



Box office: 941-225-6500

Media contact:

Su Byron ■ subyron@verizon.net

Sarasota Concert Association presents
The Czech National Symphony Orchestra

With John Mauceri, conductor

And Met Opera star, Isabel Leonard

Monday, February 11, at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

One of Europe's top symphonies and a rising star of opera and Broadway celebrate the music of Leonard Bernstein and Antonin Dvořák.

"Isabel Leonard is a true treasure . . . immensely talented and charismatic . . . already one of the world's leading artists though still relatively early in her career." —Eric C. Simpson, New York Classical Review

(Sarasota, Florida) The Sarasota Concert Association's 2019 Great Performers Series season continues Monday, February 11, 7:30 p.m., with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra, John Mauceri, conductor, and the Grammy Award-winning mezzo-soprano, Isabel Leonard. The concert's program includes Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 and works by Leonard Bernstein. *Individual tickets are \$30 to \$75. Subscriptions for three and four concerts are also available. Tickets and information for the Great Performers Series are available by calling 941-225-6500 or online at www.scasarasota.org.*

Known for rich, spirited concerts, the **Czech National Symphony Orchestra** is esteemed as one of Europe's top symphonic ensembles. Renowned for its

versatility, the group collaborates regularly with the world's top composers, conductors and artists.

Conductor **John Mauceri's** distinguished career has taken him not only to the world's greatest opera companies and symphony orchestras, but also to the musical stages of Broadway and Hollywood and the halls of academia. Regarded as the world's leading performer of the music of Hollywood's émigré composers, he has taken the lead in the preservation and performance of many kinds of music and has supervised/conducted works by composers as diverse as Debussy, Stockhausen, Korngold, Bernstein, Hindemith, Elfman, Ives, and Shore. As an accomplished recording artist, Mauceri has over 70 albums to his name, and is the recipient of Grammy, Tony, Olivier, Drama Desk, Edison, Cannes Classique, Billboard, two Diapasons d'Or, three Emmys, and four Deutsche Schallplatten Awards.

Highly acclaimed for her "passionate intensity and remarkable vocal beauty," **Isabel Leonard** continues to thrill audiences both in the opera house and on the concert stage. The Chicago Tribune wrote of her: "The vocal and physical beauty, the natural stage charisma, the sure dramatic instincts, to win all hearts from the outset." In repertoire that spans from Vivaldi to Mozart to Thomas Ades, she has graced opera stages around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Paris Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and San Francisco Opera. Leonard's roles during the 2019-2019 season at the Metropolitan Opera include the title role in the American premiere of Nico Muhly's "Marnie," Blanche de la Force in Poulenc's "Dialogues des Carmélites," and Mélisande in Debussy's "Pelléas et

Mélisande.” Her concert appearances have included the New York Philharmonic, and the Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cincinnati and Cleveland Orchestras. A popular recitalist, Leonard has appeared in Boston, San Francisco and Washington, in Atlanta’s Spivey Hall and in New York at both the Zankel and Alice Tully Halls.

Sarasota Concert Association 2019 Great Performers Series season continues with **Academy of St Martin in the Fields** with **Jeremy Denk**, piano (February 21); the **Pavel Haas Quartet** (March 15); and the **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra**, with **Fabio Bidini**, piano (April 3). Five of the concerts are at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and one concert is at Riverview Performing Arts Center. ***For more information and to purchase season subscriptions and individual tickets, visit www.scasarasota.org.***

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 in David Cohen Hall at the Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center, and other venues. For more information about SCA, visit www.scasarasota.org.

Photos courtesy of the artists.