

The Florida Orchestra announces  
January concerts in reimagined season



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## The Florida Orchestra announces January concerts in reimagined season

*Michael Francis conducts all January concerts at the Mahaffey Theater;  
TFO debuts on WEDU with Inside Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 on Dec. 18*

[VIDEO: See what we're doing to keep each other safe at concerts](#)

**JANUARY CONCERTS:** Concert schedule listed below, subject to change

[DOWNLOAD PHOTOS:](#) [Click here for photos](#)

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra today announced a slate of concerts in January as it continues to roll out its reimagined 2020/21 season in phases. All January concerts – 16 performances of six programs – will be conducted exclusively by Music Director Michael Francis at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg following strict CDC guidelines for health and safety. In addition to in-person concerts, TFO will continue to offer live-stream and on-demand video for free so everyone has access to the music during the Covid-19 pandemic.

“After nearly eight months, Maestro Michael Francis and The Florida Orchestra made a triumphant return to the stage in October. So many of you were right there with us, cheering us on from your seat at the Mahaffey Theater – or the couch in your living room for our first-ever live stream,” said TFO President & CEO Mark Cantrell. “From all of us at The Florida Orchestra, thank you for your enthusiastic support of our most unique season yet. Yes, the concert experience is different, but the music is more powerful than ever.”

The Tampa Bay Times Masterworks series continues in January with **Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony** on a program that features TFO violinists Nancy Chang and Sarah Shellman for Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins*. **Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini** concert spotlights virtuoso guest pianist Natasha Paremski, and also includes artwork by TFO visual artist-in-residence Geff Strik for Ravel's *Mother Goose Ballet*. The **New Year's in Vienna** concert will have performances in both the Raymond James Pops and Coffee series.

The orchestra is offering two new **Masterworks: Soundwaves** programs in January on the same weekends as traditional Masterworks programs. **Why offer five concerts in one weekend?** It's the result of Maestro Francis splitting the orchestra into two smaller ensembles of 20-40 players for greater spacing onstage. The silver lining: twice the music, including works TFO doesn't often get the chance to perform. For example, **The Intimate Mahler: Symphony No. 4** (Jan. 30 & 31) offers a stellar version of Mahler's most intimate symphony, arranged for an ensemble of just 14 players.

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All health and safety measures will continue for Phase 2 concerts in January, including mandatory face masks that cover the nose and mouth, spaced seating in pairs, extensive testing for musicians and frequent sanitizing of equipment and seats. Concerts will be shorter with no intermission only at The Duke Energy Center for the Arts/Mahaffey Theater with 25 percent capacity. (For safety details, [click here](#).) The protocols developed in conjunction with the Mahaffey Theater have worked so well that TFO believes this is the best way to provide maximum safety during the pandemic. The orchestra hopes to expand to other venues later in the season, depending on the virus.

For full flexibility, the orchestra is announcing its 53<sup>rd</sup> season in phases. Phase 1 runs through the end of December, including multiple performances this weekend of the annual **Holiday Pops** (Dec. 11-13) in the Raymond James Pops series, and **Classical Christmas** (Dec. 16, 17 & 20), which also will be live streamed for free on Dec. 20. For details on upcoming concerts, [click here](#).

Phase 2 encompasses January concerts only and will have limited, spaced seating for the safety of patrons. TFO will accommodate season ticketholders first, and any remaining tickets will go on sale Dec. 21. Look for an announcement of Phase 3 concerts in January.

### Free live-streaming concerts

From the safety of home, anyone can watch select concerts via live stream or on demand. It's free and easy to register; see our guide at [FloridaOrchestra.org/livestreams](https://FloridaOrchestra.org/livestreams). **So far, about 10,000 screens across the country have tuned in to just the first four concerts.** To support this new service, TFO is encouraging donations so we can continue to offer digital concerts with no barriers during the pandemic and beyond. For Phase 2, these three concerts will be available for viewing on any device.

