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THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 2025-26 SEASON WITH BEETHOVEN'S NINTH, MORGAN FREEMAN, BUGS BUNNY

- **THRILLING OPENING MONTH:** Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues, Cynthia Erivo returns
- **MASTERWORKS OPENING NIGHT:** 100+ musicians converge for Strauss' Alpine Symphony
- **GREAT MASTERPIECES:** Beethoven's Ninth & Seventh, Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2
- **THE GOOD PEACHES:** New partnership with American Stage, projectALCHEMY
- **U.S. PREMIERE:** Tribones Concerto for Three Trombones by living composer Thierry Caens
- **BERNSTEIN'S KADDISH SYMPHONY:** Narrated by family of Holocaust survivor Samuel Pisar
- **WORLD-RENOWNED ARTISTS:** Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, Maximilian Hornung, Jeannette Sorrell
- **AMERICA 250: STARS & STRIPES FOREVER:** Musical salute to America's milestone birthday
- **WIDE VARIETY:** Bugs Bunny at the Symphony, Troupe Vertigo, Billy Joel Songbook, Holiday Pops
- **MORNING SERIES:** Featuring Florida Orchestra musicians as soloists

WATCH new season overview video | DOWNLOAD photos | EXPLORE season brochure PDF

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra announces the 2025-26 season, an exhilarating journey that spans continents and cultures through the universal language of music, with programming designed for all ages and interests. The 58th season launches in September with an electrifying month of special concerts that unite the power of music and storytelling — beginning with the highly anticipated return of superstar Cynthia Erivo and announcing Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience. **Season packages for all subscription series are on sale now at FloridaOrchestra.org.** Single tickets go on sale Aug. 12.

In the premier Hough Family Foundation Masterworks series, Music Director Michael Francis carefully curates a blend of epic masterpieces and hidden gems to take audiences on a sonic odyssey through centuries of sound. Highlights of the 14-program series include the triumphant joy of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* featuring The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay; Strauss' massive *An Alpine Symphony;* Mozart's *Jupiter Symphony;* Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7;* the U.S. premiere of Thierry Caens' bold *Tribones* trombone concerto; and Bernstein's *Kaddish Symphony* in partnership with the Florida Holocaust Museum and poignantly narrated by the family of Holocaust survivor Samuel Pisar. Making her TFO debut is pianist Jeneba Kanneh-Mason – of the famed family of musical siblings – for Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 3*, while TFO favorite Maximilian Hornung returns for Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto No. 1*.

A September to remember launches the season: On Sept. 3, the orchestra welcomes back global star Cynthia Erivo for a second unforgettable evening of unparalleled artistry. Under the baton of Maestro Francis, Erivo will perform timeless hits made famous by the greatest vocalists of all time, from Aretha Franklin and beyond. On Sept. 20, music, theater and dance unite in *The Good Peaches* by Quiara Alegría Hudes, an exciting collaboration between the orchestra, American Stage and projectALCHEMY Dance Company. The production is directed by Helen R. Murray and conducted by Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo, with choreography by Alexander Jones. Then step into the Mississippi Delta on Sept. 25 for Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience, featuring cinematic visuals and Freeman himself, both on stage and in recorded multimedia narration. **These concerts are on sale now; Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience is available exclusively to subscribers: FloridaOrchestra.org.**

The Raymond James Pops series brings a wide variety of music for all generations. Audiences will delight in the whimsical nostalgia of Bugs Bunny at the Symphony film concert, sing along to The Billy Joel Songbook, feel the festive cheer of Holiday Pops and join in a heartfelt salute to America's 250th birthday. **The Morning Matinees series,** led by Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo, offers a unique opportunity to connect with TFO's remarkable musicians, who will be featured soloists in all six concerts.

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Hough Family Foundation Masterworks

"This season, I invite you to join us for an uplifting journey through all 14 Masterworks concerts," said internationally acclaimed Music Director Michael Francis, who is entering his 11th season. "Each concert provides exceptional moments to explore and create a deep connection to the world we live in. Whether through timeless classics like Beethoven or bold new voices such as the U.S. premiere of a trombone concerto, we'll explore the extraordinary together. All driven by the passion of your remarkable Florida Orchestra musicians. Come be a part of it."

To open the Hough Family Foundation Masterworks series in October, Maestro Francis aims for the top with Richard Strauss' massive ***An Alpine Symphony*** (Oct. 3 & 5, 2025). For the first time in 25 years, the orchestra will bring together more than 100 musicians – onstage and off – to take the audience on a thrilling journey through the Alps. The tone poem paints a musical picture of peaks, valleys, glaciers, waterfalls and one of the most famous orchestral thunderstorms ever created.

