

The Florida Orchestra names Daniel Black resident conductor



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ST. PETERSBURG, FL – Music Director Michael Francis announced today that Associate Conductor Daniel Black will move into the new role of resident conductor for The Florida Orchestra’s 2020/21 season. This new position recognizes Black’s exceptional work over the past two years and his expanded role in TFO’s upcoming season.

“In his two seasons with TFO, Dan has shown remarkable rapport with audiences and musicians and a strong connection to the community,” Maestro Francis said. “He is both fearless and tireless in taking on new projects, and has consistently demonstrated his musicality, skills and engaging personality. We are delighted to reward him with this prominent position.”

Black will be TFO’s first resident conductor in more than a decade. He follows beloved conductors Susan Haig, who left in 2007, and Thomas Wilkins, who left in 2002 and is now principal conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra in Los Angeles.

This season Black will take on more classical programs in the premier Tampa Bay Times Masterworks series, including TFO’s new Soundwaves concerts, which feature a rich range of composers and repertoire. He will assist Maestro Francis and Principal Guest Conductor Stuart Malina with artistic duties and continue to lead the orchestra’s youth, family and community concerts.

“It’s a tremendous honor to be continuing with the Florida Orchestra as resident conductor. It’s a privilege to make music with these wonderful musicians, and I have really enjoyed working with Michael Francis, Stuart Malina and everyone on staff,” Black said. “I feel right at home in Tampa Bay, and I’m proud to be a part of an organization that is so passionately dedicated to serving the community. I look forward to getting back on the podium for TFO’s return, and to many more concerts to come.”

Since joining TFO in 2018, Black has excelled in every way. During the Covid-19 concert hiatus, he added video and audio editing to his skill set and created several “virtual orchestra” recordings for the [TFO at Home](#) series, including Tchaikovsky’s *Symphony No. 4*, an Inside the Music video series on Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 7* and *Daughters of Freedom*, a women’s suffrage anthem that Black arranged.

Black made his debut in the Masterworks series last season, and he has conducted Raymond James Pops and Coffee concerts with TFO as well. He has conducted several film concerts, including *Return of the Jedi*, *Home Alone* and *The Wizard of Oz* with TFO and the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra.

The Florida Orchestra opens its reimagined season Oct. 31-Nov 1 with Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 7*, conducted by Maestro Francis. Concerts will be performed at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg with new safety protocols, and select programs will be live streamed. [Click here for more information.](#)

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[More about Daniel Black](#)

“Firm, decisive,” “vital and engaging” and “with a droll sense of humor on the podium,” Canada-based American conductor Daniel Black has begun to attract attention as a conductor who “makes music in a way that is meaningful to audiences in the 21st century.”

In addition to his work with The Florida Orchestra, he is in demand as a guest conductor, having worked with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and others in recent seasons. Black is on both the IMG Artists and Columbia Artists’ list of approved conductors for film concerts with orchestra, having conducted very successful performances of *Return of the Jedi*, *Home Alone* and *The Wizard of Oz* with TFO and the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra. He also made his podium debut with Michigan Opera Theatre in 2019, conducting Bernstein’s *Candide* to enthusiastic reviews.

Additional highlights of recent seasons include guest conducting engagements with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Lancaster Symphony Orchestra, Savannah Philharmonic, San Antonio Symphony Orchestra and Dnipro State Opera and Ballet Company (Dnipro, Ukraine), and engagements as assistant conductor for opera productions with Michigan Opera Theatre, Opera Theatre St. Louis, and the Florentine Opera Company. In 2018, he was one of eight recipients of a Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award – his third such honor.

Also an accomplished composer, Black was the composer-in-residence for the International Horn Society’s 2014 Southeast Horn Workshop, and was a finalist and diploma winner of the International Prokofiev Composition Contest in 2008.

Fluent in Russian, Black has studied conducting at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, and Northwestern University, counting among his mentors Leonid Korchmar, Neil Varon and Victor Yampolsky. He has studied composition with Richard Danielpour.

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

[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 53rd 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