celebration on the road for the second year in a row, spreading cheer at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts at Lindenwood University in St. Charles.
- **Thursday-Friday, December 22-23:** The SLSO performs John Williams' score to holiday favorite *Home Alone* while the film plays on Powell Hall's big screen, led by Norman Huynh.
- **Thursday-Friday, December 29-30:** John Debney comes to Powell Hall to lead performances of his own score to the Will Farrell comedy *Elf*.
- **Saturday, December 31 (two concerts):** Assistant Conductor Stephanie Childress leads the New Year's Eve Celebration, an annual tradition including musical favorites and surprise performances.

The SLSO's 143rd season runs through June 2023. For more information, visit slo.org.

Calendar listings:

Handel's Messiah

Laurence Cummings—internationally acclaimed conductor and current Music Director of the Academy of Ancient Music—makes his SLSO debut conducting three performances of G.F. Handel's *Messiah*, a fixture of the holiday season and a high point of the SLSO season for the St. Louis Symphony Chorus. Cummings said of the Baroque oratorio, "the chorus propels the work forward with great emotional impact and uplifting messages" (*Smithsonian Magazine*). Tickets start at \$15. SLSO.org.

Friday, December 2, 2022, at 7:30pm CST

Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 8:00pm CST

Sunday, December 4, 2022, at 3:00pm CST



Laurence Cummings, conductor **(SLSO debut)**
Amanda Forsythe, soprano **(SLSO debut)**
Key'mon Murreah, countertenor **(SLSO debut)**
John Matthew Myers, tenor **(SLSO debut)**
Jonathon Adams, baritone **(SLSO debut)**
St. Louis Symphony Chorus

George Frideric HANDEL *Messiah*

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

Big Band Holidays: Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

Welcome The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and rising star vocalist Samara Joy as they make their way to Powell Hall during the annual *Big Band Holidays* tour. Samara Joy, 22-year-old jazz singing sensation, has been named an Ella Fitzgerald Scholar and won the 2019 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition. Experience the magic of Christmas while listening to Joy's rich and velvety vocals. Tickets at SLSO.org.

Monday, December 5, 2022, at 7:30pm CST

*Repertoire announced from the stage.
This performance does not feature the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.*

All Mozart

Jane Glover—named Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire by the Queen in 2021—will return to the Powell Hall stage to lead an all-Mozart program. Glover is often referred to as "... one of the finest Mozartians of our day" (*Chicago Classical Review*) as she has conducted every Mozart opera. She'll showcase Mozart's interpretations of two of Europe's classical music hamlets—Linz and Prague—in his Symphony Nos. 36 and 38. SLSO Concertmaster David Halen will join Glover on stage to perform Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4. Tickets start at \$15. SLSO.org.

Friday, December 9, 2022, at 10:30am CST*
Saturday, December 10, 2022, at 8:00pm CST
Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 3:00pm CST

Jane Glover, conductor
David Halen, violin

W.A. MOZART Symphony No. 36, "Linz"
W.A. MOZART Violin Concerto No. 4
W.A. MOZART Symphony No. 38, "Prague"



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

**Refreshments courtesy of Kaldi's Coffee. Shuttle service available from Plaza Frontenac.*

A Gospel Christmas with Sheléa

Ring in the holiday season with gospel renditions of holiday favorites on December 15. IN UNISON Music Director Kevin McBeth will lead the SLSO and IN UNISON Chorus, featuring guest vocalist Sheléa. The Grammy nominated singer, songwriter, and keyboardist who has worked with Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder, and David Foster brings joy and soul into this annual celebration. Tickets at SLSO.org.

Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 7:30pm CST

Kevin McBeth, conductor

Sheléa, vocals

St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus

Repertoire announced at a later date.

IN UNISON is supported by Bayer Fund.

Mercy Holiday Celebration

Get in the holiday spirit at the SLSO's annual Holiday Celebration. Byron Stripling—conductor, vocalist, and trumpeter—will lead the SLSO in a program filled with all your favorite holiday classics. Bring the entire family to experience to splendor of Powell Hall decked out for the holidays, including a special visit from Santa Claus. Concerts take place at Powell Hall (five performances, December 16-18) and at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts at Lindenwood University in St. Charles (December 20-21). Tickets at SLSO.org.

Friday, December 16, 2022, at 2:00pm CST

Friday, December 16, 2022, at 7:30pm CST

Saturday, December 17, 2022, at 2:00pm CST

Saturday, December 17, 2022, at 7:30pm CST

Sunday, December 18, 2022, at 2:00pm CST

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

Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 7:30pm CST

Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 7:30pm CST

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

Byron Stripling | conductor, trumpet & vocals

Repertoire announced at a later date.

These concerts are presented by Mercy.



Home Alone in Concert

The McCallisters set off on a family vacation to celebrate Christmas in Paris, but once they touch down in France, they realize they left something—or someone—at home. Eight-year-old Kevin McCallister is left behind and spends his holiday defending his home from an unusual pair of burglars. Root for Kevin in this hilarious and heartwarming classic as the SLSO performs John Williams' score live to the film, led by Norman Huynh. Tickets at SLSO.org.

Thursday, December 22, 2022, at 7:00pm CST

Friday, December 23, 2022, at 7:00pm CST

Norman Huynh, conductor

John WILLIAMS

Home Alone in Concert

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Elf in Concert

The best way to spread love and cheer is coming to see *Elf* in Concert on December 29-30. Cheer on Buddy the Elf as he makes his way from the North Pole to New York on his quest to find his real father and the true meaning of Christmas. The SLSO welcomes composer John Debney as he conducts the live performance of his adventurous and amusing score. Tickets at SLSO.org.

Thursday, December 29, 2022, at 7:00pm CST

Friday, December 30, 2022, at 7:00pm CST

John Debney, conductor

John DEBNEY

Elf in Concert

New Year's Eve Celebration

End the new year on a high note at Powell Hall with the SLSO and Stephanie Childress—Assistant Conductor and Music Director of the Youth Orchestra—to ring in 2023 at the New Year's Eve Celebration. Enjoy a program filled with great surprises and musical favorites at one of St. Louis' most beloved traditions. Tickets at SLSO.org.

Saturday, December 31, 2022, at 2:00pm CST

Saturday, December 31, 2022, at 7:30pm CST

Stephanie Childress, conductor

Additional artists and repertoire announced at a later date.



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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 143rd year with the 2022/2023 season and its fourth 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 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.

About the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus

The St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus is an auditioned ensemble of 100+ volunteer singers that performs a variety of musical styles, with a focus on the interpretation, performance, and preservation of Black American musical expression.

Founded in 1994 by Dr. Robert Ray as an extension of the SLSO's IN UNISON community outreach initiative, the IN UNISON Chorus performs several times each year with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and throughout the community. Chorus members often come from IN UNISON Program partner churches. Many chorus members sing in other vocal ensembles or church choirs. All share a love of music and of singing.

Bayer Fund has supported the Chorus since its inception. The Chorus has been led by Kevin McBeth since 2011. Learn more about the IN UNISON Chorus at slo.org.

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