In a centerpiece concert of the season, Michael Francis will conduct the Mahler arrangement of **Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*** (March 27-29, 2026) for an awe-inspiring *Ode to Joy*. In this powerful version, a supersized orchestra amplifies the depth and intensity of Beethoven's masterpiece in partnership with The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, the principal chorus of The Florida Orchestra.

In November, Maestro Francis conducts an unforgettable evening of music and storytelling with **Leonard Bernstein's *Symphony No. 3, "Kaddish"*** (Nov. 7 & 8, 2025). This deeply moving work features text written by Samuel Pisar, who defied all odds to survive multiple Holocaust concentration camps as a child. In this rare performance, his widow, Judith, and daughter, Leah, will provide special narration. The concerts, which will be presented in partnership with the Florida Holocaust Museum, begin with **Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy***, an uplifting fusion of piano, orchestra and choir that hints at the famous *Ode to Joy* theme. Both works feature The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay.

In April, TFO Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo will conduct the exciting U.S. premiere of **Thierry Caens' *Tribones*** (April 10-12, 2026), a concerto for three trombones. TFO co-commissioned the work with the French Orchestre national du Capitole de Toulouse, where it had its world premiere in March. It features **TFO Principal Trombone Joel Vaisse,** a native of France and former principal trombone of the Orchestre du Capitole, **Associate Principal Trombone Ross Holcombe** and guest trombonist Amanda Stewart, Associate Principal of the St. Louis Symphony. Also on the program is **Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7***, featuring one of the most beloved movements in classical music, the beautiful *Allegretto*.

More of TFO's world-class musicians will take center stage. On opening night, acclaimed Concertmaster **Jeffrey Multer** is the soloist for **Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending***, as well as for **Dvořák's** luminous ***Violin Concerto*** in May 2026. **Beethoven's** magnificent **Triple Concerto** (Feb. 6 & 7, 2026) will feature **Principal Cello Yoni Draiblate** and **Associate Concertmaster Nancy Chang,** along with guest pianist Marika Bournaki.

The Florida Orchestra will bring guest artists from around the world to Tampa Bay stages. Exciting soloists making their TFO debuts are **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason** – of the famed family of musical siblings – for **Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 3*** (May 1-3, 2026); Cleveland International Piano Competition prize

winner **Evren Ozel** for **Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 21*** (Jan. 9-11, 2026); Indonesian-born pianist **Janice Carissa** for **Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2*** (May 29 & 31, 2026); and rising-star American soloist **Aubree Oliverson** for **Bruch's *Violin Concerto No. 1*** (Feb. 21 & 22, 2026). Returning favorites include **Maximilian Hornung** for **Shostakovich's** soul-stirring ***Cello Concerto No. 1*** (March 21 & 22, 2026); **Benjamin Beilman** for the fiery passion of **Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto*** (Oct. 18 & 19, 2025); and **George Li** for **Ravel's *Piano Concerto*** (Jan. 23-25, 2026).

Prestigious guest conductors include internationally recognized Baroque specialist **Jeannette Sorrell**; chief conductor of the Gävle (Sweden) Symphony Orchestra and Grammy-Award winning artist **Christian Reif**; **William Eddins**, music director emeritus of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra; and Norwegian conductor **Rune Bergmann**, music director of Canada's Calgary Philharmonic and chief conductor of Switzerland's Argovia Philharmonic.

The season offers a wide range of composers and hidden gems. Maestro Francis will conduct acclaimed American composer **John Adams' *Harmonielehre*** (Oct. 18, 2025), a thriller that marries Minimalism with Mahler. In April 2026, TFO will celebrate the 100th anniversary of ***Mississippi Suite* by Ferde Grofe**, which has special meaning locally; Grofe's grandson, Alan, lives in the bay area and is dedicated to preserving his family's musical heritage. **Brian Raphael Nabors' *Pulse*** (Feb. 21 & 22, 2026) fuses the spirit of jazz, soul and contemporary classical influences. A mesmerizing "Concerto for Birds and Orchestra," **Einojuhani Rautavaara's *Cantus Arcticus*** (May 1-3, 2026) infuses actual field recordings of birds from the marshes of northern Finland.

For the third season, Maestro Francis has programmed surprise "mystery pieces" for select programs in the Masterworks series. He personally chooses each short work to enhance and connect to the program in a surprising way. None will be listed ahead of time.

All Hough Family Foundation Masterworks concerts include popular Pre-Concert Conversations, which take a deep dive into the stories behind the music with guest artists and conductors, starting one hour before the performance. Sponsored by The Ruth & J O Stone Foundation.

