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THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA ADDS 'HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON,' 'ELF' FILM CONCERTS, JIMMY BUFFETT TRIBUTE & MORE

- ***How to Train Your Dragon – In Concert*** | Family film with live orchestra
- ***Elf in Concert*** | Holiday classic film starring Will Ferrell
- **Parrots + Palms: The Songs of Buffett & Fins** | Ultimate paradise party
- **Landslide: A Tribute to the Music of Fleetwood Mac** | Iconic rock hits
- **Haunted Halls Family Concert** | Popular Halloween concert returns
- **Classical Christmas** | Michael Francis conducts cozy traditional favorites

Single tickets to all concerts go on sale today at FloridaOrchestra.org

ST. PETERSBURG, FL -- The Florida Orchestra is adding two major film concerts, a Jimmy Buffett tribute and other exciting programs to the 2024-25 season, the orchestra announced today. The first concert of the season will be a special presentation of DreamWorks' ***How to Train Your Dragon – In Concert,*** a family-friendly film about a young Viking who befriends a dragon, featuring John Powell's Oscar®-nominated score performed live to picture by TFO. Two performances on Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Mahaffey Theater, including a matinee.

This holiday season, **CineConcerts** and Warner Bros. Themed Entertainment will bring ***Elf in Concert*** to Tampa Bay. It will feature The Florida Orchestra performing every note from **John Debney's** (*The Passion of the Christ, Iron Man 2, The Jungle Book, Hocus Pocus*) heartwarming score while the entire film is projected on a 40-foot HD screen. Directed by **Jon Favreau** (*The Lion King, The Mandalorian, Rudy*, *Iron Man, Iron Man 2*) and starring **Will Ferrell,** the film is considered by many to be one of the best holiday movies of all time. Two performances on Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Straz Center, including a matinee.

In October, it's fins up, Tampa Bay! TFO will perform **Parrots + Palms: The Songs of Buffett & Fins**, the ultimate celebration of Jimmy Buffett, Van Morrison, Bob Marley and other musical legends. Escape to paradise and sing along with hits like *Come Monday*, *Fins*, *It's Five O'Clock Somewhere* and *Brown-Eyed Girl*, conducted by Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo. One night only, Friday, Oct. 25, at the Mahaffey Theater.

Tickets to all concerts go on sale at 10 a.m. today (July 29), along with single tickets to the entire 2024-2025 season. Tickets will be available at FloridaOrchestra.org, at 727.892.3337 and at The Florida Orchestra Ticket Center, 244 Second Ave. N (first floor) in St. Petersburg.

In September, TFO will add **Landslide: A Tribute to the Music of Fleetwood Mac**, a celebration of one of the most important bands of all time that captivates audiences with a blend of timeless melodies, iconic hits and powerful orchestration. In October, TFO is bringing back its popular **Haunted Halls Family Concert**, a full-orchestra Halloween-themed matinee of spooky music for patrons of all ages, conducted by Chelsea Gallo. Adding to TFO's festive holiday lineup in December, Music Director Michael Francis will conduct two

performances of a traditional **Classical Christmas** – in addition to ***Elf in Concert*** and TFO's most popular concerts of the year, **Holiday Pops**. Here are details of the added concerts in chronological order:

FILM WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA
How to Train Your Dragon – In Concert
Larry Loh, conductor
When a young Viking defies tradition and befriends a ferocious dragon, together they must fight against all odds to save both their worlds. Experience this captivating film in HD, with its thrilling musical score performed live to picture by your Florida Orchestra. Presented by DreamWorks Animation.
Sat, Sept 14, 2 pm and 7 pm – Matinee
Mahaffey Theater
Tickets: $25, $35, $50, $60**.** All fees included.

SPECIAL CONCERT
Landslide: A Tribute to the Music of Fleetwood Mac
Chelsea Gallo, conductor
A tribute to one of the most important bands of all time, this unique experience honors the legacy of Fleetwood Mac while breathing new life into their beloved classics. Featuring smash hits such as *Go Your Own Way*, *Rhiannon*, *Dreams*, *The Chain* and the emotive anthem *Landslide*, a core band and singers join The Florida Orchestra to perform the band's catalog like never before.
Sat, Sept 21, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater
Tickets: $25, $35, $50, $60. All fees included.

