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THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA EXTENDS CHELSEA GALLO'S CONTRACT AS RESIDENT CONDUCTOR FOR 2 MORE SEASONS

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra (TFO) announces a two-year contract extension for **Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo**, who will continue to bring her dynamic artistry and leadership to the podium through the 2026-27 season.

Hailed by the Associated Press as a rising star, Gallo has captivated audiences with her charismatic stage presence and musical interpretations. She joined TFO as assistant conductor in 2022 and was swiftly promoted to resident conductor in 2023, a testament to her outstanding contributions.

Since then, Gallo has taken on an expansive role, conducting more than 50 performances annually across a broad range of programs – from Masterworks and Pops to education and community concerts. She serves as the lead conductor for TFO's Morning Matinees, as well as its innovative Soundwaves Chamber Orchestra series and collaborates closely with Music Director Michael Francis on all types of programming.

"I am delighted that Chelsea has signed a contract extension as resident conductor," Maestro Francis said. "Chelsea is a wonderful conductor, a superb communicator and a highly creative programmer who does so much for TFO both on and off the podium. An integral and hugely popular member of the TFO family, she leads our Morning Matinees, SoundWaves series and more, reaching audiences in concert halls, parks and through our incredible education programs. Chelsea has an infectious enthusiasm, a deep love of music and high-octane energy that inspires our musicians, audience members and staff. I am grateful that Chelsea has chosen to extend her outstanding relationship with The Florida Orchestra and our Tampa Bay community."

"I would like to personally thank Suzette and Monroe Berkman for underwriting Chelsea Gallo for TFO," he added.

"It has been an absolute privilege to serve the audiences, musicians and staff of The Florida Orchestra over the past three years," Gallo said. "I'm excited to continue this meaningful work as we reach for even greater artistic excellence. Working alongside our brilliant Music Director Michael Francis has been both inspiring and fulfilling. With the outstanding artistic leadership at The Florida Orchestra, we're poised to soar to new heights. I'm honored to be part of the adventure."

Recent and upcoming highlights span the globe and include debuts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Dayton Opera (*Carmen*), Opera Tampa (*Macbeth*), Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland Pfalz and the Noord Nederlands Orkest in the Netherlands.

Deeply committed to the relevancy and humanity of classical music, Gallo continues to champion living composers and groundbreaking new works. This season with The Florida Orchestra, she will lead the U.S. premiere of *Tribones*, a triple trombone concerto by Thierry Caens, scheduled for April 2026. On the same program, she will conduct Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7*.

A 2022 recipient of the Sir Georg Solti Career Assistance Grant and a former Hart Conducting Fellow with the Dallas Opera, Gallo studied conducting in Vienna, Prague and Banská Štiavnica. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Michigan and has trained with some of the world's most renowned conductors, including Sir Simon Rattle and Daniel Barenboim.

Gallo is represented by Arabella Arts for general management. Click here to learn more about Chelsea Gallo

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 performs 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 150,000 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 for 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 about how you can support the power of music in building community, contact: sweymouth@floridaorchestra.org To donate now: FloridaOrchestra.org/donate