- **Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony**, Sat, Jan 9, 8 pm
- **Rachmaninoff on Paganini**, Sat, Jan 23, 8 pm
- **Beethoven's Symphony No. 4**, Sat, Jan 30, 8 pm

### The Florida Orchestra debuts on WEDU Dec. 18

The Florida Orchestra will have its premiere broadcast on WEDU-PBS with Inside Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, recorded live at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg. The broadcast on Dec. 18 at 9 pm will feature insight from Music Director Michael Francis and a full performance of the symphony in honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beethoven's birth this month. Funding for the program is provided by William and Suzanne Garth, Charlene and Mardy Gordon, Barry and Judith Alpert and Family, and the Hough Family Foundation.

## The Florida Orchestra Reimagined 2020/21 Season

### Phase 2 Concerts in January

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

TAMPA BAY TIMES MASTERWORKS

**Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony**

[Michael Francis, conductor](#)

[Nancy Chang, violin](#)

[Sarah Shellman, violin](#)

**Bach/Webern:** Fuga (No. 2 "Ricercata") from "The Musical Offering"

**Bach:** Concerto for Two Violins

**Mendelssohn:** Symphony No. 5, "Reformation"

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Sat, Jan 9, 2 pm

Sat, Jan 9, 8 pm **OR Free Live Stream at FloridaOrchestra.org**

Sun, Jan 10, 2 pm

MASTERWORKS: SOUNDWAVES

**A Noble Pairing**

[Michael Francis, conductor](#)

**Jean Baptiste Lully:** Suite from *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*

**Richard Strauss:** *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*

Michael Francis introduces you to these two “Would-be Gentlemen” (*Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*) by different composers.

Sat, Jan 9, 5 pm

Sun, Jan 10, 5 pm

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RAYMOND JAMES POPS

**New Year’s in Vienna**

[Michael Francis, conductor](#)

Goodbye 2020! Michael Francis waltzes into the new year with Johann Strauss Jr.’s *Blue Danube*, *Champagne Polka*, *Overture to Die Fledermaus* and more.

**Thu, Jan 14, 11 am** – Part of the Coffee concert series \*

Sat, Jan 16, 2 pm

Sat, Jan 16, 8 pm

\*Note: We are not able to serve coffee and doughnuts at this time.

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TAMPA BAY TIMES MASTERWORKS

**Rachmaninoff on Paganini**

[Michael Francis, conductor](#)

[Natasha Paremski, piano](#)

[Geff Strik, visual artist](#)

**Jessie Montgomery:** Starburst

**Ravel:** *Mother Goose Ballet*

**Rachmaninoff:** Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

Sat, Jan 23, 2 pm

Sat, Jan 23, 8 pm **OR Free Live Stream at FloridaOrchestra.org**

Sun, Jan 24, 2 pm

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TAMPA BAY TIMES MASTERWORKS

**Beethoven’s Symphony No. 4**

[Michael Francis, conductor](#)

[Natasha Paremski, piano](#)

**Ravel:** Piano Concerto

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**Beethoven:** Symphony No. 4

**Sat, Jan 30, 2 pm**

**Sat, Jan 30, 8 pm OR Free Live Stream at [FloridaOrchestra.org](https://FloridaOrchestra.org)**

**Sun, Jan 31, 2 pm**

MASTERWORKS: SOUNDWAVES

**The Intimate Mahler: Symphony No. 4**

[Michael Francis, conductor](#)

[Madison Leonard, soprano](#)

**Mahler** (arr. Simon): Symphony No. 4

All the beauty and intensity you expect from the genius of Gustav Mahler in a stellar arrangement for just 14 players.

**Sat, Jan 30, 5 pm**

**Sun, Jan 31, 5 pm**

**[About Music Director Michael Francis](#)**

Michael Francis has quickly established himself as one of the leading international conductors of today. This is his sixth season leading TFO.

**[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](https://FloridaOrchestra.org)*

**Covid-19 Warning**

*An inherent risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus/Covid-19 exists in any public place where people are present. Covid-19 is a highly contagious disease that may result in personal injury, severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and persons with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. Please visit the CDC's website for its current guidance on people at increased risk for severe illness and other people who should take extra precautions. By attending a performance of The Florida Orchestra, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to Covid-19. Please help keep each other safe.*