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Sarasota Concert Association Announces its 75th Anniversary Season

The organization celebrates 75 years of bringing renowned musicians to the Sarasota-Manatee region. The 2020 Great Performers Series season features the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, pianist Behzod Abduraimov, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, The Knights with violinist Gil Shaham, the Pacifica Quartet with pianist Orion Weiss, and Musicians from Marlboro.

(Sarasota, Florida) For the past 74 years, the Sarasota Concert Association (SCA) has brought internationally renowned symphony orchestras, chamber orchestras and ensembles, and distinguished soloists to Sarasota at affordable prices. The organization was launched in 1938 by members of the Women's Club working with Columbia Artists Community Concerts, to bring world-class musicians to Sarasota. Although it was established in 1938, it was only able to present two seasons, 1938-39, and 1928-40, before concerts were suspended during World War II. It was not until 1946 that the Chamber of Commerce Civic Affairs Committee urged that Community Concerts be revived. Mrs. Dudley Palmer was elected, and 1,500 memberships were sold, providing funds to present the first post-war series. (*See more in attached history of the organization.*) Over the years, SCA has brought in such superstars of the classical music world as Rudolf Serkin, Risë Stevens, Claudio Arrau, Leontyne Price, the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras.

Until 2017, SCA presented its five-concert classical music series, now entitled “Great Performers Series,” at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall during a three-month period—January through March. In 2017, the organization expanded its season to include a sixth concert at the Riverview Performing Arts Center.

According to Joy McIntyre, SCA’s board president, the organization will be celebrating its 75th season in grand style. “As one of the longest-lasting cultural groups in Sarasota, we’re delighted to still be going strong and offering classical music lovers the opportunity to see and hear some of the world’s best musicians perform here in Sarasota,” she says. “I’m happy to say that the 2020 season is spectacular, continuing our tradition of bringing Carnegie Hall to Sarasota.”

Full, six-concert subscriptions for the 2020 season go on sale in April 2019. Single tickets and mini-packages will be available on August 1. Please check www.scasarasota.org for further information. A downloadable subscription form will be posted in April.

For more information about the Sarasota Concert Association, visit www.scasarasota.org

The 2020 Great Performers Series Season

January 15, 2020: Behzod Abduraimov, Piano

Winner of the London International Piano Competition at the age of 18, Abduraimov has already performed with such leading orchestras as the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, exhibiting depth of musicality paired with phenomenal technique. *(At Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.)*

January 29, 2020: The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra

“Champions of Collaboration,” the Grammy-award winning Orpheus Chamber Orchestra was founded in 1972 to create a conductorless orchestra with the intimacy of a chamber ensemble. *(At Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.)*

February 12, 2020: Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Led by the preeminent conductor Riccardo Muti, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra has been recognized as “one the five top orchestras in the world” by *Gramophone* magazine. *(At Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.)*

February 25, 2020: The Knights and Gil Shaham, Violin

Dedicated to transforming the orchestral experience and eliminating barriers between audiences and music, The Knights share the stage with one of the foremost violinists of our time, Gil Shaham. *(At Riverview Performing Arts Center)*

March 12, 7:30 p.m.: The Pacifica Quartet and Orion Weiss, Piano

Orion Weiss, acclaimed as “one of the most sought-after soloists of his generation,” joins forces with the Pacifica Quartet—an ensemble widely praised for its gripping interpretations of string quartet cycles. *(At Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.)*

March 30, 7:30 p.m.: Musicians from Marlboro

An offshoot of the Marlboro Festival created by Rudolf Serkin, the Musicians from Marlboro are acclaimed both for their joyous, thoroughly prepared performances and for fostering artists at the beginning of their careers—including such luminaries as Yefin Bronfman, Richard Goode, and Richard Stoltzman. *(At Riverview Performing Arts Center)*

About the Sarasota Concert Association

The Sarasota Concert Association (SCA) is a nonprofit organization that fosters greater appreciation for world-class classical music by offering the community two engaging programs from December to April. The Great Performers Series, in its 74th season, brings world-renowned orchestras and chamber groups to the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and the Riverview Performing Arts Center. The Music Matinee Series features outstanding

regional artists in free community concerts at Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center and other venues. For more information about SCA, visit www.scasarasota.org.

Photos courtesy of the artists.