See Masterworks concert-by-concert list below

POPULAR, FILM, ROCK & MORE

Raymond James Pops series

The series bridges all generations through a variety of popular, rock, Broadway and film music with the full power of the orchestra. In a special film presentation, **Bugs Bunny at the Symphony** (April 18, 2026) follows Bugs Bunny and his Looney Tunes pals on their hilarious animated adventures while the orchestra performs the original score live under the big screen. On Nov. 1, 2025, the concert hall meets the big top in **Troupe Vertigo**, launching acrobats and high-flying aerialists over the musicians, all perfectly choreographed to classical favorites. The greatest holiday tradition in Tampa Bay brings together the whole family for **Holiday Pops** (Dec. 19-21, 2025), TFO's most popular concert of the year.

For the first time, the orchestra will sail into the smooth sounds of the '70s and '80s for **Summer Breeze: Yacht Rock Classics** (Oct. 10 & 12, 2025), with the iconic melodies of Hall & Oats, Toto, Christopher Cross, Jimmy Buffett and more. **The Billy Joel Songbook** (Jan. 16 & 17, 2026) brings back Tony DeSare's signature vocal and piano style for full orchestrations of beloved hits ranging from *Piano Man* to *Just the Way You Are* and more. For **Disco Inferno: A '70s Celebration** (Nov. 15, 2025), dance into those boogie nights with a cast of New York's top performers singing super-hits by Abba, the Bee Gees, Donna Summer and more.

TFO salutes America's milestone birthday in **America 250: Stars and Stripes Forever** (May 22 & 23, 2026), a spectacular musical celebration. The rich tapestry of the nation's history, spirit and culture comes to life through music that unites us all in a heartfelt tribute.

See Pops concert-by-concert list below

THE MORNING MATINEES SERIES

Presented by The Helen Torres Foundation

In her fourth season with the orchestra, TFO Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo brings fresh energy to these casual, lighthearted concerts. Each performance offers a unique opportunity to connect with TFO's extraordinary musicians, who will take center stage as featured soloists in all six concerts. The soloists will be **Principal Tuba TJ Graf**; **Bass Clarinet Josephy Beverly**; **Associate Principal Horn Andrew Karr**; **Principal Flute Clay Ellerbroek**; **Principal Second Violin Sarah Shellman**; and **Jeffrey Stephenson on English Horn**.

The series opens with **The Roaring '20s** (Oct. 8 & 9, 2025), featuring Cuban-born guest conductor Cosette Justo Valdes for the greatest hits of the 1720s, 1820s, 1920s and 2020s, with music ranging from Handel to John Williams. Additional concerts include **A Little Night Music** (Nov. 12 & 13, 2025) with music by Mozart and Tchaikovsky; **H2Orchestra** (Jan. 14 & 15, 2026), featuring Richard Rodgers' *Victory at Sea Medley,* Handel's *Water Music* and more; and **Love & Destiny** (Feb. 11 & 12, 2026) featuring selections from Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Mozart's *Magic Flute Overture*. **Femme Fatale** (April 15 & 16, 2026) casts a spell with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* and Bizet's *Carmen,* and **Czech It Out** (May 6 & 7, 2026) brings the beauty of Bohemia with Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9* and more.

See Morning Matinees concert-by-concert list below

FOR COMMUNITY AND SPECIAL CONCERTS in the fall, the orchestra will perform the free Raymond James Pops in the Park concert in Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg and is planning a wide variety of community partnerships for the 2025-26 season. A full schedule of TFO's special, benefit and community concerts such as Soundwaves Chamber Orchestra concerts, Inside the Music, Sing Out Tampa Bay, full-orchestra Family Concerts and more will be released by the fall.

SEASON TICKETS FOR ALL SERIES ARE ON SALE NOW. Florida Orchestra 2025-26 season packages of varying sizes are on sale now at FloridaOrchestra.org. Premium curated packages are offered for the classical Hough Family Foundation Masterworks, Raymond James Pops and Morning Matinee series, and are the best value. Season subscribers save $5 per ticket, per concert over single-ticket prices. Subscribers receive more great benefits including priority seating, discounts for add-on concerts, bonus concerts, and free flexible ticket exchanges. For more information, email the Ticket Center at ticketcenter@floridaorchestra.org or call 727.892.3337. The Ticket Center is open 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. Single tickets go on sale Aug. 12.

COMPOSE YOUR OWN SERIES. In our most flexible series, subscribers can mix and match at least three Masterworks, Pops and Morning Matinees concerts for $60 a ticket, all fees included. Seat assignments are on a first-come, first-served basis. Premium curated package benefits do not apply. Go to ComposeYourOwn.com to subscribe.

