The Florida Orchestra to feature Bernadette Peters at gala concert

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – Multi-award-winning Broadway, film and TV star Bernadette Peters will perform with The Florida Orchestra at its annual gala concert conducted by TFO Music Director Michael Francis on Saturday, February 1, 2020, at the Mahaffey Theater, the orchestra announced today. She will be joined onstage by her long-time Music Director Marvin Laird on piano for a glamorous evening of music to benefit the orchestra’s growing community and artistic initiatives.

“A Gala Evening with Bernadette Peters” features one of Broadway’s most critically acclaimed performers, admired for her captivating stage presence as much as her heartfelt renditions of songs by Stephen Sondheim and Rodgers and Hammerstein, among others.

Best known for her work on stage, Peters recently made the title role her own in the hit Broadway musical Hello, Dolly! to rave reviews. She also has an extensive list of TV credits, most recently appearing in Amazon Prime’s Mozart in the Jungle, which won the 2016 Golden Globe for Best TV Comedy or Musical series, and in the CBS All-Access series The Good Fight, a spin-off of the network’s The Good Wife.

Concert tickets go on sale exclusively to Florida Orchestra subscribers and donors on Monday, November 4, and to the general public on Monday, November 11. Tickets will be $75, $100, $150 and $200. Concert tickets do not include the reception or dinner.

New this year: TFO will offer a special Pre-Concert Party as an add-on for $150. The evening begins with a red carpet entrance to a reception with live music, gourmet hors d’oeuvres, signature cocktails and other surprises. The Pre-Concert Party ticket can be added to any concert ticket online or through the TFO Ticket Center.

The Full Gala Experience will include a walk on the red carpet, pre-concert reception with a private bar, hors d’oeuvres and live music, premium concert seating, and a post-concert gourmet dinner with TFO musicians and Music Director Michael Francis overlooking the waterfront at the Mahaffey Theater in
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downtown St. Petersburg. Table sponsorships are on sale now. For more information on the Full Gala Experience, please contact Meg Carlone at (727) 362-5422 or mcarlone@floridaorchestra.org

The gala is the premier fundraising event of the year for The Florida Orchestra, the largest professional orchestra in the state, serving more than 200,000 patrons a season. The gala event co-chairs are Montserrat and Emmanuel Cerf. All proceeds support TFO’s high standard of artistic excellence on stage as well as robust education and community programs, which have grown nearly 50% in the past four years, reaching more than 91,000 people last year alone through free hospital, park, museum, youth concerts and many other free musical performances throughout Tampa Bay.

**A Gala Evening with Bernadette Peters**
The multi-award-winning Broadway, film and TV star performs Broadway classics with The Florida Orchestra. Michael Francis conducts. The gala concert benefits TFO’s community and education programs and artistic initiatives.

**7 pm Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg**
**Tickets:** $75, $100, $150 and $200. Concert tickets do not include reception or dinner.
**Pre-Concert Party add-on ticket:** $150
**Public on sale:** Nov. 11. FloridaOrchestra.org; 727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286

**More About Bernadette Peters**
Throughout her illustrious career, Bernadette Peters has dazzled audiences and critics with her performances on stage, film and television, in concert, and on recordings.

One of Broadway’s most critically acclaimed performers, Peters has garnered numerous accolades including three Tony Awards, a Golden Globe, three Emmy and four Grammy Award nominations and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In addition to Hello, Dolly!, other recent theater credits include City Center’s Encores! Production, A Bed and a Chair: A New York Love Affair featuring the music of Stephen Sondheim and orchestrations by Wynton Marsalis, and on Broadway, Stephen Sondheim’s A Little Night Music and Follies.

Peters received both the Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for her performance in the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical Song and Dance. She also won a Tony Award for her performance in Annie Get Your Gun. She received Tony nominations for her outstanding performances in Sam Mendes’ critically acclaimed revival of Gypsy, in Neil Simon’s The Goodbye Girl, Stephen Sondheim’s Pulitzer Prize-winning musical Sunday in the Park with George, the Jerry Herman/Gower Champion ode to the movies Mack and Mabel, and the Leonard Bernstein/Comden and Green musical On The Town. She also earned a Drama Desk nomination for her unforgettable portrayal of the Witch in Sondheim’s Into the Woods.

Other television credits include NBC’s Smash, ABC’s Grey’s Anatomy and Ugly Betty, to name a few. Peters also has lit up the silver screen in 17 films throughout her distinguished career. She received a Golden Globe Award for her memorable performance in Pennies From Heaven. Other film credits include The Jerk, The Longest Yard, Silent Movie, Annie, Pink Cadillac, Slaves of New York, Woody Allen’s Alice, Impromptu, It Runs in the Family, and Coming Up Roses.

Peters has recorded six solo albums, including the Grammy-nominated I’ll Be Your Baby Tonight, Sondheim, Etc.: Bernadette Peters Live at Carnegie Hall, and Bernadette Peters Loves Rodgers & Hammerstein, in addition to numerous original Broadway cast recordings.
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Peters devotes her time and talents to numerous events that benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Her “pet project” Broadway Barks, co-founded with Mary Tyler Moore, is an annual star-studded dog and cat adoption event that benefits shelter animals in the New York City area. She is a New York Times best-selling author who has penned three children’s books: Broadway Barks, Stella is a Star, and Stella and Charlie: Friends Forever. All proceeds from the sale of these books benefit Broadway Barks. Peters resides in New York with her rescue dogs, Charlie and Rosalia.

About Michael Francis
Maestro Francis took over as music director of The Florida Orchestra in the fall of 2015 and instantly became a huge hit. Quickly establishing an international presence, the British conductor also is chief conductor of Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, music director of the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego, and a popular guest conductor around the nation and the globe. Click for a full bio.

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.