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The Florida Orchestra names Chelsea Gallo as resident conductor



ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra and Music Director Michael Francis announced today the promotion of Chelsea Gallo to resident conductor. The new title recognizes Gallo’s exceptional work since joining TFO as assistant conductor one year ago, as well as her expanded role for the upcoming 2023-24 season.

Gallo begins her new position this weekend for TFO’s first concert of the season [The Music of James Taylor, Neil Diamond and Paul Simon Starring Michael Cavanaugh](#) on Saturday (Sept. 16) at the Mahaffey Theater. This season, Gallo will conduct her first concert in TFO’s premier Hough Family Foundation Masterworks series, [Saint-Saens’ Organ Symphony](#); lead two Raymond James Pops concerts, [Women Rock](#) and [Twist & Shout: The Music of the Beatles](#); conduct [Waltz into Spring](#) in the Morning Matinees series; and lead two chamber concerts. She will continue to conduct TFO’s youth, family and community concerts, including TFO’s biggest concerts of the year, [Raymond James Pops in the Park](#) in St. Petersburg’s Vinoy Park on Oct. 14 and Tampa’s River Tower Park on Nov. 5. She also assists Maestro Francis with artistic duties, including Pre-Concert Conversations for Masterworks concerts, and is part of TFO’s new [SoundWaves podcast](#).

“Chelsea Gallo has been a fantastic addition to TFO and the Tampa Bay community. Her poise on the podium and engaging rapport with audiences perfectly align with TFO’s passion for giving our community a deeper connection to the music. We look forward to her expanded role with TFO this season, and we’re thrilled to reward her with this promotion,” Maestro Francis said.

In addition to her TFO duties for the 2023-24 season, Gallo will be principal guest conductor of the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, a cover conductor with the New York Philharmonic, a returning guest conductor with both the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, and have debuts with the Bozeman Symphony Orchestra and Catapult Opera (NYC). She is a 2022 recipient of the prestigious George Solti Foundation USA Career Fellowship.

Gallo’s position with TFO is generously underwritten by Suzette and Monroe Berkman.

[About Chelsea Gallo](#)

Gallo’s previous positions include assistant conductor of the Louisiana Philharmonic, conducting fellow with the Dallas Opera and conducting staff for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. As a guest conductor, Gallo has

conducted the symphonies of North Carolina, Sarasota, Missouri, Bridgeport, Jackson, Lancaster, Youngstown, Toledo, the Hartford Opera, Marigny Opera, Slovak Sinfonietta, among others.

Gallo brings a unique interest in combining her two loves: music and science. She has been part of recording and performing projects for NASA, Lockheed Martin, the National Institute of Aerospace and the European Space Agency. Recently, she was invited on behalf of the Nuclear Engineering Department at the University of Michigan to partner on a project that encourages creativity within the hard sciences by drawing parallels between running a nuclear reactor and leading a symphony orchestra.

Gallo has described her conducting pursuits as “a devotion to sharing the relevancy and humanity within classical music.” She studied conducting in Vienna, Prague, and Banska Stiavnica in central Slovakia with the late Maksimilijan Cencic and Leos Svarovsky. Gallo holds a doctorate of musical arts from the University of Michigan, where she was awarded the Helen Wu Graduate Fellowship in Conducting.

Outside the concert hall, she enjoys reading, running and studying languages. She played professional fastpitch for the Vienna Wanderers. [For Gallo's bio, click here.](#)

TFO will perform more than 100 concerts this season in venues throughout Tampa Bay, including a wide range of classical, popular and family-friendly music. The season opens this Saturday (Sept. 16) with [The Music of James Taylor, Neil Diamond & Paul Simon](#) at the Mahaffey Theater, followed by [Jurassic Park in Concert](#) with live orchestra on Sept. 22 & 23 at the Mahaffey Theater with a Saturday matinee. Maestro Francis launches the Hough Family Foundation Masterworks series with [Holst's The Planets](#) on Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 at the Mahaffey Theater and Ruth Eckerd Hall. The Raymond James Pops series opens Oct. 7 & 8 with [Cirque Dances with Troupe Vertigo](#) at the Mahaffey Theater. Tickets to all concerts are on sale now 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. This is its 56th season. Under the leadership of Music Director Michael Francis, TFO performs series of classical, popular, and morning 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, including family and youth concerts and other educational programs. For tickets and information: [FloridaOrchestra.org](#). The Florida Orchestra is a non-profit 501(c)3 EIN: 59-1223691 CH#1830. To learn more how you can support the power of music in building community, contact: sweymouth@floridaorchestra.org To donate now: [FloridaOrchestra.org/donate](#)