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TikTok: @thefloridaorchestra **| YouTube:** Subscribe to The Florida Orchestra's channel
TFO Blog: FloridaOrchestra.org/blog **| TFO Email Club**: Click here to sign up

About Michael Francis

With more than a decade of bold innovation and passionate performances, Music Director Michael 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. For more, click here

About Chelsea Gallo

Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo has been praised for her ability to "lead the orchestra with grace and fiery command." In her fourth season with TFO, she returns in the fall as lead conductor for the Morning Matinees series. For more, click here

About The Florida Orchestra

The Florida Orchestra's mission is to INSPIRE | EDUCATE | UNITE to build community through the power of music. Celebrating our 58th season in 2025-26, The Florida Orchestra is the largest professional orchestra in the state and the only arts organization that bridges the bay. TFO employs 70 full-time professional musicians and conductors, under the artistic leadership of internationally acclaimed Music Director Michael Francis. Each season, the orchestra perform more than 100 concerts in venues throughout Tampa Bay, including a wide range of classical, popular, film and family-friendly music, as well as performances with global stars such as *Wicked* star Cynthia Erivo. Beyond the concert halls, TFO programs bring the transformative power of music to schools, youth and senior centers, to underserved areas and to those who would not have such opportunities otherwise. Through concerts and education/community programs combined, TFO serves more than 155,000 residents each year – nearly half through free or low-cost programs. We put instruments in the hands of children, offer inspiration and joy to all ages and stages, comfort to those who most need it, and bring our community together. 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

THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA 25/26 SEASON

Special concerts in September

On sale now

Cynthia Erivo with The Florida Orchestra
Michael Francis, conductor

After mesmerizing a sold-out audience in May, global star of stage and screen Cynthia Erivo returns to The Florida Orchestra for a second evening of unparallelled artistry with music from the greatest singers of all time. She is a Grammy, Emmy and Tony Award-winning British actor, singer, author and producer, as well as a Golden Globe, SAG and three-time Academy Award nominee. Since bursting onto the West End and Broadway stages in *The Color Purple*, she has taken the world by storm. Erivo stars as Elphaba opposite Ariana Grande's Glinda in Universal's record-breaking film adaptation of the hit musical *Wicked* from director Jon M. Chu.

Wed, Sept 3, 8 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall

On sale now

The Good Peaches
By Quiara Alegría Hudes

Directed by Helen R. Murray
Conducted by Chelsea Gallo
Choreography by Alexander Jones

This isn't your typical fairy tale. It's a girl vs. nature epic. In this thrilling collaboration between The Florida Orchestra, American Stage and projectALCHEMY Dance Company, *The Good Peaches* follows a girl's wishes for upheaval ... and the aftermath of a wish granted. Set against the roaring waves of a massive storm, *The Good Peaches* blends music, theater and dance in a dazzling extravaganza. Catch this extraordinary experience at the Mahaffey Theater.
Sat, Sept 20, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater
Sat, Sept 20, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater

On sale now exclusively to subscribers

Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience
A Soul-Stirring Musical Journey. Step into a world where the deep, resonant tones of Mississippi Delta Blues and cinematic visuals meet the majesty of a symphony orchestra. Featuring a live appearance and recorded multimedia narration by Hollywood icon and Mississippi son Morgan Freeman, along with performances by musicians from the Ground Zero Blues Club. Join us for an immersive and poignant journey through sound, culture and storytelling.

Live appearance and recorded cinematic narration by Morgan Freeman
Thur, Sept 25, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater

Subscription series concert by concert

Hough Family Foundation Masterworks Series

Led by Music Director Michael Francis

Our premier series of the world's greatest music, plus exciting new works from a wide range of composers.

Bonus! Free Pre-concert Conversations with musicians and conductors start 1 hour before the concert. Sponsored by Smith & Associates Real Estate.

Free Classical Kids & Teens tickets: Kids and teens ages 5-18 get in free to all Masterworks concerts, thanks in part to an anonymous donor. At least one adult ticket purchase required.

Opening Night Event!

Strauss' An Alpine Symphony

Michael Francis, conductor
Jeffrey Multer, violin

R. Strauss: An Alpine Symphony
Vaughan Williams: The Lark Ascending
Respighi: Pines of Rome

Scale the highest musical mountain as Michael Francis brings together more than 100 musicians – onstage and off – to perform Richard Strauss' spectacular tone poem *An Alpine Symphony* for the first time in 25 years. Then, let Concertmaster Jeffrey Multer and the sublime violin solo of Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* lift your spirits before you are swept away by the grandeur of Respighi's *Pines of Rome*.

