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Richard Goode to become SPCO's newest Artistic Partner

The Grammy award-winning pianist's tenure will begin in the 2025.26 season

SAINT PAUL, MN, OCTOBER 22, 2024 — The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today that Grammy award-winning American pianist Richard Goode has been named the orchestra's newest Artistic Partner.

Acknowledged worldwide as one of today's leading interpreters of classical music, Goode returned to the SPCO in May 2024 for nearly sold-out performances of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Piano Concertos Nos. 18 and 23, marking his first time leading the orchestra from the piano. Of the concerts, *The Minnesota Star Tribune* wrote, "While soloing on two Mozart piano concertos, the Bronx-born 80-year-old took listeners on the kind of probing exploration of a composer's inner world that few interpreters accomplish."

Goode's concerts with the orchestra as Artistic Partner will take place during the 2025.26 season.

"We've had the pleasure of working with Richard in the past, and getting to make music with him again now is an absolute privilege," said Principal Oboe Cassie Pilgrim, who currently serves on the Artistic Vision Committee. "His approach to Mozart feels so organic and fresh, like we're experiencing it for the first time. We can't wait to see what we will create with him in the future!"

"It will be such a great pleasure to work again with the SPCO," said Goode. "As well as being splendid players, they are truly uncanny listeners, who respond so sensitively to every nuance that I feel we are breathing together."

"We are so excited that Richard Goode will join the SPCO's extraordinary roster of Artistic Partners," said Managing Director and President Jon Limbacher. "He is simply one of the greatest pianists of his time. We are so pleased that our audience will be able to experience more of his amazing artistry."

PRESS COVERAGE OF RICHARD GOODE

"While soloing on two Mozart piano concertos, the Bronx-born 80-year-old took listeners on the kind of probing exploration of a composer's inner world that few interpreters accomplish. But even calling him a soloist sounds inaccurate, for Goode is above all a collaborator, merely the leader of an expedition that values the contributions of each fellow traveler. That made for a concert at which the musicians of the SPCO shone almost as brightly as the esteemed pianist at center stage." — *Star Tribune*

"... distinguished pianist Richard Goode, who has collaborated with Orpheus since the mid-1970s, including recordings of Mozart concertos, appeared as the soloist in the Piano Concerto No. 25 in C, a majestic and virtuosic score. Goode was at his best, in a sensitive, crisply clear and supremely musical performance." — *The New York Times*

"... he focuses on thoughtful interpretation and profound understanding, prioritising artistic insight over mere technical prowess." — *Bachtrack*

"American pianist Richard Goode provided a wonderful example of America giving back to Europe what Europe once gave to America: a living tradition of selfless musicianship ... Goode's playing here was truly beautiful: often powerful but never harsh, personal but never mannered ... This performance was just about as good as a mortal can get." — *The American*

"The venerable American pianist offered lively, genial performances with a plain-spoken authority and crowd-pleasing affability. Translating Bach for the piano, Goode had clear ideas about structure and voicing, without ever resorting to dry pedantry. His Bach was sunny, earthy, jovial and good-humored." — *The Washington Post*

PHOTOS OF RICHARD GOODE

[Link to hi-res artist photos](#)

ABOUT RICHARD GOODE

Richard Goode has been hailed for music-making of tremendous emotional power, depth and expressiveness, and has been acknowledged worldwide as one of today's leading interpreters of Classical and Romantic music. In regular performances with the major orchestras, recitals in the world's music capitals, masterclasses in person or online, and through his extensive and acclaimed Nonesuch recordings, he has won a large and devoted following.

An exclusive Nonesuch recording artist, Goode has made more than two dozen recordings over the years, ranging from solo and chamber works to lieder and concertos. His 10-CD set of the complete Beethoven sonatas cycle, the first-ever by an American-born pianist, was nominated for a Grammy and has been ranked among the most distinguished recordings of this repertoire. Other recording highlights include Mozart piano concerti with Orpheus, with whom he launched the 2021 season at New York's 92nd St Y.

