

STL SYMPHONY

DAVID ROBERTSON | MUSIC DIRECTOR



2017
2018

138TH SEASON

SUPPORTING YOUR ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

slo.org

OVERVIEW

The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra (SLSO) is the Musical Spirit of St. Louis, the second oldest orchestra in the country, and one of the largest cultural institutions in our region. The SLSO is a vibrant force for music, offering our audience members an unparalleled variety of both classical music and popular repertoire throughout the season. Our world-class musicians regularly collaborate with internationally renowned artists, delivering powerful live performances to audiences at our home in the Grand Center Arts District and across the region. We also participate in extensive education and community programs to make music accessible to all.

CONCERT SERIES

At the heart of our Musical Spirit is our unique concert series – more than 100 concerts that welcome 200,000+ patrons to Powell Hall each year – from long-time subscribers to first-time concertgoers, preschool students to seniors from throughout the St. Louis region and beyond.

ORCHESTRAL SERIES

More than 50 performances of classical repertoire, featuring renowned and emerging guest artists and conductors alongside the world-class musicians of the SLSO. The 2017/2018 Classical Season is sponsored by World Wide Technology, the Steward Family Foundation, and the Centene Charitable Foundation.

LIVE AT POWELL HALL

Popular artists, light classical favorites, rock tributes, and more – including movies on the big screen with live score performed by the SLSO.

FAMILY SERIES

Four interactive concert experiences designed to engage and capture the imagination of younger listeners ages 5-12.

HOLIDAY

A wide array of seasonal performances drawing more than 10,000 St. Louisans to Powell Hall each December.

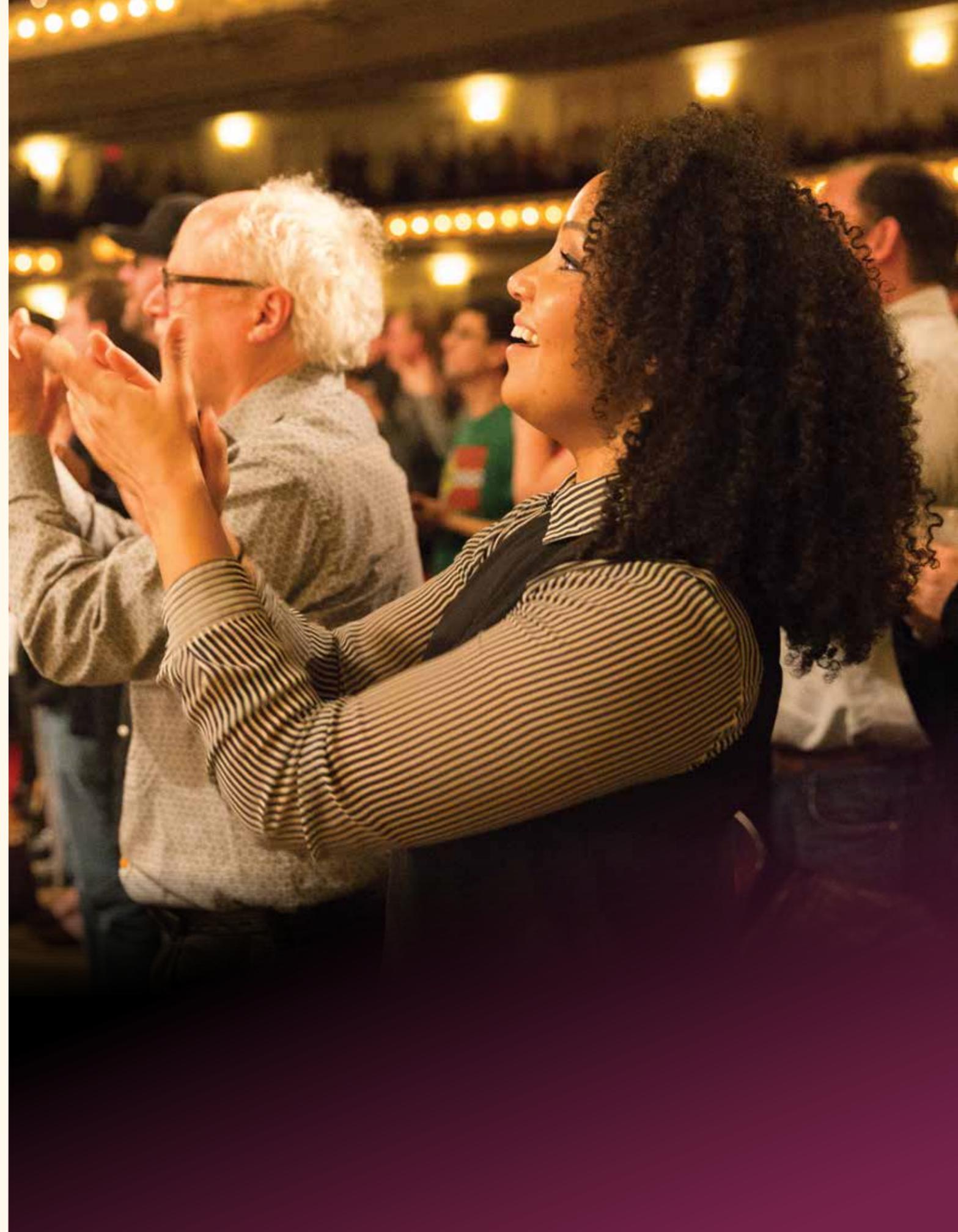
COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Our education programs connect students from grades K-12 with the power of music – at Powell Hall and in schools throughout the region. We welcome 25,000 students to our popular Education Concerts each season. Our musicians visit schools to mentor students in band and orchestra. We also support teachers with training and curricula.

