

## Introducing the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

An **ORCHESTRA** is a group of musicians working together to create a beautiful sound.



The SLSO, founded in 1880 by Joseph Otten, is the second-oldest professional symphony orchestra in the United States. The SLSO frequently tours around the world and is featured on a number of recordings. The orchestra has won seven Grammy awards!

A **MUSICIAN** is someone who plays an instrument or sings.



The SLSO is comprised of 93 professional musicians from approximately eleven different countries! For the musicians of the SLSO, this is their full-time job. The SLSO also has two choirs, the St. Louis Symphony Chorus and the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus. For younger musicians there is the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra.

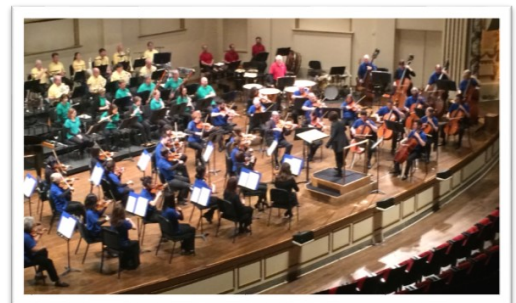
A **CONDUCTOR** is the person who conducts (or leads) the orchestra performance.



The conductor is the only person on stage that doesn't make a sound during the performance! He or she communicates non-verbally to the musicians, unifying their sound to create one beautiful piece of music. The SLSO has many conductors throughout a season, however, there is always a Music Director or lead conductor. In the SLSO's 135+ year history there have been 13 full-time Music Directors.

There are **FOUR FAMILIES OF INSTRUMENTS** in the orchestra.

At a SLSO concert you will hear instruments from the String Family (blue), Woodwind Family (green), Brass Family (yellow) and Percussion Family (red). At our Education and Family Concerts, each musician will wear a colored shirt representative of their instrument family. All four instrument families must work together to create a beautiful orchestra sound!



**Each season the SLSO performs for more than 190,000 people.  
We look forward to performing for you next!**