



MICHAEL HALL • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact: Mary Larkin

(239) 418-0996

A Sizzling Season Awaits! 2008/09 Season

The Southwest Florida Symphony's 48th season is all about the music - sumptuous, glorious and superbly performed music. A musical adventure awaits as Music Director Michael Hall returns for his second season to conduct classical series concerts. Hall brings spirit and energy to the stage as he joins the orchestra and chorus to perform a spectacular array of music including the magnificent Brahms' Symphony #1, a salute to ballet's greats, a memorable spring serenade and a finale the audience chooses.

Back by popular demand, the "Prince of Pops" Erich Kunzel brings his charm and talent to the stage for two Pops concerts this season. This Cincinnati Pops founding conductor is a favorite with audiences across the country. Celebrating his 51st year as a conductor, he brought Symphonic Pops to the cultural mainstream. In addition, the ever-popular and charismatic Joseph Caulkins will conduct the Stained Glass Series and the annual Holiday Pops.

As Lee County's premiere professional orchestra, the Symphony offers concerts across five series including Classical, Pops, Sanibel, Stained Glass, and the Symphony Around Town, taking the music to the communities of Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Bonita Springs and Estero. Performing groups include the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, the Symphony Chorus, Chamber Chorus, the Youth Orchestra and the Children's Chorus.

The Symphony is supported by ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, grants and the hard work of the Symphony Society. Organized in 1970, the Society is a dedicated group of over 400 volunteers who raises over \$100,000 annually for the Symphony. Volunteers are an important part of the Symphony organization, serving as ushers and assisting in the Symphony in many other ways.

A strong community commitment is shown through the Symphony's education efforts, totaling over \$100,000 annually. Long-standing programs include Ensembles in Schools, Young People's Concerts and the Young Artist's Competition and scholarships. The Symphony also offers young musicians the opportunity to perfect their skills and showcase their talents through three performing groups: the Children's Chorus, the Youth Orchestra and the Sinfonietta.

2008/09 Classical, Pops & Chamber Programs

EUROPEAN TOUR PART ONE

American Music in France

Sunday October 26, 4pm

The Village Church at Shell Point
15100 Shell Point Boulevard

*With the Symphony Chorus, Sarasota Key Chorale
and Reiko Niiya, violin*

200 voices from the Symphony Chorus and Sarasota's Key Chorale combine to present an inspirational concert of American music. Be the first to hear the program that will be presented throughout France this summer.

WHITACRE: Five Hebrew Love Songs (Reiko Niiya, violin)

LAURIDSEN: Sure on This Shining Night

Additional selections, folk songs and spirituals of THOMPSON,
PAULUS, SHAW, PARKER and LUBOFF

THE PRODIGIES

Friday, October 31 - The Village Church at Shell Point, 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 1 - First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs, 7:00 pm

Sunday, November 2 - BIG ARTS on Sanibel, 7:00 pm

Conducted by Michael Hall

We celebrate the genius of three prodigies and the musical treasures left behind. Featuring Mozart's last completed work, an early Beethoven Symphony, and a masterful piece by Arriaga, a short-lived young composer hailed as "The Spanish Mozart."

ARRIAGA: *Overture to Los esclavos felices*

MOZART: *Clarinet Concerto in A Major* - Michael Forte, Principal Clarinet

BEETHOVEN: *Symphony #2*

SYMPHONY SPECTACULAR - SEASON OPENER

Saturday, November 22 at 8:00 pm & Sunday, November 23 at 2:30 pm

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers

Conducted by Michael Hall

A spectacular season opener in every sense featuring the full Symphony Orchestra and two majestic works: Liszt's magnificent *Piano Concerto* and Brahms' *Symphony #1*, a masterpiece 20 years in the making.

LISZT: *Piano Concerto*

BRAHMNS: *Symphony #1*

HELLO HOLLYWOOD

Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6, 8:00 pm

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers

Conducted by Erich Kunzel

Erich Kunzel 'The Prince of Pops' returns to the SWFL Symphony for a Pops opener that pays tribute to Hollywood. Featuring favorites from *Amadeus*, *Shine*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Somewhere in Time* and more!

MESSIAH AND MORE

Saturday December 13, 7:30pm
Faith United Methodist Church
15690 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers

Sunday December 14, 4pm

First Baptist Church
4117 Coronado Pkwy., Cape Coral

*With the Symphony Chamber Orchestra, Chorus, Chamber Chorus
and guests Kathy Pyeatt, Eleni Matos, Daniel Carlidge, Daniel Buchanan*

Sounds of rejoicing fill the air in our annual concert featuring the Christmas portion of Handel's beloved Messiah. Seasonal carols from the Chamber Chorus make for a perfect start to the Holiday!

HANDEL: Messiah

A VERY MERRY POPS

Saturday, December 20 at 8:00 pm and Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 pm
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall
Conducted by Joseph Caulkins

Our heartwarming holiday concert is a family favorite - a time to relax, enjoy great music and celebrate the season with family and friends. This year we've given our celebration a Celtic flair!

