



MICHAEL HALL • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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History

The Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra made its debut as a community orchestra on April 15, 1961. Conducted by Arlo Deibler, the Symphony had 24 musicians and performed in community centers and schools. A year later, the Symphony Chorus was formed and the organization became known as the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Association. Maestro Deibler led the Symphony for 25 years and then passed the baton to Joseph Egger, who continued with the Symphony for the next four seasons.

In 1990, Paul Nadler, a staff conductor with the New York Metropolitan Opera and founder of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, was appointed Music Director and Conductor. Nadler launched the Sanibel Series in 1998 as an avenue in which to take the gift of classical music out into the community. In 2001, the Symphony selected ever-entertaining Carl Topilow to conduct the Pops Series.

The same year, Joseph Caulkins was hired as Director of Choruses and the Stained Glass Series of choral concerts came into being that Fall. Last season, the Symphony offered two outdoor concerts at the new Estero Community Park, attracting over 3,000 people to each event.

The 2006-07 Season was an exciting one as the two-year long search for the new Music Director came to fruition. Michael Hall was a huge hit with the orchestra and audiences during his debut with the Symphony last season and his appearances for the 2008/09 season are much anticipated. Previously, Hall was Associate Conductor of Orange County, California's Pacific Symphony. He is a graduate of London's prestigious Royal Academy of Music and has conducted throughout North America, Canada and the United Kingdom.

In 2007, another new step in the Symphony's history took place with the introduction of the Symphony Around Town Series. An expansion of the popular Sanibel Series, Symphony Around Town takes chamber orchestra music to the communities of Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Bonita Springs and Estero.