



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Southwest Florida Symphony 2008-09 Season Sizzling Symphony Season Stokes Excitement

Record breaking crowds lauded the accomplishments of the Southwest Florida Symphony last season and from the looks of it, another year of record breaking attendance is in store for the 48th season. Music Director Michael Hall's second Classical Series season is promising to be a magnificent combination of the familiar and undiscovered while the Pops Series features the return of the "Prince of Pops" Erich Kunzel, as well a tribute to John Williams and the ever-popular Holiday Pops conducted by Joseph Caulkins, Associate Conductor and Director of Chorus.

"The music we've chosen to share with audiences is bold and breathtaking, showing off the capabilities of our orchestra," explains Hall. "We took some chances last season and had a very positive response. Our audience wants a fine blend of familiar and undiscovered. This season offers both and we are extremely excited to share it."

The Classic opener explodes from the stage with the brilliant masterwork of Brahms' "Symphony #1" and Grieg's ambitious "Piano Concerto" performed by up and coming pianist Naomi Kudo. The magic of the season continues with the French treasures of Saint-Saëns, the romance of Bernstein and Prokofiev and the majestic season finale featuring Beethoven's only "Violin Concerto" performed by the brilliant young violinist Augustin Hadelich and Tchaikovsky's colorfully orchestrated "Symphony #5."

Mighty Kunzel returns for his third season with two beloved programs and handpicked young artists who will ignite the stage. Big, familiar orchestral favorites shine in "Hello Hollywood" and our salute to some of the most beloved music ever composed in "Rodgers and Hammerstein." "A Tribute to John Williams" features Concertmaster Reiko Niiya and the annual "Holiday Pops" takes on a Celtic twist in a family celebration of the season.

The Sanibel and Symphony Around Town Series provide a musical playground for Maestro Hall. This intimate and engaging series of concerts offers an up close and personal opportunity for the audience to enjoy classical music. Hall brings an eclectic offering to the stage and a shining young star in Steven Mayer - touted by the New York Times as "...piano playing at it's most awesome."

The charismatic Joseph Caulkins delivers an exciting season of choral music with a five concert series of Stained Glass concerts. Tuning up for their second European Tour, the Symphony Chorus offers two concerts featuring music to be performed the Summer of 2009 in France and Italy. "Natural Wonders" celebrates nature and all her wonder in a special concert in cooperation with the Audubon Society and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. In addition, the chorus will perform the annual "Messiah" holiday concert and the Children's Chorus will perform their annual Mother's Day concert.

The Classical, and Pops Series concerts are held at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers (unless otherwise noted); the Sanibel Series is held at BIG ARTS! on Sanibel, and the Stained Glass Series and Symphony Around Town Series are held in area churches and concert halls. Subscriber series are on sale now. For more information, call the box office at 418-1500 or visit on line at www.swflso.org.

Classical Series

SYMPHONY SPECTACULAR

November 22 at 8 pm & November 23 at 2:30 pm

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers

Michael Hall conducts

BERLIOZ: La Corsaire

GRIEG: Piano Concerto - Naomi Kudo, pianist

BRAHMS: Symphony #1

THE GLORY OF FRANCE

January 24 at 8 pm & January 25 at 2:30 pm

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers

Michael Hall conducts

POULENC: Gloria - Symphony Chorus and Michelle Giglio, soprano

SAINT-SAENS: Symphony #3 "Organ"

STAR CROSSED LOVERS

March 7 at 8 pm & March 8 at 2:30 pm

First Christian Church, Fort Myers

Michael Hall conducts

GLINKA: Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla

BERNSTEIN: Symphonic Dances from "West Side Story"

PROKOFIEV: Suite from "Romeo and Juliet"

MUSICAL MASTERPIECES

April 4 at 8 pm & April 5 at 2:30 pm

Barbara B. Man Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers

Michael Hall conducts

BEETHOVEN: Violin Concerto - Augustin Hadelich, violinist

TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony #5

Pops Series:

