



MICHAEL HALL • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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## **A Musical Adventure Awaits! 2008/09 Season**

The Southwest Florida Symphony's 48<sup>th</sup> season is all about the music - sumptuous, glorious and superbly performed music. A musical adventure awaits as Music Director Michael Hall returns for his second season to conduct classical series concerts. Hall brings spirit and energy to the stage as he joins the orchestra and chorus to perform a spectacular array of music including the magnificent Brahms' Symphony #1, a salute to ballet's greats, a memorable spring serenade and a finale the audience chooses.

Back by popular demand, the "Prince of Pops" Erich Kunzel brings his charm and talent to the stage for two Pops concerts this season. This Cincinnati Pops founding conductor is a favorite with audiences across the country. Celebrating his 51<sup>st</sup> year as a conductor, he brought Symphonic Pops to the cultural mainstream. In addition, the ever-popular and charismatic Joseph Caulkins will conduct the Stained Glass Series and the annual Holiday Pops.

As Lee County's premiere professional orchestra, the Symphony offers concerts across five series including Classical, Pops, Sanibel, Stained Glass, and the Symphony Around Town, taking the music to the communities of Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Bonita Springs and Estero. Performing groups include the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, the Symphony Chorus, Chamber Chorus, the Youth Orchestra and the Children's Chorus.

The Symphony is supported by ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, grants and the hard work of the Symphony Society. Organized in 1970, the Society is a dedicated group of over 400 volunteers who raises over \$100,000 annually for the Symphony. Volunteers are an important part of the Symphony organization, serving as ushers and assisting in the Symphony in many other ways.

A strong community commitment is shown through the Symphony's education efforts, totaling over \$100,000 annually. Long-standing programs include Ensembles in Schools, Young People's Concerts and the Young Artist's Competition and scholarships. The Symphony also offers young musicians the opportunity to perfect their skills and showcase their talents through three performing groups: the Children's Chorus, the Youth Orchestra and the Sinfonietta.