Fri, Oct 3, 8 pm, Straz Center, Morsani | Sun, Oct 5, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater – Matinee

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Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto

Michael Francis, conductor
Benjamin Beilman, violin

Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto
John Adams: Harmonielehre

Once described as unplayable, Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* today is a gem of the repertoire and beloved by audiences for its lyrical beauty and technical brilliance. Armed with virtuosity to spare, soloist Benjamin Beilman masterfully scampers in and around the orchestra before a rousing finale. Michael Francis finishes the evening with acclaimed American composer John Adams' *Harmonielehre* – "the book of harmony'' – a thriller that marries Minimalism with Mahler and the late-Romantics, reflecting Adams' unique voice in contemporary classical music.

Sat, Oct 18, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater | Sun, Oct 19, 2 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall – Matinee

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Beethoven & Bernstein

In partnership with the Florida Holocaust Museum

Michael Francis, conductor
Jeewon Park, piano
Diana Newman, soprano
The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay
Judith Pisar, speaker
Leah Pisar, speaker

Beethoven: Choral Fantasy
Bernstein: Symphony No. 3, "Kaddish" (text by Samuel Pisar)

Michael Francis conducts an unforgettable evening of music and storytelling. Be uplifted by Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, a fusion of piano, orchestra and choir that hints at the famous *Ode to Joy* theme. Then, Bernstein's deeply moving *"Kaddish" Symphony* features text by Samuel Pisar, who defied all odds to survive multiple Holocaust concentration camps as a child. In this rare performance, his widow, Judith, and daughter, Leah, provide special narration. Both works feature The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, principal chorus of The Florida Orchestra.

Fri, Nov 7, 8 pm, Straz Center | Sat, Nov 8, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater

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Mozart & Handel

Jeannette Sorrell, conductor

Handel: Water Music Suites
Mozart: *The Marriage of Figaro* Overture
Haydn: Overture to *The Uninhabited Island*
Mozart: Ballet Music from *Idomeneo*

Baroque and classical-period music is best performed lean and intimate, and you'll get just that when internationally recognized Baroque specialist Jeannette Sorrell leads a program of 18th-century delights. Founder of the Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra, Sorrell opens with Handel's effervescent suites from the *Water Music*, balanced by Mozart's *Overture to Marriage of Figaro*. Haydn's storm-and-stress *Overture to The Uninhabited Island* follows before the concert wraps up with Mozart's percolating ballet music from *Idomeneo*.

Sun, Nov 23, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater

Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21

Christian Reif, conductor
Evren Ozel, piano

Wagner (Humperdinck): Siegfried's Rhine Journey
Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 21
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 15

You may never hear Richard Wagner's massive, four-opera *Ring of the Nibelung* in full, so enjoy it in digestible nuggets, such as this performance of *Siegfried's Rhine Journey*. In partnership with the Cleveland International Piano Competition, prize winner Evren Ozel brings sparkling grace to Mozart's delightful *Piano Concerto No. 21*. The evening ends with Shostakovich's final *Symphony No. 15,* a bold and introspective work that combines wit and a haunting sense of reflection in his final symphony.

Fri, Jan 9, 8 pm, Straz Center | Sat, Jan 10, 8 pm, Mahaffey | Sun, Jan 11, 2 pm, Mahaffey – Matinee

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Ravel's Daphnis and Chloe

William Eddins, conductor
George Li, piano

Griffes: The Pleasure Dome of Kubla Khan
Ravel: Piano Concerto
Dukas: The Sorcerer's Apprentice
Ravel: *Daphnis and Chloe* Suite

Does any music capture the miracle of morning better than *Daybreak* from Ravel's sun-drenched suite from *Daphnis and Chloe*? Be dazzled by Ravel's *Piano Concerto*, a self-portrait that features the piano as both an intimate voice and a bold force of nature, in the masterful hands of returning soloist George Li. Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* swirls magical melodies and spellbinding rhythms, made famous by the 1940 Disney classic *Fantasia*. The evening begins with the orchestra's first-ever performance of Griffes' hypnotic tone poem *The Pleasure Dome of Kubla Khan*.

