



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Southwest Florida Symphony holds annual meeting

The Southwest Florida Symphony held its Annual Organizational Meeting Tuesday, October 21 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Fort Myers. Board President Scott Gregory introduced the *Sizzling Season* as the theme for the 48th season and welcomed back Michael Hall in his second season as Music Director. "Maestro Hall has brought new life and vitality to the Symphony," said Gregory. "Record ticket sales last season demonstrated that the talents of our artistic staff, orchestra, choruses and guest artists have revitalized our base and excited new audiences."

Despite an economic downturn last season, the Symphony was pleased to announce they rounded out their fiscal year close to budget. "Corporate donations and sponsorships were down last season, and we anticipate a continuation of the trend this season, but individual donors really stepped to the plate," explained Gregory. A successful end of season "New Era Fund" campaign push brought in much needed funds and individual bequests are on the rise as well. "The Symphony has a strong base of support throughout the community and within our Symphony Society. Individual giving will be more important than ever as we begin our new season," said Gregory.

Music Director Michael Hall expanded on the excitement of the new season. "Southwest Florida Symphony is a vital cultural asset to the community. Our programs touch more than 70,000 adults and children, greatly impacting our area's quality of life and helping stimulate our local economic," explained Hall. "This season features great music performed with brilliance and passion by the musicians of the Southwest Florida Symphony."

Hall's second Classical season promises to be a magnificent combination of the familiar and undiscovered. Classical favorites such as Brahms' "Symphony #1" and Tchaikovsky's

"Symphony #5" are matched with less frequently performed works such as Poulenc's Gloria. "We are celebrating the year of the young artist and are pleased to present 21-year old pianist Naomi Kudo and 24-year old violinist Augustin Hadelich," said Hall. The Pops season will include two concerts with the "Prince of Pops" Erich Kunzel, the ever popular Holiday Pops and a special tribute to John Williams. Classical Chamber concerts and Choral concerts will round out the season. A complete listing of concerts and ticket information can be found on the web at www.swflso.org or by calling the Symphony Box Office at 239-418-1500.

With record breaking crowds and abundant praise last year, a sizzling 48th season begins as Music Director Michael Hall takes the stage to conduct a vibrant season of music. Serving as Lee County's professional orchestra, the Southwest Florida Symphony is a vital cultural asset to all residents. Our programs impact over 70,000 people annually through a variety of concerts, performance opportunities for youth and educational programs for local school children. 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, an organization of over 500 volunteers. To learn more, see us on the web at www.swflso.org.

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