HELLO HOLLYWOOD

December 5 & 6 at 8 pm

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers

Erich Kunzel conducts

Guest Marcus Kuchle, pianist

A VERY MERRY POPS

December 20 at 8 pm & December 21 at 7 pm

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers

Joseph Caulkins conducts

Guests Symphony Chorus, Children's Chorus, Celine Mogielnickie & Kellyn Celtic Arts Irish Dance Academy

RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN SONGBOOK

January 9 & 10 at 8 pm

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers

Erich Kunzel conducts

Guests Symphony Chorus, Children's Chorus, Tiffany Haas, Max Quinlan & Michael Lowe

A JOHN WILLIAMS TRIBUTE

February 6 & 7 at 8 pm

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers

Michael Hall conducts

Featuring Reiko Niiya, Concertmaster

Sanibel/Symphony Around Town Series:

THE PRODIGES

October 31 at 7:30 pm, The Village Church at Shell Point, Fort Myers

November 1 at 7 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs

November 2 at 7 pm, BIG ARTS, Sanibel

Michael Hall conducts

ARRIAGA: Overture to Los esclavos felices

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

BEETHOVEN: Symphony #2

A JAZZY JOURNEY

February 8 at 7 pm, BIG ARTS, Sanibel

February 9 at 7 pm, Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral

Michael Hall conducts

FAURE: Pelleas and Melisande

MILHAUD: Creation du Monde

IVES: Unanswered Question

GERSHWIN: Rhapsody in Blue- Steven Mayer, pianist

MUSICAL TRIUMPH

March 20 at 7:30 pm, Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral

March 21 at 7:30 pm, Sydney & Berne Davis Center for the Arts, Fort Myers

March 22 at 7 pm, BIG ARTS, Sanibel

Michael Hall conducts

ELGAR: Serenade for Strings in E minor

HANDEL: Royal Fireworks Music

HAYDN: Lord Nelson Mass - Symphony Chamber Chorus & soloists Mary Wilson, Misty Bermudez, Brad Diamond & Gerard Sundberg

Stained Glass Series:

EUROPEAN TOUR - PART I

October 26 at 4 pm

The Village Church at Shell Point, Fort Myers

Joseph Caulkins conducts

Featuring the Symphony Chorus, Sarasota Key Chorale and Reiko Niiya, violin

MESSIAH & MORE

December 13 at 7:30, Faith United Methodist Church, Fort Myers

December 14 at 4 pm, First Baptist Church, Cape Coral

Joseph Caulkins conducts

Featuring Orchestra, Symphony Chorus, Chamber Chorus and guests Kathy Pyeatt, Eleni Matos, Daniel Buchanan and Daniel Cartlidge

NATURAL WONDER

February 28 at 7:30, Unitarian Universalist Church, Fort Myers

March 1 at 4 pm, Sanibel United Congregational United Church of Christ

Joseph Caulkins conducts

FAIRY TALES & PIXIE DUST

May 10 at 4 pm, Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral

Catherine Truesdale conducts

Featuring the Southwest Florida Children's Chorus

EUROPEAN TOUR - PART II

May 12 at 7:30 pm

Faith United Methodist Church, Fort Myers

Joseph Caulkins conducts

Featuring the Symphony Chorus and Sarasota Key Chorale

On the heels of record breaking crowds last year, a sizzling season awaits as Music Director Michael Hall takes the stage and ushers in a vibrant and exciting 48th season of music. As Lee County's only professional orchestra, the Southwest Florida Symphony offers over 40 concerts across five series October thru May. Performing groups include the SWFLS Orchestra, the Symphony Chorus, the Children's Chorus and the Youth Orchestra and Sinfonietta. The Symphony is supported by ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, grants and the Symphony Society, a volunteer organization of over 500. The Symphony commits over \$100,000 annually for education, performance and scholarship programs that reach thousands of area youth. To learn more, see us on the web at www.swflso.org.

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