The Florida Orchestra to perform Strauss’ ‘Don Quixote’ live with exclusive art film

Artwork created by TFO’s first-ever visual artist-in-residence, Geff Strik.

Click here for VIDEO PREVIEW OF DON QUIXOTE multimedia experience

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra melds art with music in a visionary new multimedia experience inspired by Richard Strauss’ Don Quixote, synchronized to the LIVE orchestra at concerts Oct. 11-13. At the center will be a world-premiere, high-definition art film on the big screen, created locally with TFO’s new visual artist-in-residence, Geff Strik, and Music Director Michael Francis. The concert also features internationally acclaimed cello soloist Maximilian Hornung at performances in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater.

This is a visually stunning concert that audiences can see only one weekend in October, only at The Florida Orchestra.

Geff Strik is TFO’s first-ever visual artist-in-residence, a role that solidifies the orchestra’s commitment to innovation, collaboration and accessibility. “Innovation is a key part of what we do. It’s in our DNA,” said Mark Cantrell, TFO President & CEO. “We believe no other American orchestra is doing anything like this at this level. We are leading the way, giving audiences new ways to engage with the music.”

The collaboration will tell the heroic story of Don Quixote, based on the Spanish novel Don Quixote de la Mancha by Cervantes, which has inspired writers, artists and composers for hundreds of years. Strauss composed his tone poem for cello, viola and orchestra in 1897. Musically, Don Quixote is represented by the cello (Hornung) and Sancho Panza by the viola (Principal Viola Derek Mosloff).

Strik started with the musical score, annotated by Michael Francis, and created 29 sketches interpreting scenes from Don Quixote. Then, using one 10-by-5-foot canvas, he painted each scene over the other. The whole process was captured through video and crafted into a 42-minute art film synchronized to the music, which will be conducted live on stage by Maestro Francis. Because Strik used one canvas, some of the paintings are gone forever, existing only through the art film.

The film is produced by Siècle des Lumières, LLC, with Executive Producers Phil Yost and Geff Strik. It is supported and sponsored by Compass Land and Title, Kahwa Coffee Roasters, Liz and Todd Birge, and Oktane Media.

With an overarching theme of heroism, the concert pairs Don Quixote with Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3, “Eroica” – the heroic – on Oct. 11-13 in Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater. Tickets start at $18, at FloridaOrchestra.org.
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In connection with the concert, The Dalí Museum will host Don Quixote, Dalí & The Florida Orchestra, a free event featuring Dalí Museum Director Dr. Hank Hine moderating a discussion with Michael Francis and Geff Strik about how they developed the multimedia experience. The event will include a talk about Salvador Dalí’s Don Quixote illustrations along with live music by TFO guest artist cellist Maximilian Hornung on Thursday, Oct. 10, at 10:30 am at The Dalí Museum.

The Don Quixote multimedia project is The Florida Orchestra’s second collaboration with Strik, an internationally acclaimed French artist now living in St. Petersburg. Last season, a multimedia experience with live orchestra told the story of Schoenberg’s Transfigured Night (Verklarte Nacht), based on a poem by Richard Dehmel. The performance received a standing ovation all three nights.

TFO’s new season is brimming with more collaborations and multimedia concerts, including rare photos and video with Revolution: The Music of the Beatles – A Symphonic Experience in October; a partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, and the Tampa City Ballet in January; film concerts with live orchestra; and more.

Michael Francis opens his fifth season with The Florida Orchestra on Sept. 27-29, launching a celebration of 250 years of Beethoven and beyond. Full concert lineup at FloridaOrchestra.org.

For more Florida Orchestra news and features, click here for the TFO Blog.

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.