Fri, Jan 23, 8 pm, Straz Center | Sat, Jan 24, 8 pm, Mahaffey | Sun, Jan 25, 7:30 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall

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Beethoven's Triple Concerto

Michael Francis, conductor
Nancy Chang, violin
Yoni Draiblate, cello
Marika Bournaki, piano

Beethoven: Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello & Piano
Bruckner: Symphony No. 4

Michael Francis conducts Beethoven's breathtaking *Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano*, featuring TFO's Yoni Draiblate and Nancy Chang, as well as guest Marika Bournaki. Fans of Anton Bruckner view his nine symphonies not only as unique listening experiences, but sacred chapters in the classical canon, and the orchestra invites us into the composer's personal cathedral with the *Symphony No. 4*, the "Romantic."
Fri, Feb 6, 8 pm, Straz Center | Sat, Feb 7, 8 pm, Straz Center

Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1

Kensho Watanabe, conductor
Aubree Oliverson, violin

Brian Raphael Nabors: Pulse
Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1
Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5

The sumptuous brilliance of Max Bruch *Violin Concerto No. 1* holds its own alongside the iconic works of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Tchaikovsky – performed with the joyful lyricism of rising-star American soloist Aubree Oliverson. Guest conductor Kensho Watanabe opens the program with Brian Raphael Nabors' rhythmically charged rhapsody *Pulse,* followed by Prokofiev's popular *Symphony No. 5*, a bold, triumphant work that captures the spirit of human resilience.

Sat, Feb 21, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater | Sun, Feb 22, 7:30 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall

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Mozart's Jupiter Symphony

Michael Francis, conductor
Maximilian Hornung, cello

Beethoven: Grosse Fuge
Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No. 1
Mozart: Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"

Mozart specialist Michael Francis conducts Mozart's majestic *Symphony No. 41*, "Jupiter," a stellar masterpiece that blends grace and power in Mozart's final symphonic statement. Then TFO welcomes back soloist Maximilian Hornung for Shostakovich's soul-stirring *Cello Concerto No. 1*. The concert begins with Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge*, originally for string quartet, but today it symbolizes the composer's genius at giving new life to an old form. Such a treat to hear it fleshed out in a version for orchestra.

Sat, Mar 21, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater | Sun, Mar 22, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater – Matinee

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Beethoven's Symphony No. 9

Michael Francis, conductor
The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay

Mahler: Adagio from Symphony No. 10
Beethoven: Symphony No. 9 (Mahler arr.)

Experience the thrill and glory of this triumph of humanity. In this truly special event, Michael Francis conducts The Florida Orchestra and The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay in the supersized Mahler arrangement of Beethoven's *Ninth* for an awe-inspiring *Ode to Joy*. The concert opens with the hauntingly beautiful *Adagio* from Mahler's unfinished *Symphony No. 10,* a deeply emotional piece that showcases the composer's late, poignant genius.

Fri, Mar 27, 8 pm, Straz Center | Sat, Mar 28, 8 pm, Mahaffey | Sun, Mar 29, 2 pm, Mahaffey – Matinee

Beethoven's Symphony No. 7

U.S. Premiere of Tribones Trombone Concerto

Chelsea Gallo, conductor
Joel Vaisse, trombone
Ross Holcombe, trombone
Amanda Stewart, trombone

Ferde Grofe: Mississippi Suite
Thierry Caens: Tribones Concerto for Three Trombones
Beethoven: Symphony No. 7

Richard Wagner called Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7* the "apotheosis of the dance." The dynamic work pulses with rhythm, passion and unrelenting energy – from the bold and exuberant opening to the beautiful *Allegretto*, one of the most beloved movements in classical music. TFO is proud perform the exciting U.S. premiere of Thierry Caens' *Tribones,* a concerto for three trombones that TFO co-commissioned with the French Orchestre national du Capitole de Toulouse, where the piece had its world premiere in March 2025. It features TFO Principal Trombone Joel Vaisse**,** a native of France and former principal trombone of the Orchestre du Capitole; Associate Principal Trombone Ross Holcombe; and guest trombonist Amanda Stewart, Associate Principal of the St. Louis Symphony. The concert begins with a ride on a musical riverboat from Minnesota to New Orleans in Grofe's picturesque *Mississippi Suite,* celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Fri, Apr 10, 8 pm, Straz Center | Sat, Apr 11, 8 pm, Mahaffey | Sun, Apr 12, 7:30 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall

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Sibelius Symphony No. 2

Rune Bergmann, conductor
Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, piano

Rautavaara: Cantus Arcticus
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3
Sibelius: Symphony No. 2

When did Beethoven, slowly growing deaf and in considerable despair, begin shaking a fist at his fate? Many cite his intense yet tender *Piano Concerto No. 3*, performed by Jeneba Kanneh-Mason – of the famed family of musical siblings – in her TFO debut. In contrast is Sibelius' popular *Symphony No. 2*, rich in the character and grandeur of the composer's Finnish homeland, building to one of the most glorious symphony finales. The concert begins with Rautavaara's *Cantus Arcticus*, a mesmerizing fusion of live orchestral textures and recorded birdsong captured from the marshes of Northern Finland.