A highlight of our education program is our St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. Founded in 1970 by Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin, the SLSYO is composed of 100 young musicians from throughout the region, who perform three annual concerts at Powell Hall.

Through our community programs, we connect with more than 43,000 people throughout our region –bringing great music to the places people live, learn, play, reflect, and heal.

A flagship program of the SLSO is our IN UNISON Chorus, which features more than 100 singers who perform a variety of musical styles with a focus on the music of African-American and African cultures. All three annual concerts featuring the IN UNISON Chorus attract capacity or near-capacity audiences.



SEASONS TO CELEBRATE

As we celebrate 50 years at Powell Hall this year, we continue the legacy of the SLSO and the mission established at our founding in 1880: **enriching lives through the power of music**. The orchestra's next three seasons each include major milestones for the organization – from honoring the legacy of our Music Directors to celebrating important anniversaries for our orchestra, Youth Orchestra, and IN UNISON Chorus.

2017/2018 SEASON

50 Years at Powell Hall

Celebrating David Robertson's 13 years with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

2018/2019 SEASON

From Our Family to Yours

Honoring Leonard Slatkin's 75th birthday and his 50th anniversary with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the IN UNISON Chorus.

2019/2020 SEASON

Celebrating 140 Years of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

Welcoming our new Music Director, Stéphane Denève.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Youth Orchestra.

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

SLSO leadership is focused on maintaining the excellence of the orchestra for years to come. Several recent accomplishments ensure continuity and stability through 2022. We negotiated and finalized a five-year contract with the musicians' union, secured new Music Director Stéphane Denève, and developed a five-year strategic plan for the organization focused on three key priorities:

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

We focus on sustaining and enhancing the excellence of our music and the concert experience. We also design and present musical experiences that inspire meaningful connections among performers and audiences.

AUDIENCE AND COMMUNITY

We are dedicated to growing and cultivating a vibrant and diverse audience for classical music – from pre-school children through seniors – at our home in Grand Center and in the community.

INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE AND CAPACITY

To ensure we remain a leading cultural and educational resource, we are strengthening our governance structure, fostering a culture aligned with our core values, and investing in our human, technological, financial, and capital resources.



SUPPORTING YOUR SYMPHONY

Significant community support is essential to maintaining our world-class orchestra. Unlike our peer cultural institutions, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra does not receive tax-based funding through the Zoo-Museum District. Therefore, your support of our Annual Fund is crucial to the SLSO achieving a diversified and sustainable financial structure that balances our three key revenue sources—earned income through ticket sales, contributed income from philanthropic gifts, and investment income drawn from our endowment.

While one-third of our annual budget comes from ticket revenue, the remaining two-thirds—or \$20 million annually—comes from our endowment and contributions to our Annual Fund. This philanthropy supports approximately 90 musicians on the stage, as well as our extensive community and education initiatives—such as special programs that engage teachers and students, welcome St. Louis' immigrant communities, connect with patients and caregivers at area hospitals, and entertain residents throughout our region.

Since 2013, we've raised more than \$65 million for our endowment. The Taylor Family Challenge energized the community and encouraged contributions. That support increased our endowment to more than \$212 million – up from \$148 million just five years ago.

We have accomplished much and are now focused on the future of this world-class orchestra, our home in the Grand Center Arts District, and how we can continue to serve and inspire the diversity of our region through the power of music.



The 2017/2018 Season includes an array of highlights:

- Season opening celebration of Mozart with internationally renowned pianist Emanuel Ax: six piano concertos, three overtures, and three symphonies – all in the first two weeks of the season.
- Season finale with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra joining David Robertson and the SLSO performing Marsalis' *Swing Symphony*.
- Renowned artists including pianists Garrick Ohlsson, Orli Shaham, and Marc-André Hamelin performing Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky and more.
- Emerging artists, from Christina and Michelle Naughton, Rémi Geniet, and Narek Hakhnazaryan, to members of our own Youth Orchestra.
- Audience favorites Beethoven 5, *Bolero*, Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, and *Carmina Burana*.
- Seasonal traditions including the Mercy Holiday Celebration and BMO Private Bank New Year's Eve Celebration.
- Live at Powell Hall offerings that feature a host of fan favorites and acclaimed performers: an evening with Tony Award-winning performer Leslie Odom, Jr.; films on the big screen including *Jurassic Park* and *The Music Man*; more movie music with The Music of John Williams and DreamWorks Animation in Concert; and tributes to the music of George Michael and Elton John.





THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

On behalf of our musicians, board, staff, and volunteers, we are so grateful for the generous support of our patrons, guests, and donors. With your continued support, we look forward to enriching lives through the power of music for our next 140 seasons and beyond.