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Chamber Music Society of St. Louis Announces its 2024-25 Season, Starting with a Gala Concert to Celebrate Leonard Slatkin's 80th Birthday and its 15th Anniversary

Season kicks off with Gala on September 9, includes 12 concerts from September to May featuring works by composers from England and Austria to Italy, Ireland, and Latin America

Popular partnerships with Saint Louis Ballet, Classic 107.3FM, and Cinema St. Louis return

(February 28, 2024, St. Louis, MO) – Today, Chamber Music Society of St. Louis (CMSSL) announced its schedule for the 2024-25 season, which will kick off with its Vintage Gala to celebrate the 80th birthday of acclaimed conductor, composer, and author Leonard Slatkin. The concert and special event on Monday, September 9, at The Sheldon, will also honor CMSSL's 15th anniversary.

“Leonard has been a CMSSL board member since our founding 15 years ago and continues to be a mentor, champion, and inspiration to us and so many musicians,” said Marc Gordon, CMSSL Executive and Artistic Director. “That’s why we wanted to celebrate his milestone birthday alongside our anniversary to start our 16th season, as a tribute to our continued musical collaboration.”

Vintage Gala

The Vintage Gala, which will take place at The Sheldon, will feature Maestro Slatkin and renowned pianist Olga Kern, a favorite collaborator of Slatkin’s. Fox 2 anchor Jasmine Huda will serve as emcee.

The event on Monday, September 9—the single-largest fundraiser for CMSSL—begins with cocktails at 6:00pm. The concert starts at 7:00pm, followed by a post-concert celebration at 8:30pm with dinner catered by Butler’s Pantry.

Presenting sponsor for CMSSL’s Vintage Gala is Noémi K. Neidorff. Gala honorary chairs are Mary Strauss and Thomas and Carol Voss. Miran Halen is serving as event chair, with Becky Domyan and Amalia Pfannenstiel as co-chairs.

Tickets are on sale now at chambermusicstl.org. VIP tickets for the Gala are \$275 and include valet parking, pre-concert cocktails, preferred concert seating, and post-concert dinner. Concert-only tickets are \$60 or \$40 each.

CMSSL’s 2024-25 Season

The Michael F. Neidorff Chamber Concert series includes 12 concerts from September through May, featuring a variety of works by composers from around the world: from England and Austria to Italy, Ireland, and Latin America.

Gordon said, “We’re excited for our audiences to experience the broad range of music this season, as we honor Michael and his legacy of supporting classical music and musicians.”

The season’s primary venue is the 560 Music Center on the campus of Washington University. Eight of the 10 performances there will be cabaret style in the Pillsbury Theatre. The other two featuring regular CMSSL Guest Artists Leonard Slatkin on November 24, 2024, and Nicholas McGegan on February 10, 2025, will be performed in the E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall. The collaborative concert with Saint Louis Ballet will take place at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus. And after a popular partnership with Cinema St. Louis last Halloween, CMSSL returns to the Hi-Pointe Theatre, this time to celebrate the holidays.

All concerts are Mondays at 7:30pm, unless otherwise noted. This season marks the fifth year of the Pillsbury Cookie Concert series. Subscriptions are on sale now at www.chambermusicstl.org.

- The season opens **September 23, 2024**, with “**Open Strings**,” featuring Mendelssohn’s Octet. (Pillsbury Cookie Concert)
- On **Saturday, October 12 (7:30pm)**, and **Sunday, October 13 (2:30pm)**, it’s “**Mix**” at the Touhill Performing Arts Center—this season’s collaboration with Saint Louis Ballet featuring Tchaikovsky’s *Serenade for Strings* and Kay’s *Western Symphony*.
- On **October 14**, enjoy “**Musica Italiana**” with works of Italian composers Puccini, Rota, Morricone, and Rossini.
- **November 11** brings “**The Music of the Night**,” featuring compositions inspired by the night.
- **November 25** is “**D. BachL**,” a tribute to Peter Schikele’s P.D.Q. Bach, hosted and narrated by Maestro Leonard Slakin in the E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall. (Pillsbury Cookie Concert)
- **December 9** brings “**Yuletide Flicks**” to the Hi-Pointe Theatre—a double-feature of holiday silent films in partnership with Cinema St. Louis as CMSSL musicians perform the music live.
- Kicking off 2025, on **January 27**, the works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart are featured for his 269th birthday in “**Amadeus Has Left the Building**.”
- On **February 10**, one of St. Louis’ favorites is back for “**Nicholas McGegan Returns**” in the E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall. (Pillsbury Cookie Concert)
- **February 24** is “**4 Hands, 88 Keys**,” featuring the return of jazz piano duo Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi.
- Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day on **March 17** with “**Celtic Salute**.”
- On April 14, enjoy Schubert’s “Trout” Quintet in the “**Fish Out of Water**” program.
- The 2024-25 season concludes on **May 5** with a festive “**Cinco de Mayo**.” (Pillsbury Cookie Concert)

CMSSL’s 16th season will also include events featuring students from CMSSL education programs, as well as its education outreach concerts and the 13th year of its Master Class Series, which serves more than 30 St. Louis area schools and is free to students.

About Chamber Music Society of St. Louis

For 15 years, the Chamber Music Society of St. Louis (CMSSL) has offered world-class chamber music performed in intimate settings to inspire and enchant audiences, as well as nurture future generations of classical musicians. Each season, patrons experience music at concerts across St. Louis, including its signature cabaret-style programs. CMSSL also offers unique education opportunities, such as its Master Class Series for students from 30+ St. Louis-area schools, which provides them with professional mentorship, coaching, and performance experience. CMSSL also founded the Rader Young Artists, which has nurtured exceptional student musicians in St. Louis for more than a decade.