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The Florida Orchestra cancels rest of season

Orchestra keeps music and mission going with TFO at Home online series.

[‘We will keep bringing you music.’ Read a letter from Music Director Michael Francis to our community](#)

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – In accordance with health and government guidelines, The Florida Orchestra is canceling the rest of its concerts through the end of the season in May to fight the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Tampa Bay.

“This decision is not what anybody wanted, but it’s clear this step is necessary for the safety of everyone,” said Mark Cantrell, TFO President & CEO. “Make no mistake, TFO is more committed than ever to keeping the music and our mission going any way we can. We miss performing for our community immensely. When the time is right, nothing will have more power and inspiration than The Florida Orchestra to bring us together again.”

Last week the orchestra launched **TFO at Home**, a robust online series of every way the orchestra is keeping the music going, all in one place: FloridaOrchestra.org/tfo-at-home. It includes TFO’s first-ever virtual orchestra performance of Tchaikovsky’s *Symphony No. 4* (finale), at least 20 performance videos from musicians’ homes, links to weekly rebroadcasts of concerts on WSMR.org, virtual learning resources from the pros and more. New content is posted every day.

TFO’s Board of Directors previously voted to pay TFO’s musicians and staff through the end of the season to keep the orchestra strong. TFO’s full-time musicians are part of the fabric of this community, and TFO is committed to ensuring that their livelihood withstands this global crisis.

Without ticket revenue, which accounts for about 40 percent of TFO’s operating budget, the orchestra is relying solely on contributions to support its mission. Ticketholders can provide immediate relief by donating the value of their unused tickets back to the orchestra at FloridaOrchestra.org/donate-your-tickets. Contributions of any amount can be made at FloridaOrchestra.org/donate.

Coronavirus concerns have forced the cancellation of concerts since March 20. The following concerts are canceled, most at TFO’s main venues: Straz Center in Tampa, Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg and Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater:

April 22-23: Once Upon a Concert Coffee concert

April 24: Livin’ Thing: The Music of The Electric Light Orchestra Rock concert

April 25-26: Prohibition Raymond James Pops concert

May 1-3: Beethoven’s Fifth: Darkness to Light Masterworks concert

May 3: Woodson Chamber Series: Cello and Piano Duo

May 7: Made in America Coffee concert

May 9-10: Free Pops in the Park concerts at Coachman Park in Clearwater and Julian B. Lane Riverfront

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Park in Tampa

May 13: Free Happy Hour Concert at Armature Works

May 14: From Russia with Love Coffee concert

May 15-16: Superhero Soundtracks Pops concert

May 22-24: Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 Masterworks concert

May 30-31: Play Me a Story Family Concerts

Because the coronavirus crisis has forced the cancellation of more concerts than anticipated, The Florida Orchestra is updating its policy for unused tickets.

It is The Florida Orchestra's hope that patrons will consider donating their unused tickets back to TFO to aid in our ongoing operations. To ensure that patrons' unused tickets are allocated properly, they will need to submit [this form](#) to indicate their preference. Please note that all ticketholders are asked to submit the form, even if they have contacted the TFO Ticket Center previously. The deadline is June 1, 2020. If no action is taken, the value of the tickets will revert back to TFO in the form of a tax-deductible donation.

For assistance and questions, patrons should email the Ticket Center at ticketcenter@floridaorchestra.org. Those who purchased tickets through the venue should contact their sales center directly.

A Q&A on concert cancellations is available at FloridaOrchestra.org at [this link](#).

After an abrupt ending to this season and long periods of isolation, our community will need the joy, thrill and inspiration of live music more than ever. Michael Francis and The Florida Orchestra look forward to bringing Tampa Bay together again in the fall for the beginning of its 2020/21 season.

[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. FloridaOrchestra.org