



## **Press Release**

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For Immediate Release

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### **Southwest Florida Symphony Sanibel Series**

## **Take a Jazzy Journey with the chamber orchestra**

The Southwest Florida Symphony Chamber Orchestra conducted by Music Director Michael Hall bring *A Jazzy Journey* to the stage Sunday, February 8 at 7 pm in Schein Hall at BIG ARTS! on Sanibel. Early jazz from French and American composers are presented in this diverse program featuring pianist Steven Mayer performing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Diverse, intimate and relaxed, the Sanibel Series offers the audience a chance to get up close and personal with the orchestra. The venue lend themselves the opportunity for Hall to talk more in depth about the music - enabling the listener to get even more out of their concert going experience. Join Maestro Hall for a post-concert discussion immediately after the concert.

Opening the concert is Faure's *Pelleas and Melisande*, originally written as incidental music for a play, Faure later chose four selections as a suite. Full of emotion, the themes are complex and varied including love, jealousy, betrayal and forgiveness. Ives' *The Unanswered Question* is a study in contrasts, representing the 20<sup>th</sup> century dichotomy of simultaneous tonal and non tonal music. *The Unanswered Question* poses the eternal question of existence with a trumpet asking the question against a backdrop of haunting strings.

The jazz-inspired portion of the program includes Milhaud's *La Création du Monde* which reflects the experience of American jazz through the eyes of a French composer. Milhaud chose to color this piece with "bluesy tunes, stomping rhythms and swinging climaxes." *Rhapsody in Blue*'s famous clarinet opening and quasi-improvisatory nature made it an immediate hit when first performed in 1924. Considered a breakthrough in jazz music, sounds of ragtime and Cuban "clave" rhythms combine with the intensely rhythmic piano solos and slow and richly orchestral sections to create a "musical kaleidoscope" reflective of the American melting pot atmosphere. Hailed for his awe-inspiring artistry, Steven Mayer commands the piano performing the original jazz band version of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Tickets for the concert are \$30. Call the Southwest Florida Symphony Box Office at 418-1500 or visit the website at [www.swflso.org](http://www.swflso.org) for more details.

*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).*