The St. Olaf Orchestra

Steven Amundson, Conductor

Saturday October 19, 3 p.m.

Verde Valley Concert Association Presents

Mingus Union Auditorium

1801 East Fir Street • Cottonwood, Arizona

$10 Adults/Seniors • Students FREE

Tickets: *verdevalleyconcerts.org* • 928-639-0636 • or at the door

The St. Olaf Orchestra

Stephen Amundson, Conductor
Terra Widdifield, Manager

Recognized nationally and internationally, the 92-member St. Olaf Orchestra is widely regarded as one of the finest among U.S. liberal arts colleges. In addition to performing throughout the United States, and notably as Garrison Keillor's guest on a broadcast of *A Prairie Home Companion*, the orchestra has performed throughout Scandinavia and Europe, with plans to tour China in 2012. Led for three decades by Conductor Steven Amundson, the St. Olaf Orchestra has appeared in a number of Europe's finest concert halls and performed with some of the world's most noted conductors and artists. It has also been featured at national, regional, and statewide conventions, and participates each year in the St. Olaf Christmas Festival, which is broadcast on PBS and public radio stations nationwide.

One of the premier ensembles at St. Olaf College, a four-year college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America known for its excellence in music, the St. Olaf Orchestra dates back to 1906. Amundson took the reins of the ensemble in 1981 and has guided it to new heights of excellence. His work has earned several awards, including the Carlo A. Sperati Award from Luther College and the Minnesota Orchestra Educator of the Year award from the Minnesota Music Educators Association.

A 1977 graduate of Luther College, Amundson earned his master's degree in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University. He also studied at the University of Virginia, the Aspen Music School, and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, where he won the coveted Hans Häring conducting prize in the international competition sponsored by Austrian National Radio. He is the founding conductor of the Twin Cities-based Metropolitan Symphony and served as music director and conductor of the Bloomington (Minnesota) Symphony. He is also a commissioned composer and arranger, and his orchestral works have been featured in more than 400 performances by university, civic, and professional orchestras around the world.

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