Fri, May 1, 8 pm, Straz | Sat, May 2, 8 pm, Mahaffey | Sun, May 3, 2 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall – Matinee

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Brahms' Symphony No. 4

Michael Francis, conductor
Jeffrey Multer, violin

Augusta Holmes: Irlande
Dvorak: Violin Concerto
Brahms: Symphony No. 4

Michael Francis unleashes one of the supreme works of the late 19th century, Brahms' *Symphony No. 4*. Full of sweeping melodies and lush harmonies, the masterpiece captures Brahms at the height of his powers. Then Concertmaster Jeffrey Multer takes center stage as soloist in Dvořák's luminous *Violin Concerto,* blending Bohemian folk charm with Romantic virtuosity. Rounding out the concert is Augusta Holmès' tone poem *Irlande*, a woman's plea for political freedom.

Fri, May 15, 8 pm, Straz | Sat, May 16, 8 pm, Mahaffey | Sun, May 17, 2 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall – Matinee

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Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2

Michael Francis, conductor
Janice Carissa, piano
Nicole Cabell, soprano
Roderick Williams, baritone
The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay

Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 2
Vaughan Williams: Symphony No. 1 (A Sea Symphony)

More than 125 years since its first performance, Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2* keeps its spot at the top of the charts, beloved by concert halls and Hollywood alike. At the keyboard will be Indonesian-born pianist Janice Carissa in her TFO debut. Michael Francis conducts the sweeping journey through heartache and unshakable beauty that will leave audiences breathless. It complements Vaughan Williams' boundless *Symphony No. 1*, *A Sea Symphony*, for soprano, baritone, chorus and orchestra. This groundbreaking work fuses the splendor of the symphony with the evocative poetry of Walt Whitman.

Fri, May 29, 8 pm, Straz Center | Sun, May 31, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater – Matinee

Raymond James Pops Series

The best of popular, film, Broadway and jazz music powered by your Florida Orchestra.

Special tickets for kids: Ages 5-18 can get tickets for just $20 to all Pops concerts with a paying adult. Available in advance through the TFO Ticket Center.

Summer Breeze: Yacht Rock Classics

Sean O'Loughlin, conductor

Set sail on a musical journey into the smooth sounds of the ’70s and ’80s in a unique orchestra experience. Immerse yourself in the iconic melodies of yacht rock legends such as Hall & Oats, Toto, Christopher Cross, The Doobie Brothers, Jimmy Buffett and Steely Dan. All amplified by the power of The Florida Orchestra.

Fri, Oct 10, 8 pm, Straz Center | Sun, Oct 12, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater – Matinee

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Troupe Vertigo

Yuriy Bekker, conductor

Dare to be dazzled, as the elegance of the concert hall meets the magic of the big top. From high-flying aerialists and gravity-defying acrobats to mesmerizing contortionists, every movement is perfectly choreographed to the sweeping power of the orchestra, creating a stunning cinematic experience on stage.

Sat, Nov 1, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater – Matinee | Sat, Nov 1, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater

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Disco Inferno: A ‘70s Celebration

Chelsea Gallo, conductor

Everybody dance! Travel back to the days when *Saturday Night Fever* was a box-office smash, Donna Summer was the queen of the air waves and Beethoven had his first top-40 hit. Celebrate those boogie nights with a cast of New York’s top performers singing and dancing to super-hits by Abba, the Bee Gees, Gloria Gaynor, Barry Manilow, Donna Summer and more. Featuring a live disco band and a trio of Broadway vocalists reminding you that “You Should be Dancin’, yeah!”

Sat, Nov 15, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater – Matinee | Sat, Nov 15, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater

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Holiday Pops

Chelsea Gallo, conductor

The greatest holiday tradition in Tampa Bay! There's no place like The Florida Orchestra for all your classic favorites. Experience the magic of the holidays, filled with family and friends, for very merry music at its very best.

Fri, Dec 19, 8 pm, Straz Center
Sat, Dec 20, 2 & 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater – Matinee
Sun, Dec 21, 2 & 7:30 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall – Matinee

The Billy Joel Songbook

Chelsea Gallo, conductor

Tony DeSare's signature vocal and piano style pay tribute to the iconic songs of Billy Joel. Generations of fans will experience full orchestrations of Billy Joel's beloved hits including *Only the Good Die Young*, *Just the Way You Are*, *Piano Man*, *You May Be Right*, *Movin Out*, *My Life* and many more.

*Billy Joel does not appear on this program.

