



MICHAEL HALL • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact: Mary Larkin

(239) 418-0996

Joseph Caulkins Associate Conductor & Director of Choruses

Throughout his career, Maestro Caulkins has been taking music to audiences in new and unexpected ways through creative programming, exciting collaborations, educational outreach, engaging lectures, and impassioned conducting.

During his seven seasons as Associate Conductor and Director of Choruses, Mr. Caulkins has conducted on all five concert series from Classical to Pops, led the chorus on a European tour, founded the Stained Glass Series now in its seventh year, directed the Children's Chorus at the Children in Harmony Choral Festival in Disney World, and released two chorus CDs, the latest *How Sweet The Sound, Songs of Faith and Inspiration* in April 2008.

Caulkins has conducted many Florida premiers including Howard Blake's *Benedictus*, Morten Lauridsen's *Nocturnes*, Libby Larsen's *The Ballerina & the Clown*, and recently commissioned *How Sweet The Sound* from composer William Dawson Jr. Caulkins has also performed many rediscovered works including Handel's *Gloria*, rarely heard works of Telemann, and a re-creation of Handel's first London Performance of *Messiah*.

Highlights of this season include leading the Southwest Florida Symphony in annual performances of our popular Holiday Pops and Messiah performances, Young People's Concerts, and leading the 4 concert Stained Glass Series. He will also be conducting Richard Einhorn's *Voices of Light*, which accompanies the 1928 silent film *The Passion of Joan of Arc* by Carl Dreyer in collaboration with the Sarasota Opera, Sarasota Film Society, and Key Chorale.

In addition to his role at the Symphony, Caulkins is also the Artistic Director/Conductor of the Sarasota Key Chorale and regularly conducts the Sarasota Ballet.

Prior to coming to Florida, Mr. Caulkins was conductor of the Bach Chamber Choir & Orchestra (Rockford, IL) and directed the St. Procopius Chamber Orchestra and Choirs at Benedictine University (Lisle, IL). Joseph was twice selected to participate in the prestigious Oregon Bach Festival Conducting Master Class.

An avid mountaineer and rock climber, Joseph has climbed over 70 peaks throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe including Mont Blanc, Mount Rainier, and Forbidden Peak.