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN SONGBOOK

Friday, January 9 and Saturday, January 10, 8:00 pm
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers
Conducted by Erich Kunzel

Our salute to Rodgers and Hammerstein features some of the most beloved music ever composed. Featuring three wonderful young soloists and favorites from *South Pacific*, *Oklahoma*, *The Sound of Music*, *Carousel* and more!

THE GLORY OF FRANCE

Saturday, January 24, 8:00 pm and Sunday, January 25, 2:30 pm
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers
Conducted by Michael Hall

Works by two of the most prolific and versatile French composers are celebrated in this concert featuring Poulenc's gorgeous Gloria with its ethereal soprano solo and chorus, and Saint-Saens' brilliantly orchestrated *Organ Symphony*.

POULENC: *Gloria* - With the Symphony Chorus and Michelle Giglio, soprano

SAINT-SAENS: *Symphony #3 "Organ"*

A JOHN WILLIAMS TRIBUTE

Friday, February 6 and Saturday, February 7 at 8 pm
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers
Conducted by Michael Hall
Featuring Reiko Niiya, Concertmaster

Movies would not be the same without the music of John Williams. Our John Williams Tribute features music from *E.T.*, *Star Wars*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Schindler's List* and more!

A JAZZY JOURNEY

Sunday, February 8 - BIG ARTS on Sanibel, 7:00 pm

Monday, February 9 - Faith Presbyterian Church, 7:00 pm

The feelings of jazz fill the air in this concert featuring musical favorites. Steven Mayer, hailed for his awe-inspiring artistry, commands the keys performing the original version of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

FAURE: *Pelleas and Melisande*

MILHAUD: *Creation du Monde*

IVES: *Unanswered Question*

GERSHWIN: *Rhapsody in Blue* - Steven Mayer, pianist

NATURAL WONDER

In Partnership with Audubon of Florida & Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Saturday February 28, 7:30pm

Unitarian Universalist Church

13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers

Sunday March 1, 4pm

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ

2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island

With the Symphony Chamber Chorus and Children's Chorus

Nature's splendor shines in song as we celebrate the glory of landscapes, the beauty of birdsongs, the majesty of the sea and all God's creatures.

WALKER: *Three Days by the Sea*

STANFORD: *The Blue Bird*

DELIUS: *To be sung of a Summer Night on the Water*

STAR CROSSED LOVERS

Saturday, March 7 at 8:00 pm and Sunday, March 8 at 2:30 pm

Featuring soloist William Larsen, Principal Flute and the Symphony Chorus

First Christian Church, Fort Myers

Conducted by Michael Hall

The joy and angst of Tony and Maria, and Romeo and Juliet come alive in this concert featuring some of the most beloved music of all time: Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story* and Prokofiev's magnificent *Suite from Romeo and Juliet*.

GLINKA: *Overture to Russian and Ludmilla*

BERNSTEIN: *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*

PROKOFIEV: *Suite from Romeo and Juliet*

MUSICAL TRIUMPH

Friday, March 20 - Faith Presbyterian Church, 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 21 - Sydney & Berne Davis Center for the Arts, 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 22 - BIG ARTS on Sanibel, 7:00 pm

The music explodes from the stage in this concert celebrating the triumph of battle. Featuring Handel's acclaimed *Royal Fireworks Music* and Haydn's dramatic *Lord Nelson Mass* with its majestic chorus and soaring vocals.

ELGAR: *Serenade for Strings in E minor*

HANDEL: *Royal Fireworks Music*

HAYDN: *Lord Nelson Mass* - *Symphony Chamber Chorus and soloists*

MUSICAL MASTERPIECES- Classical Season Finale

Saturday, April 4 at 8:00 pm and Sunday, April 5 at 2:30 pm

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers

Conducted by Michael Hall

Two masterfully orchestrated works are showcased in our classical season finale; Beethoven's only Violin Concerto, with celebrated young violinist Augustin Hadelich, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony #5, an epic musical expression of emotion from the depths of despair to triumph.

BEETHOVEN: *Violin Concerto* - Augustin Hadelich, violinist

TCHAIKOVSKY: *Symphony #5*

FAIRY TALES AND PIXIE DUST

A Mother's Day Celebration

Sunday May 10, 4pm

Faith Presbyterian Church

4544 Coronado Parkway, Cape Coral

Conducted by Catherine Truesdale

Featuring the Symphony Children's Chorus

With Joseph Caulkins as the Pied Piper

Magical moments come alive in this special tribute to Mom. Join our adorable Children's Chorus as we celebrate the wonder and magic of fairy tales. Featuring Jonathan Willcock's delightful *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* and more!

EUROPEAN TOUR PART TWO

Celebrating "Haydn 200" in Italy

Tuesday May 12, 7:30pm

Faith United Methodist Church

15690 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers

Featuring the Symphony Chorus, Sarasota Key Chorale and soloists

200 glorious voices present Haydn's dramatic *Mass in Time of War* celebrating the 200th anniversary of the composer's death. This is a very special preview of the concert the choruses will perform in Italy this summer.

HAYDN: *Mass in Time of War (Missa in tempore belli)*

##