SPECIAL CONCERT
Parrots + Palms: The Songs of Buffett & Fins
Chelsea Gallo, conductor
Fins up, Tampa Bay! Come along for the ultimate celebration of Jimmy Buffett, Van Morrison, Bob Marley and other musical legends, powered by The Florida Orchestra. Sing alongside star vocalists to hits like *Come Monday*, *Fins*, *Don't Worry*, *Be Happy*, *It's Five O'Clock Somewhere* and *Brown-Eyed Girl*. Escape to paradise with the vibes of these magic-filled melodies that raise a glass to the power of the surf and the romance of the islands.
Fri, Oct 25, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater
Tickets: $35, $55, $75, $100. All fees included.

FULL ORCHESTRA FAMILY CONCERT
Haunted Halls Family Concert
Chelsea Gallo, conductor
It's back! Show off your favorite costume at our popular Halloween-themed concert, with music so good it's scary. Featuring a full orchestra of spooktacular musicians for goblins of all ages.
Sun, Oct 27, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater
*Come early to try out instruments at the Instrument Petting Zoo
$25; ages 3 and under free. All fees included. General admission.

FILM WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA
Elf in Concert
Jacob Joyce, conductor
Buddy was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler, and raised among Santa's elves. This holiday season Buddy travels to New York — with your Florida Orchestra! Experience John Debney's wonderful score as the full film plays on the big screen. Presented by **CineConcerts** and Warner Bros. Themed Entertainment.

Sat, Dec 7, 2 pm and 7 pm – Matinee
Straz Center
Tickets: $25, $35, $50, $60. All fees included.

SPECIAL CONCERT
Classical Christmas
Michael Francis, conductor
The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay
Michael Francis creates a cozy concert that evokes a traditional Christmas on the cobbled streets of a snow-covered village. Featuring an audience sing-along and more.
Fri, Dec 13, 8 pm, Straz Center
Sat, Dec 14, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater
Tickets: $25, $35, $55, $65**.** All fees included.

Other TFO series and concerts on sale July 29

Hough Family Foundation Masterworks: TFO celebrates 10 years of Michael Francis with our expanded 14-program series of epic masterpieces, bold new music and a wide range of composers that reflect your world. Highlights: **Opening Night! Ravel's Bolero**, **Beethoven's Symphony No. 5**, **Vivaldi's The Four Seasons**, **Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1** with Olga Kern, **Mahler's Symphony No. 3** and more.
Single tickets: $28, $40, $65, $80. All fees included.
Kids and teens ages 5-18 get in free with Classical Kids & Teen tickets, thanks in part to a generous anonymous donor. Available only in advance.
Pre-Concert Conversations: Unlock the secrets behind the music and composers starting 1 hour before the concert.

Raymond James Pops: The best of Broadway, film, popular, jazz and more. Highlights: **Country Hits: Songs from Nashville**, **Pretty Woman to Hunger Games**, **Music of the Knights**, **Music of Tina Turner**, **Holiday Pops,** more.
Single tickets: $28, $40, $65, $80. All fees included.
Kids and teens 5-18 can get $20 tickets for all Pops concerts. Available only in advance.

Morning Matinees: Now led by Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo, featuring TFO's musicians as soloists.
Single tickets: $35, $45, $50, $55. All fees included.

Full schedules of these previously announced series are available at FloridaOrchestra.org

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. Celebrating his 10th year with TFO, Maestro Francis launches the Hough Family Foundation Masterworks series with **Opening Night! Ravel's Bolero** Oct. 5 & 6 at the Mahaffey Theater and Ruth Eckerd Hall. The Raymond James Pops series opens Sept. 28 with two performances of **Country Hits: Songs from Nashville** at the Mahaffey Theater – TFO's first-ever country concerts. Now led by Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo, the Morning Matinees series kicks off Oct. 9 & 10 at Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Mahaffey Theater.

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About Michael Francis

The 2024-25 season celebrates Michael Francis' 10th year as music director of The Florida Orchestra, with a contract extension through 2030. With bold innovation and creativity, Maestro Francis has raised artistic excellence to new heights, strengthened the audience's connection to the music and reinvigorated TFO's community and education programs. The internationally acclaimed conductor also is music director of the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego and principal conductor of Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz in Germany. Maestro Francis is generously sponsored by the Hough Family. 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. It celebrates its 57th season in 2024-25. 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 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