



## **Press Release**

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For Immediate Release

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### **Southwest Florida Symphony Symphony opens season with tribute to Hollywood**

The Southwest Florida Symphony kicks off the 2008/09 Pops Season December 5 & 6 with *Hello Hollywood* at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. Conducted by the incomparable 'Prince of Pops' Erich Kunzel, the concert is at 8 pm both nights. Memorable and recognizable music from Hollywood will include "Dancing Queen" from *Mamma Mia*, "Moon River" from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, and themes from such favorites as *The Pink Panther*, *Goldfinger*, and *Chariots of Fire*.

Back again by popular demand, the magnetic and energetic Kunzel propelled the Cincinnati Pops to international recognition and placed 'orchestral pops' mainstream. A pinnacle of his career, Kunzel was awarded The National Medal of Arts in 1996, the highest honor given to artists and arts patrons, which recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in the United States.

Hand picked by Kunzel, special guest pianist Marcus Küchle will be featured throughout the program. Küchle is the Director of Artistic Operations at the Cincinnati Opera and maintains a performance schedule throughout the US, Canada, England and Germany. He holds degrees from the prestigious Hochschule für Musik (Munich, Germany) and Indiana University where he studied under Edward Auer.

The Pops Series concerts are held at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. The series includes *A Very Merry Pops*, December 20/21, conducted by Joseph Caulkins, Associate Conductor and Director of Choruses;

*Rodgers & Hammerstein*, January 9/10, conducted by Erich Kunzel; and *John Williams Tribute*, February 6/7 conducted by Music Director Michael Hall.

Concert series tickets start as low as \$38 and single tickets start as low as \$15. Tickets are selling quickly so order today by calling the Symphony Box Office Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 418-1500 or order online at [www.swflso.org](http://www.swflso.org).

*With record breaking crowds and abundant praise last year, a sizzling 48<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.swflso.org).*

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