Fri, Jan 16, 8 pm, Straz Center | Sat, Jan 17, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater

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The Envelope Please

Lawrence Loh, conductor

Get awards-season ready as we honor past and present Oscar nominees and winners of Best Picture and Best Score, including selections from *Black Panther*, *E.T.*, *Titanic*, *Lord of the Rings*, *The Godfather* and more.

Sat, Feb 14, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater – Matinee | Sat, Feb 14, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater

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Bugs Bunny at the Symphony

George Daugherty, conductor

"What's up, Doc?" Warner Bros. Discovery presents "Bugs Bunny at the Symphony." Sixteen classic Looney Tunes are projected on the big screen, while The Florida Orchestra plays their iconic original scores live! Celebrate Bugs Bunny's 85th anniversary, and the concert's 35th, with "What's Opera, Doc?" "The Rabbit of Seville," "Long-Haired Hare," "Corny Concerto," and more, plus a brand new animated short as the entire Looney Tunes gang wishes Bugs a happy 85th!

Created by George Daugherty & David Ka Lik Wong
LOONEY TUNES and all related characters and elements © & TM Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. (s25)

Sat, Apr 18, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater – Matinee | Sat, Apr 18, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater

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America 250: Stars and Stripes Forever

Bob Bernhardt, conductor

A spectacular celebration of America's 250th birthday, where the rich tapestry of the nation's history, spirit and culture comes to life through music that unites us all. A heartfelt salute to the very best of America.

Fri, May 22, 8 pm, Straz Center | Sat, May 23, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater

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Defying Gravity
The Music of Stephen Schwartz and Friends

Chelsea Gallo, conductor

The beloved songs of Grammy- and Oscar-winning songwriter Stephen Schwartz are given breathtaking performances by world-class vocalists. This uplifting, soul-stirring concert uses the power of the orchestra to deliver hits from classic shows like *Godspell* and *Wicked* including *Magic to Do*, *Colors of the Wind*, *Corner of the Sky*, *Day by Day*, *When You Believe*, *Defying Gravity* and more. It's an unforgettable evening of magical musical theater.

Sun, June 7, 2 pm, Straz Center – Matinee

Morning Matinees Series

Presented by the Helen Torres Foundation

Our casual morning concert series is led **TFO Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo** and features TFO musicians as soloists.

Pre-Concert Conversations
Get to know the music and your Florida Orchestra musicians with a talk and Q&A starting at 10 am in the concert hall.

The Roaring '20s

Featuring TJ Graf on Tuba
Cosette Justo Valdes, conductor

Greatest hits of the 1720s, 1820s, 1920s and 2020s, with Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony*, Vaughan Williams' *Tuba Concerto* and more.

Wed, Oct 8, 11 am, Straz Center | Thur, Oct 9, 11 am, Mahaffey Theater

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A Little Night Music

Featuring Joseph Beverly on Bass Clarinet
Chelsea Gallo, conductor

Moonlit melodies of the night, with Mozart's *A Little Night Music*, Tchaikovsky's *Waltz from Sleeping Beauty,* Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain* and more.

Wed, Nov 12, 11 am, Ruth Eckerd Hall | Thur, Nov 13, 11 am, Mahaffey Theater

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H2Orchestra

Featuring Andrew Karr on Horn
Chelsea Gallo, conductor

Dive into Handel's *Water Music*, Richard Rodgers' *Victory at Sea Medley*, Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides* and more.

Wed, Jan 14, 11 am, Ruth Eckerd Hall | Thur, Jan 15, 11 am, Mahaffey Theater

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Love & Destiny

Featuring Clay Ellerbroek on Flute
Lawrence Loh, conductor

So much to love! With Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* selections, Mozart's *Magic Flute Overture* and more.

Wed, Feb 11, 11 am, Ruth Eckerd Hall | Thur, Feb 12, 11 am, Mahaffey Theater

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Femme Fatale

Featuring Sarah Shellman on Violin
Chelsea Gallo, conductor

Fall under the spell of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, Bizet's *Carmen,* Saint-Saens' *Dance Bacchanal* and more.

Wed, Apr 15, 11 am, Ruth Eckerd Hall | Thur, Apr 16, 11 am, Mahaffey Theater

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Czech It Out

Featuring Jeffrey Stephenson on English Horn
Chelsea Gallo, conductor

The beauty of Bohemia, with Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9*, Smetana's *Prague Carnaval*, Offenbach's *Galop Infernal* from *Orpheus in the Underworld* and more.

Wed, May 6, 11 am, Ruth Eckerd Hall | Thur, May 7, 11 am, Mahaffey Theater