



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:
Mary Larkin
Southwest Florida Symphony
4560 Via Royale Drive, Suite 2
Fort Myers, FL 33919
(239)-418-0996
(239)-418-0725 fax
www.swflso.org
mlarkin@swflso.org

Southwest Florida Symphony SWFL Symphony welcomes back Erich Kunzel

Prince of Pops Erich Kunzel and the Southwest Florida Symphony salute Rodgers and Hammerstein January 9 & 10 at 8 pm at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. Featuring music from some of the greatest musicals ever composed including *South Pacific*, *Oklahoma*, *The Sound of Music*, *Carousel* and more, "Rodgers & Hammerstein Songbook" features the orchestra, chorus, children's chorus and three talented young soloists.

Back for his second series of concerts for the season, 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, the three special guests have performed with him on several occasions and will be featured throughout the program. Tiffany Haas is a graduate of University of Cincinnati-Conservancy of Music (CCM) and 2002 Miss Ohio. She made her Broadway Debut in *WICKED* where she understudied and performed the role of Nessarose. She then took on the position of Dance Captain for the first^t National Tour of the *Drowsy Chaperone* where she covered and performed the starring role of "Janet Van der Graff."

Max Quinlan is a recent graduate of CCM and made his professional theatrical debut with the National Touring Company of the musical *Ragtime*. He has performed Off-

Broadway in *Grind* (York Theatre Company) and regionally in *Les Miserables*, *The Pajama Game* (St. Louis MUNY), *All Shook Up*, *The Bowery Boys*, *Phantom* (Marriott Lincolnshire), *The Boys From Syracuse*, *Big: The Musical* (Drury Lane Oakbrook) and on TV: *Early Edition* (CBS).

Michael Lowe, a graduate of CCM, has performed many times with the Cincinnati Pops including at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. His credits include appearances on the MUNY stage in St. Louis and at the Ravinia Festival. Michael currently resides in New York City, where he continues pursuing his career as a singer/actor.

Single tickets are on sale now and start at \$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. The remainder of the Pops Series includes *A John Williams Tribute*, February 6/7 conducted by Music Director Michael Hall.

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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