



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

Symphony celebrates French works

The Southwest Florida Symphony conducted by Music Director Michael Hall celebrates the glories of France Saturday, January 24 at 8 pm and Sunday, January 25 at 2:30 pm at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. Works by two versatile French composers are featured in *The Glories of France* including Poulenc's gorgeous *Gloria* featuring the Symphony Chorus and special guest soprano Michelle Giglio and Saint-Saëns' brilliantly orchestrated *Symphony No. 3 (Organ)*.

Gloria, the last of Poulenc's major religious works is set for solo soprano, chorus and orchestra. Performed in Latin with text from an ordinary Catholic mass, Poulenc's love of life and sense of humor brilliantly shine through in this piece with its "captivating mixture of solemnity and mischievous exuberant." Featuring the Symphony Chorus and the solos performed by soprano Michelle Giglio, *Gloria* is a ravishingly gorgeous work.

During the height of opera popularity in France, composer Saint-Saëns led a French revival of instrumental music and his last symphonic work *Symphony No. 3* represents an original approach to symphonic form and a first in the use of both piano and organ. The piece is divided into two parts but embraces the principle of the four traditional movements. Coined a "thematic metamorphosis," all of the major themes of the Symphony are derived from the first few notes from which the music evolves, underlying all the works varied moods: fury, peace, unrest,

calm. Saint-Saëns considered Symphony No. 3 his crowning achievement. It is a “sonic spectacular” with a triumphant finale featuring orchestra, organ and piano four-hands.

Whether you are a first time attendee or a seasoned listener, the pre-concert discussion hosted by Associate Conductor Joseph Caulkins takes you back in time to understand the history, dynamics and story of the music. The pre-concert discussion takes place one hour prior to each concert and is free for ticket holders.

Single tickets are on sale now. To order your tickets, call the Symphony Box Office at 418-1500. Order your tickets soon, the best seats go quickly!

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.