

The Florida Orchestra to perform U.S. premiere
of unique 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'



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Separately, concert features images from renowned artist Ya La'ford

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ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra today announced it will perform the U.S. premiere of a wickedly fun version of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, with a storyline by famed author Roald Dahl, thrilling music by acclaimed composer Eleanor Alberga, and lead narration by actor Becca McCoy. It will be performed live at TFO's Family Concert on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 2 pm at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg following CDC guidelines for safety. Separately, the concert also will feature powerful images of a new work by internationally renowned installation artist Ya La'ford, set to Mozart's iconic Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*.

"Roald Dahl's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*" is not the traditional fairytale. Beloved author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda* and other children's classics, Dahl fills his PG-rated rendition with humorous, spooky twists and a surprise ending that will captivate families, recommended for ages 8 and older. Jamaican-born composer Alberga creates an enchanting musical backdrop of wild forests and dance parties. The work premiered at the Royal Festival Hall in London in 1994.

"We're excited to be the first orchestra to bring this fresh, magical work to a live American audience. Eleanor Alberga's music vividly tells the story with beauty, humor and sometimes even a spooky edge," said TFO Resident Conductor Daniel Black, who will lead 30 TFO musicians. "TFO is committed to bringing attention to a wide range of composers, and Alberga is a fascinating talent with a unique musical voice deserving of greater recognition."

TFO will open the concert with a powerful artistic voice, acclaimed installation artist Ya La'ford. A video shows the making of *Community Woven*, a mural project by La'ford that engaged schoolchildren in both art and music. Working with students from Mt. Zion Christian Academy and others, La'ford wove a visual quilt of "words, wisdom and well-wishes" collected from the community for the bold, geometric mural in the Warehouse Arts District in St. Petersburg. The video is set to a work familiar to all ages, Mozart's Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, played live by The Florida Orchestra.

"Not only did we engage students in the similar process of creating art and music, but we shared how sound and instruments work together in an orchestra to create a richness of overtones and harmony," La'ford said.

"Together, we are sharing with our next generation how music and visual arts are universal tools to empower and elevate our experience."

One performance only! "Roald Dahl's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*" Family Concert, also featuring work by Ya La'ford, will be performed Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 2 pm at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg.

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Recommended for ages 8 and older. Tickets are \$8 per person, \$10 at the door (ages 3 and younger free), and are available now at [FloridaOrchestra.org](https://www.floridaorchestra.org) or by phone at 727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286. The Ticket Center is not open for in-person transactions.

For this performance, Becca McCoy will be joined by TFO President & CEO Mark Cantrell and TFO Community Engagement Coordinator Michelle Kim-Painter to tell the *Snow White* story through narration, without a set or images.

This concert will follow CDC guidelines for health and safety, including required face masks for ages 3 and older. The Mahaffey Theater will be limited to 30 percent capacity; tickets will be sold as general admission, but seats will be assigned to allow at least 6 feet between families. No lobby activities will be available. For more on general safety measures, [click here](#).

For 53 years, The Florida Orchestra has endured as an artistic gem in the Tampa Bay community. In October, TFO was one of the few orchestras in the country to return to the stage for live audiences after an eight-month hiatus, with new health and safety measures in place. The season continues through May, including [Dvorak's New World Symphony](#) (May 1), with guest conductor Thomas Wilkins, [Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue](#) (May 22 & 23) performed by Stuart Malina and [Beethoven's Emperor Concerto](#) (May 29 & 30) conducted by Michael Francis.

[About TFO Resident Conductor Daniel Black](#)

Now in his third season with TFO, Black attracts attention as a conductor who "makes music in a way that is meaningful to audiences in the 21st century." For more, [click here](#)

[About artist Ya La'ford](#)

She holds a law degree from the University of Florida and a master's of fine arts from the Art Institute of Boston, and has work in the collections of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Vinik Family Foundation and Nike. For more, [click here](#)

[About composer Eleanor Alberga](#)

The Jamaican-born composer has cemented a reputation of international stature with works for orchestra, opera, chamber groups and more. For more, [click here](#).

[About actor Becca McCoy](#)

The actor/singer's credits run the gamut of comedies, dramas, musicals and Shakespeare in Tampa Bay and across the country. For more, [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](https://www.floridaorchestra.org). To support the power of live music: [FloridaOrchestra.org/donate](https://www.floridaorchestra.org/donate).

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.