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New Family Concerts expand to full-size Florida Orchestra, celebrate moon landing

Tickets go on sale Aug. 12 for interactive afternoon concerts geared for kids, parents

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra will launch new full-orchestra Family Concerts on both sides of the bay in the fall to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, the orchestra announced today. Historic NASA video and images of the lunar surface will beam onto the big screen, as kids and their parents sing and dance along to music about space travel and the skies during the interactive concerts, called One Giant Leap. **Tickets go on sale Monday, Aug. 12, 2019.**

The Sunday afternoon concerts are geared for the whole family and revolve around a milestone moment being commemorated this week: July 20, 1969, when Neil Armstrong became the first human to walk on the moon. The concerts will be part live music, part family activities like the Instrument Petting Zoo, and part fun education, including an introduction to the instrument families of the orchestra.

TFO will perform One Giant Leap on **Sunday, Oct. 27, 2019, at the Straz Center in Tampa at 2 pm, and Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Palladium Theater in St. Petersburg at 2 pm. Lobby activities, including the Instrument Petting Zoo, start at 1 pm.** Tickets are \$8 per person in advance/\$10 at the door; ages 3 and under are free. Tickets go on sale Aug. 12 at FloridaOrchestra.org and 727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286. Facility service charges apply.

The 45-minute concerts feature “Jupiter” from Holst’s *The Planets*, selections from *E.T.* by John Williams, *Star Trek: Into the Darkness* by Michael Giacchino, and *Apollo 13* by James Horner, along with works by Strauss, Mozart, Debussy and more. TFO Associate Conductor Daniel Black will conduct the full Florida Orchestra, which includes 67 professional musicians. The afternoon starts with TFO’s Instrument Petting Zoo, where kids can try out violins, trombones, flutes, and more, along with other lobby activities. The petting zoo is sponsored by TFO’s North Suncoast Associates, a volunteer patron group.

The orchestra’s new full-orchestra Family Concerts are expanded from its previous kid-sized concerts performed by a small chamber group that have been popular with small children over the past several years. The new Family Concerts are geared for kids ages 6-12 and their families; all are welcome. More Family Concerts will be announced in the spring.

Aside from Family Concerts, TFO offers more space-themed programs in its 2019-2020 season, which opens in the fall. Individual tickets for these also go on sale Aug. 12; subscriptions are on sale now.

- **[Deep Field: A Cosmic Experience \(Nov. 8-10\)](#):** Go deep into the stars with Grammy winner Eric Whitacre’s symphonic *Deep Field*, illuminated by the Hubble Telescope’s stunning video and surrounded by The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay singing in the aisles. Also: Whitacre’s signature

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piece, *Lux Aurumque*; Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. Kids and teens get in free to this and all Tampa Bay Times Masterworks concerts with Classical Kids tickets, available in advance.

- **Out of this World (Feb. 28 & 29)**: All systems are go for a voyage to distant galaxies with stellar music from *Star Trek*, *E.T.*, Holst's *The Planets*, *Star Wars*, *2001: A Space Odyssey* and more. Sarah Hicks conducts. Part of the Raymond James Pops series.

Music Director Michael Francis opens his fifth season with The Florida Orchestra in September. It 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 to all concerts are available Aug. 12.

[For more about Daniel Black, click here](#)

[About The Florida Orchestra](#)

The Florida Orchestra is recognized as Tampa Bay's leading performing arts institution, the largest professional orchestra in Florida, and one of the most vibrant and innovative orchestras in America. This is its 52nd 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.