

To maximize safety, The Florida Orchestra  
reimagines fall season, adds video live streams



**NEWS RELEASE | Sept. 22, 2020**

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*To keep orchestra strong, musicians and staff will take one-year pay reduction*

**FALL SEASON:** Revised concert schedule listed below, subject to change

**DOWNLOAD PHOTOS:** [Click here for photos about the season](#)

**TFO AT HOME:** [The music never stops online with 120 performance and education videos](#)

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra today announced a reimagined fall season that brings the comfort and joy of live classical music back to Tampa Bay while maintaining health and safety as the top priority. The 53<sup>rd</sup> season will open Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2020 with Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7*, conducted by Music Director Michael Francis at the Mahaffey Theater. In addition to in-person concerts, TFO will live stream video for free so everyone has access to performances during the Covid-19 pandemic. To help offset lower ticket revenue and keep the orchestra strong for the 2020/21 season, musicians and staff will take a one-year 20 percent salary reduction while retaining full health care benefits.

"It's a crazy, complicated puzzle to make next season work, but we're tackling it with a strong team thanks to the unwavering support of our community. We are grateful to everyone who has continued to make contributions, including so many patrons who donated back their unused tickets from last season," said TFO President & CEO Mark Cantrell. "TFO's Board of Directors have stood by our musicians and staff because they know this orchestra will play an important role in helping our community heal. We must take these steps for safety and financial stability now to ensure a brighter future."

Maestro Francis has redesigned the season in phases for maximum safety. In Phase 1, the orchestra is determined to offer more, not less. By dividing musicians into smaller ensembles of 20-40 players, patrons will have more concerts, more music and more variety to choose from. The result is an expansion of the premier Tampa Bay Times Masterworks series to include exciting new "Soundwaves" concerts, which explore a wide range of music and composers. Overall, concerts will be shorter with no intermission. Some weekends will offer five performances over two days, all with limited audiences exclusively at The Duke Energy Center for the Arts/Mahaffey Theater, a cultural jewel along St. Petersburg's waterfront.

"By expanding our Masterworks series to include our wonderful new Soundwaves concerts, I'm thrilled to share an amazing kaleidoscope of sounds and colors. We'll feature works we don't often get the chance to perform, such as Jessie Montgomery's *Strum* and Joseph Schwantner's *Percussion Concerto*, along with beloved classics from Beethoven and Mozart," said Maestro Francis. "You will not be disappointed by the outstanding music."

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For full flexibility, the orchestra is announcing a revised concert schedule with new dates and repertoire only through the end of the year for the Tampa Bay Times Masterworks, Raymond James Pops and Coffee series. Highlights include **Mozart's *Symphony No. 40***, **Ragtime Kings** with Byron Stripling, the annual **Holiday Pops** and a **Classical Christmas**, along with music from a variety of composers, from **George Gershwin** and **Aaron Copland** to **George Walker** and **Joan Tower**.

The orchestra is making the most of its revised season to feature more of its own virtuoso musicians. Phase 1 features **Concertmaster Jeffrey Multer** on a concert of Tchaikovsky and Vivaldi, **Principal Bassoon Joshua Baker** performing a work of Piazzolla, **Principal Flute Clay Ellerbroek** and **Principal Harp Anna Kate Mackle** in Mozart's *Concerto for Flute and Harp*, and **Principal Percussion John Shaw** on Joseph Schwantner's *Percussion Concerto* (wind ensemble version).

"Can you imagine how inspiring it will be when we're together in the concert hall once again? When the orchestra plays those first notes on stage, it will be such an incredibly powerful and emotional moment. We can't wait to share that with you," said Maestro Francis, who is entering his sixth season with TFO. "Whether you're with us in person or streaming our concert live in your living room with Beethoven blasting from your TV, The Florida Orchestra will be your haven for reflection, inspiration and, of course, celebration in Tampa Bay and beyond."

Phase 1 will have limited, spaced seating for the safety of patrons. TFO will accommodate season ticketholders first, and any remaining tickets will go on sale Oct. 12. TFO's free Pops in the Park concert, which draws nearly 20,000 to Vinoy Park every fall, is postponed until the spring.

The Florida Orchestra last performed March 8, 2020, when Maestro Francis conducted Joyce Yang on Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 3*. However, TFO musicians and staff have kept the music and the mission going with more than 120 performance and education videos, radio broadcasts and blog posts in the [TFO at Home](#) series at [FloridaOrchestra.org](#).

"It's been a long summer filled with uncertainty, and we are thrilled that we are finally returning to the stage!" said Principal Flute Clay Ellerbroek, also chair of the Orchestra Committee. "TFO musicians are committed to the safety and well-being of our audience and the players onstage as well as the backstage staff of TFO. Although the concerts will be different, we musicians believe there are great healing powers in music. We hope this season will inspire and enrich lives in ways it never has before."

