NEWS RELEASE | Dec. 9, 2024

CONTACT: Kelly Smith, Chief Communications Officer
ksmith@floridaorchestra.org

THIS WEEK: THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS SPONSOR TOY DRIVE FOR CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – Patrons are invited to donate new, unwrapped toys at The Florida Orchestra's **Classical Christmas** concerts this weekend to benefit community partner Metropolitan Ministries, the orchestra announced today. The toy drive is sponsored by TFO Musicians Association. Concerts are Friday, Dec. 13, at 8 pm at the Straz Center and Saturday, Dec. 14, at 8 pm at the Mahaffey Theater.

After back-to-back hurricanes, the holidays will not be the same this year for many displaced from their homes and facing other challenges. The Florida Orchestra is committed to providing a haven of joy in the concert hall and beyond for those in need. TFO and its musicians are proud to continue our partnership with Metropolitan Ministries and support its efforts to aid the community. For a list of needed items, please click here. Toys will be collected only through Dec. 14 so they can be distributed before the holidays.

This weekend continues TFO's festive run of holiday performances – seven concerts in two weeks. For **Classical Christmas**, Music Director Michael Francis conducts a cozy concert that evokes a traditional Christmas, including carols such as *Silent Night* and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, Tchaikovsky's *Waltz of the Snowflakes* and more. It features The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay and the Lumina Youth Choir, with an audience sing-along.

The following weekend is one of the greatest traditions in Tampa Bay – **Holiday Pops** – conducted by Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo. Merry music at its very best, including favorites from *Sleigh Ride* to *The Polar Express* to Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, featuring The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, the principal chorus of TFO. It's been a holiday staple for the whole family for generations in the Raymond James Pops series.

SPECIAL CONCERT
Classical Christmas
Michael Francis, conductor
The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay & Lumina Youth Choir
Fri, Dec 13, 8 pm, Straz Center, Ferguson
Sat, Dec 14, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater
Tickets: $25, $35, $55, $65, all fees included

RAYMOND JAMES POPS
Holiday Pops
Chelsea Gallo, conductor
Fri, Dec 20, 8 pm, Straz Center, Ferguson
Sat, Dec 21, 2 pm & 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater Matinee
Sun, Dec 22, 2 pm & 7:30 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall Matinee
Tickets: $28, $40, $65, $80, all fees included
Kids tickets: TFO now offers $20 tickets for kids and teens ages 5-18 in the Raymond James Pops series. Available in advance by calling the TFO Ticket Center.

Tickets available at: FloridaOrchestra.org, 727.892.3337 and TFO Ticket Center

The Florida Orchestra's mission is to Inspire | Educate | Unite to build community through the power of music. 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.

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