



greater twin cities youth symphonies

For Immediate Release

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SPCO and GTCYS announce strategic alliance

Organizations to share resources, infrastructure and expertise

Alliance will also provide opportunities for greater collaboration

April 27, 2011 - The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) announced today the formation of a strategic alliance. This unique alliance will allow the two organizations to share expertise, resources and infrastructure, making both organizations financially stronger. The alliance will also provide opportunities for greater collaboration on programs. Both the SPCO and GTCYS will remain fully separate and independent 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations.

GTCYS and the SPCO currently collaborate in many ways. In the "Saturday Special" program, students in GTCYS chamber ensembles are coached by SPCO musicians. SPCO musicians have served as GTCYS section coaches and Artistic Partners Roberto Abbado and Nicholas McGegan have guest conducted for GTCYS. The SPCO has also offered low-priced and free tickets to GTCYS families each season.

The new alliance is expected to take collaboration to new levels. The close proximity of the organizations will allow the SPCO to provide GTCYS with ongoing mentoring on fundraising and management strategies, and will also make it easier for new collaboration to occur. Both organizations believe there is the potential for building and further engaging audiences as a result of the alliance.

“There are so many creative ideas for collaboration in the future,” said SPCO President and Managing Director Sarah Lutman. “With missions that are aligned and complementary, there are endless possibilities for new ways we can serve the community together.”

“Sharing resources, while operating independently, is not only good business, it is forward-looking,” said Amir Kats, GTCYS Artistic Director. “It will create many new artistic and educational benefits for students and the community.”

The GTCYS administrative office will move from its current location in the Hennepin Center for the Arts to a shared space in the SPCO Center in downtown St. Paul, which will allow the organizations to share resources such as information technology. The office move, scheduled for the summer of 2011, will not have any impact on venues for GTCYS’ rehearsals and performances.

ABOUT THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, now in its 52nd season, is the nation’s only full-time professional chamber orchestra and is widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. In collaboration with five artistic partners – Roberto Abbado, Edo de Waart, Dawn Upshaw, Christian Zacharias and Thomas Zehetmair – the 34 virtuoso musicians present more than 130 concerts and educational programs each year, and are regularly heard on public radio’s *Performance Today* which reaches 1.5 million listeners each week on 243 stations, and *SymphonyCast* reaching 480,000 listeners each week on 125 stations nationwide. The SPCO has released 67 recordings, commissioned 127 new works, and performed the world premiere of 49 additional compositions. The SPCO has earned the distinction of 15 ASCAP awards for adventurous programming. Renowned for its artistic excellence and remarkable versatility of musical styles, the SPCO tours nationally and internationally, including performances in premier venues in Europe, Asia and South America. Launched in 1995, the SPCO’s award-winning CONNECT education program reaches nearly 6,000 students and teachers annually in 16 Minneapolis and St. Paul public schools. For more information, visit www.thespco.org.

ABOUT GREATER TWIN CITIES YOUTH SYMPHONIES

Established in 1972, the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) provides an inspiring orchestral experience for young musicians of all ages and abilities, and aids in their development both as young artists and young adults. Serving nearly 600 students each year, GTCYS’ educational programs are rigorous and comprehensive, and include: six academic-year orchestras, two summer orchestras and a string camp, chamber music with the esteemed Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Rising Harmonies afterschool program in North Minneapolis. Dedicated to sharing music with diverse audiences, GTCYS presents 20 annual concerts for 8,000 audience members at venues ranging from Orchestra Hall to Union Gospel Mission.

Artistic Director Amir Kats forges strong relationships with music educators across Minnesota, coaching 3,000 students at school ensembles each year. Renowned for its rich touring history, GTCYS was the first western orchestra to perform in Fiji in 1992. Artistic collaborations include projects with Minnesota Chorale, Minnesota Orchestra, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and conductors Roberto Abbado, Leonard Slatkin, and Osmo Vänskä. Committed to increasing accessibility to music education, GTCYS awards nearly \$20,000 in need-based scholarships every year and recently expanded its programs to the east metro and North Minneapolis. For more information, visit www.gtcys.org.

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