### What will the concert experience be like?

To keep each other healthy and safe, a team of TFO board members, musicians and staff is working in conjunction with the Mahaffey Theater to implement strict safety protocols in accordance with CDC guidelines. More details will be available soon and posted at [FloridaOrchestra.org](#).

- \* Face coverings will be required for all guests, musicians and staff.
- \* All concerts will be shorter, about 75 minutes, with no intermission.
- \* Smaller ensembles ranging from 20-40 musicians will be on stage to allow for extra spacing.
- \* To simplify and strengthen safety protocols, all concerts are scheduled at the Mahaffey Theater. (Venues will be added as the season progresses.)
- \* Reserved seats will be assigned in pairs at least 6 feet apart.
- \* Entry into the concert hall will be crowd controlled. Live Pre-concert Conversations for the Masterworks and Coffee series are on hold for now.
- \* Maximum audience capacity is 25 percent.
- \* To reduce contact in the lobby, plexiglass and touchless pay systems have been installed at bar areas

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and concierge desk. Concert programs will not be printed. Printable program notes and other concert information will be easily accessible at FloridaOrchestra.org.

\* The Mahaffey Theater is implementing strict new cleaning procedures for before and between concerts, including long-lasting disinfectant spray in the theater, lobby and backstage. Touchless paper towel and soap dispensers have been installed in the restrooms. Numerous hand sanitizer stations are located throughout the building, including the lobby, bars and restrooms. The ventilation system meets or exceeds guidelines.

**A TFO first: free live-streaming concerts**

For the first time, The Florida Orchestra will live stream video of concerts for free so everyone can experience the music, even if they prefer to do so from the comfort and safety of their living room. For Phase 1, these five concerts will be available in their entirety for viewing on TVs or any device patrons choose. They will be accessed at FloridaOrchestra.org and on TFO's social media platforms.

- \* **Beethoven's Symphony No. 7**, Sat, Oct. 31, 8 pm
- \* **Ragtime Kings**, Sat, Nov. 7, 8 pm
- \* **Mozart's Symphony No. 40**, Sat, Nov. 14, 8 pm
- \* **Tchaikovsky & Vivaldi for Strings**, Sat, Dec. 5, 8 pm
- \* **Classical Christmas**, Sun, Dec. 20, 5 pm

**TFO finishes 2019/20 season with strong support**

The orchestra finished the 2019/20 season with strong support from our community and patrons, who donated back about \$450,000 in tickets for canceled concerts in addition to other contributions. To make sure TFO remains sustainable and flexible, a revamped budget for the 2020/21 season streamlines expenses and allows for significantly lower ticket revenue as TFO follows government and safety guidelines for spaced seating. All TFO musicians and staff including President Cantrell and Maestro Francis will take a 20 percent pay reduction through furloughs. The unpaid weeks will be taken throughout the fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2021. Many of the musicians' furloughed weeks will come at the beginning of the season during the delayed start in the fall.

"This pandemic is historic, and there are no easy solutions," Cantrell said. "Just because times are difficult, we are not letting up. The musicians and staff believe in what they do. They are making sacrifices because they believe in this orchestra and are dedicated to doing whatever it takes to sustain TFO during the Covid-19 outbreak. Then we can hit the reset button in the 2021/22 season and venture into whatever the new normal will be."

In March, TFO's Board of Directors voted to pay TFO's musicians and staff through the end of the 2019/20 season to keep the mission and the music going online, even as the pandemic forced the cancellation of three months of live concerts. The orchestra received \$1.2 million through the federal Payroll Protection Program, which helped cover those costs.

**The Florida Orchestra Reimagined 2020/21 Season Phase 1**

All concerts at the **MAHAFFEY THEATER** in St. Petersburg. All concerts subject to change.

TAMPA BAY TIMES MASTERWORKS

**Beethoven's Symphony No. 7**

[Michael Francis, conductor](#)

Jessie Montgomery: Strum

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**Zoltan Kodaly:** Dances from Galanta

**Beethoven:** Symphony No. 7

Music Director Michael Francis welcomes you back to the joy of live music. Experience Jessie Montgomery's inventive *Strum* for strings before Zoltan Kodaly's lively *Dances from Galanta*, based on gypsy folk music. After the strife and heartache of war, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7* brings a full throttle, triumphant finish as TFO celebrates 250 years of the iconic composer.

**Sat, Oct 31, 2 pm**

**Sat, Oct 31, 8 pm – OR FREE LIVE STREAM** at FloridaOrchestra.org

**Sun, Nov 1, 2 pm**

MASTERWORKS: SOUNDWAVES

**Legends from the Americas**

[Michael Francis, conductor](#)

Joshua Baker, bassoon

**Joplin:** The Entertainer

**Piazzolla:** Serie del angel

**Arturo Marquez:** Danzon No. 4

**Copland:** Appalachian Spring (original version for 13 players)

Celebrate groundbreaking composers from North and South America. Michael Francis adds a twist you don't want to miss.

