Notes & News

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Riccardo Muti to Lead Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Sarasota Next Season

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, now in its 128th season, has earned a place as one of the world’s top five orchestras. Rave reviews are the norm: “An acoustic force!” Kansas City Star. “Chicago plays with opulent beauty!” Washington Post. “Conductor Riccardo Muti painstakingly ascended to glorious, heaven-opening climaxes and faded slowly, oh so slowly, to heart-stopping black …” Los Angeles Times. CSO’s path to greatness was forged by some of the 20th century’s greatest conductors and music directors, including Fritz Reiner, Pierre Boulez, Daniel Barenboim, and, since 2010, the Italian “maestro among maestros,” Riccardo Muti.

Muti is a rarity in today’s competitive, celebrity-driven culture. He’s established a reputation as a musician of uncompromising artistry while rising to a position of exceptional power and prestige. Thanks to his vision, the Orchestra has entered a new era of excellence. Under his leadership, Muti continues to deepen CSO’s engagement with the Chicago community, while supporting a new generation of musicians, and collaborating with visionary artists. Why did this “maestro among maestros” choose Chicago? As Muti puts it, “something happened artistically between us. The way they responded to my musical ideas and the sense of family that we immediately created together, pushed me to accept this very prestigious commitment.” In February, Muti signed an extension of his contract, which will keep him at the helm of the Chicago Symphony through the 2021–22 season.

In February 2020, SCA’s audiences will get a rare opportunity to witness Maestro Muti conduct the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as part of our 75th anniversary celebration. According to Joy McIntyre, SCA’s board president, the celebration will be grand. “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. Our 2020 season is spectacular, continuing our tradition of bringing Carnegie Hall to Sarasota.”

Sarasota Concert Association presents Riccardo Muti leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra during its 75th anniversary season in 2020. For more about Maestro Muti, visit www.csosoundsandstories.org or click here.
One of the great joys of being president of the Sarasota Concert Association (SCA) is getting to know members of the audience. Subscribers are the backbone of any arts organization, and many have been with us 30 years and more.

With 93 years on this earth, and nearly 30 years as an SCA subscriber, Dr. Bernard Friedland is as passionate as ever about the musical arts. When we met to talk, he was shepherding a quartet of string players from the Juilliard School, who were giving an afternoon concert of Dvořák and Borodin at Plymouth Harbor. These amazingly talented young musicians, all alumni of the Perlman Music Program, were spending a week in Sarasota on a mission to bring classical music into the schools and far corners of our community.

As a young man, Dr. Friedland played violin, but was soon persuaded to try the viola. The only problem was learning to read that pesky C clef. Still retaining his love for music, he found his professional home in the field of medical chemistry and pharmacology.

His parents came from an area bordering Poland and Russia. This first-generation American was born in Orlando, Florida, and benefited growing up from a home environment that included Hausmusik. As a senior at Rollins College, he played with the faculty string quartet. He then moved on to medical school at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Friedland’s mentor was a classmate of local legend Paul Wolfe. Through the Central Florida Symphony, he became fast friends with Isaac Stern. His great love remained chamber music, but the magic of Emanuel Ax taught him to love the keyboard as well. Together with his late wife, Shirley, Dr. Friedland has been a tireless activist on behalf of arts education...a cause that gives back in the giving.

Joy McIntyre
President, Sarasota Concert Association
Donor Spotlight

The people of Cleveland LOVE the arts! Did you know that America’s largest performing arts complex outside of New York City is in Cleveland? Eager patrons keep Playhouse Square’s 10 performance venues humming all year long. But it is the revered Severance Hall, home to the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra, which attracted longtime Sarasota Concert Association (SCA) subscribers Richard and Nancy Sneed and fostered their love for classical music. Complimentary tickets, from Richard’s law firm, were the beginning. In a way, they were simply following a family tradition, as Richard’s father and mother had long been patrons of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Richard and Nancy met in college at the University of Missouri. Their lively interest in travel, together with Richard’s work, opened their hearts to the world and led to overseas postings in Germany and Japan. It was natural then, that later they joined the Cleveland Orchestra’s travel group, accompanying the Orchestra’s European tour to performances in Vienna and Hamburg.

They continue to support arts organizations in Sarasota and have been SCA subscribers and generous donors for many years. Most notably, they sponsored the Cleveland Orchestra’s appearance as part of our 2018 Great Performers Series. We are so grateful for their support and help in bringing one of the great orchestras of the world to our Sarasota stage.

New Web Site to Launch

The Sarasota Concert Association is going to launch a freshly designed and more user-friendly website this summer. The new website will also be more mobile friendly – making it accessible from your cell phone and other mobile devices. With added important content, completely redesigned graphics, and ease of navigation, the refreshed site will provide greater access to everything SCA.

In addition to including such information as schedules, ticketing, and easy ways to give, we will also have the latest 75th anniversary events posted, and plan to introduce a “your visit” resource page. Here, visitors will find nearby restaurants, parking, “what to expect” for the uninitiated, and details to enhance your concert experience.

Although a firm launch date has not yet been established, our goal is to unveil the site within the next 30 to 60 days. Of course, we’ll be interested in your feedback once you’ve had an opportunity to experience the website. Watch your email for further information.

Black & White Brunch at Selby Gardens
January 26, 2020 | 10:30 am
Save the date for a spectacular brunch at one of the most beautiful venues in our area, catered by Michael’s On East. Entertainment will feature Brandon Goldberg, a 12-year-old piano prodigy. Watch for further details!
2020 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW AVAILABLE!

Don’t wait -

- Subscribers enjoy priority seating
- Subscriptions are a huge savings over single ticket purchases
- This season’s exclusive Chicago Symphony Orchestra performance means that tickets will be in high demand.
- Be a part of our 75th Anniversary Season Celebration