



MEDIA ALERT | May 15, 2019

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The Florida Orchestra's season finale features Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto

Plus: Inside the Music tells life-or-death pressure of Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – Music Director Michael Francis wraps up The Florida Orchestra's 51st season with three nights of concerts May 24-26, featuring Tchaikovsky's beloved *Violin Concerto* in the Tampa Bay Times Masterworks series, plus a pay-what-you-can *Inside the Music* performance of Shostakovich's heroic *Symphony No. 5* on May 23.

The unforgettable melodies of Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* will be in the hands of TFO Concertmaster Jeffrey Multer, recognized worldwide for his verve and passion on the stage. Appointed concertmaster in 2006, the violinist made his Kennedy Center debut in 1993, and has performed throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia. The season finale concerts also include Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5* as well as *Silver Glass*, a short work by Florida State University student Lincoln Sandham, winner of TFO's Student Composer Competition ([read here how the piece is inspired by *The Lord of the Rings* books](#)). Maestro Francis conducts concerts May 24-26 in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater. Tickets start at \$18; kids and teens get in free with Classical Kids tickets, available in advance. [Click here for tickets and concert details.](#)

For TFO's *Inside the Music* series, Maestro Francis will use live orchestra demos to tell the dramatic story of Dmitri Shostakovich. With his colleagues and family members disappearing, he knew his life depended on how he composed his *Fifth Symphony* under Stalin, who only tolerated music that honored the Soviet Union. The evening ends with a performance of the full symphony. Admission is pay what you can at the door on Thursday, May 23, at the Palladium Theater in St. Petersburg at 7:30 pm.

The Florida Orchestra's new season opens in September and celebrates 250 years of Beethoven and beyond, including Beethoven's *Fifth*, music of The Beatles, Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, Holiday Pops, and much more. Season tickets are on sale now at FloridaOrchestra.org; single tickets are available Aug. 12.

[For more about Michael Francis, click here.](#)

[For more about Jeffrey Multer, click here.](#)

[About The Florida Orchestra](#)

The Florida Orchestra is recognized as Tampa Bay's leading performing arts institution, the largest professional symphony orchestra in Florida, and one of the most vibrant and innovative orchestras in America. This is its 51st season. Under the leadership of Music Director Michael Francis, it performs more than 130 concerts a season, with series of classical, popular, and morning coffee concerts in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, as well as free Pops in the Park concerts. Dedicated to bringing music to all people, connecting to the community is a priority, with pre-concert talks, family and youth concerts and other educational activities. To buy tickets: floridaorchestra.org and 727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286.