**Sat, Oct 31, 5 pm**

**Sun, Nov 1, 5 pm**

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RAYMOND JAMES POPS

**Ragtime Kings**

[Byron Stripling, conductor and trumpet](#)

Fan favorite and trumpet virtuoso Byron Stripling returns for the unforgettable melodies of Scott Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton and W.C. Handy. Songs include *The Entertainer*, *Maple Leaf Rag*, *King Porter Stomp*, *St. Louis Blues* and *Rialto Ripples*.

**Sat, Nov 7, 2 pm**

**Sat, Nov 7, 8 pm – OR FREE LIVE STREAM** at FloridaOrchestra.org

**Sun, Nov 8, 2 pm**

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TAMPA BAY TIMES MASTERWORKS

**Mozart's Symphony No. 40**

[Stuart Malina, conductor](#)

[Clay Ellerbroek, flute](#)

[Anna Kate Mackle, harp](#)

**Mozart:** Concerto for Flute and Harp

**Mozart:** Symphony No. 40

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All the beauty and grace of Mozart. Featuring his *Concerto for Flute and Harp* with TFO's Clay Ellerbroek and Anna Kate Mackle, and the famous melodies of *Symphony No. 40*, one of the final works in a remarkable life.

**Sat, Nov 14, 2 pm**

**Sat, Nov 14, 8 pm – OR FREE LIVE STREAM** at FloridaOrchestra.org

**Sun, Nov 15, 2 pm**

**MASTERWORKS: SOUNDWAVES**

**Brass with a Beat**

[Daniel Black, conductor](#)

**Jim Parker:** A Londoner in New York

**Bach:** Sinfonia

**Jan Koestier:** Symphony for Brass

**Gabrieli:** Canzon

**Gershwin:** An American in Paris

Join The Florida Orchestra's special teams for percussion and brass with class.

**Sat, Nov 14, 5 pm**

**Sun, Nov 15, 5 pm**

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**TAMPA BAY TIMES MASTERWORKS**

**Tchaikovsky & Vivaldi for Strings**

[Jeffrey Multer, leader & violin](#)

[Nancy Chang, violin](#)

**Vivek Jayaraman,** violin

[Sarah Shellman, violin](#)

**Oswaldo Golijov:** Last Round

**Vivaldi:** Concerto for Four Violins

**George Walker:** Lyric for Strings

**Tchaikovsky:** Serenade for Strings

Jeffrey Multer leads the premier strings of The Florida Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's sublime *Serenade for Strings* along with works by Vivaldi, George Walker and more.

**Sat, Dec 5, 2 pm**

**Sat, Dec 5, 8 pm – OR FREE LIVE STREAM** at FloridaOrchestra.org

**Sun, Dec 6, 2 pm**

**MASTERWORKS: SOUNDWAVES**

**American Heroes**

[Michael Francis, conductor](#)

[John Shaw, percussion](#)

**Adolphus Hailstork:** American Fanfare

**Joan Tower:** Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman No. 1

**Steven Stucky:** Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary

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**Joseph Schwantner:** Percussion Concerto (wind ensemble version)

**Copland:** Fanfare for the Common Man

Join TFO's woodwinds, brass and percussion for music from great American composers presented with plenty of fanfare.

**Sat, Dec 5, 5 pm**

**Sun, Dec 6, 5 pm**

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**RAYMOND JAMES POPS**

**Holiday Pops**

[Enrico Lopez-Yañez, conductor](#)

When you're longing for traditional holiday favorites, there's no place like The Florida Orchestra.

**Fri, Dec 11, 8 pm**

**Sat, Dec 12, 2 pm & 8 pm**

**Sun, Dec 13, 2 pm & 7:30 pm**

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**COFFEE CONCERT**

**Classical Christmas**

[Daniel Black, conductor](#)

Music to celebrate the season from history's greatest composers including Mozart, Handel and Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*.

**Wed, Dec 16, 11 am**

**Thu, Dec 17, 11 am**

**Encore performances!**

**Sun, Dec 20, 2 pm**

**Sun, Dec 20, 5 pm – OR FREE LIVE STREAM** at FloridaOrchestra.org

**[About The Florida Orchestra](#)**

*The Florida Orchestra (TFO) 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. For its 53<sup>rd</sup> season, the orchestra is proud to introduce free live-streaming video of select concerts so everyone has access to the music. Under the leadership of Music Director Michael Francis, TFO performs series of classical, popular, and morning coffee concerts in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, as well as free Pops in the Park concerts. The orchestra is dedicated to connecting to the community both in-person and virtually, with TFO at Home, family and youth concerts and other educational programs. For tickets and information: FloridaOrchestra.org*