A native of New York, Richard Goode studied at the Mannes College of Music and the Curtis Institute. His numerous prizes over the years include the Young Concert Artists Award, First Prize in the Clara Haskil Competition, the Avery Fisher Prize, and a Grammy award for the Brahms Sonatas recorded with clarinetist Richard Stoltzman.

Mr. Goode served as co-Artistic Director of the renowned Marlboro Music School and Festival in Vermont from 1999 through 2013. In fall 2021, Mr. Goode joined the Peabody Conservatory as Distinguished Artist Faculty.

He is married to the violinist Marcia Weinfeld, and, when the Goodes are not on tour, they and their collection of some 5,000 volumes live in New York City.

ABOUT THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Renowned for its artistic excellence, remarkable versatility of musical styles and adventurous programming, [The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra](#) is one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. Now in its 66th season, the SPCO is primarily an uncondducted ensemble that performs a broad range of repertoire, from Baroque works to new music, in close collaboration with a dynamic roster of [Artistic Partners](#). The current roster of Artistic Partners consists of British Baroque specialist Richard Egarr, South African cellist Abel Selaocoe, Hungarian conductor Gábor Takács-Nagy and German violist Tabea Zimmermann.

In its commitment to making music accessible to everyone, the virtuoso musicians of the SPCO present over 80 concerts each season, sharing live music with over 70,000 people throughout the Twin Cities from September through June. Regular subscription series are performed in [a variety of different venues](#) across the Twin Cities metropolitan area each season — a unique commitment to geographic accessibility for a major orchestra. The SPCO offers the most affordable ticket prices of any professional orchestra in the United States, with over 50 percent of tickets available for \$15 or less and with free tickets for children and students as a part of its [New Generation Initiative](#). The orchestra also offers an innovative ticket membership model in which members pay a monthly fee to attend unlimited concerts, with a \$5 per month concert membership option for first-time Concert Members and members of [Club2030](#), the orchestra's discount program for audience members in their 20s and 30s.

The SPCO's free, online [Concert Library](#) offers audio and video concert recordings — both live and on-demand — that can be accessed anytime, completely free of charge thanks to donors. Through its partnership with YourClassical Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media, the SPCO is regularly played on public radio programs that reach nearly 850,000 listeners each week on over 250 stations. Additionally, the SPCO has released [68 recordings](#), including its recent critically acclaimed album of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Piano Concertos with former Artistic Partner Jeremy Denk and the 2018 Grammy Award-winning [recording](#) of Franz Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* with violinist and former Artistic Partner Patricia Kopatchinskaja. In addition to its programs in the Twin Cities, the orchestra also tours nationally and internationally, including recent engagements in Europe and New York City, and prestigious residencies at the 2021 and 2022 [Bravo! Vail Music Festival](#) with violinists Joshua Bell and Stefan Jackiw, bassist Xavier Foley, and pianist and Bravo! Vail Artistic Director Anne-Marie McDermott.

The SPCO is deeply committed to expanding orchestral repertoire, [commissioning more than 160 new works](#) throughout its 65-year history and receiving 17 ASCAP awards for adventurous programming. In a divergence from the industry standard of commissioning individual works from composers, the SPCO's [Sandbox Residency program](#) invites composers to experiment freely across a variety of new works created in collaboration with the orchestra. This groundbreaking residency model allows composers to workshop new pieces, experiment and revise, take risks, develop relationships with SPCO musicians and engage with SPCO audiences.

The SPCO is a proud member of the [Arts Partnership](#), a strategic alliance of four performing arts organizations — Minnesota Opera, the Ordway, the SPCO and Schubert Club — that ensures equitable sharing and effective care of the Ordway Center as a vital cultural asset in the Twin Cities.

MISSION OF THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Our mission is to sustain a world-class chamber orchestra at the highest standards of artistic excellence that enriches the Twin Cities community by sharing dynamic, distinctive and engaging performances. We are actively committed to accessibility and intentional inclusivity in all aspects of our work and continually strive to provide all people in our community with opportunities to connect with the music we perform.

PHOTOS OF THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Access photos of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra [here](#). Click on the thumbnails to view images. Then, right click and select "Save image as..." to download.

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