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

THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES PLAY OUT TAMPA BAY, A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMMUNITY CONCERT

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra announces **Play Out Tampa Bay**, a new community concert experience that invites local musicians to perform side-by-side with TFO's professional musicians in a full-scale concert, conducted by Music Director Michael Francis. Registration opens Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, for the experience May 20 & 21 at Straz Center in Tampa.

Play Out Tampa Bay expands The Florida Orchestra's slate of community-centered experiences, which invite audiences to actively participate in music-making. Building on the orchestra's Sing Out Tampa Bay (March 11, Mahaffey Theater) community sing-along concert, this new initiative further strengthens the orchestra's connection to the community it serves.

Designed to celebrate community and creativity, Play Out Tampa Bay participants will have the opportunity to connect with players backstage, see their name on an official roster and feel the excitement of rehearsing with Maestro Francis. Open to students, lifelong musicians and those returning to their instrument, Play Out Tampa Bay culminates in a concert May 21 at the Straz Center, open to the public. A light reception and mingle with TFO musicians will follow the concert for participants.

"As a collaborative experience, Play Out Tampa Bay strengthens the connection between our musicians onstage and the community we serve," said Michelle Kim-Painter, Vice President of Education & Community Impact. "By inviting local musicians to rehearse and perform alongside our professional players, we're celebrating the incredible talent that already exists in our region and creating a meaningful shared experience. This event reflects our belief that music is strongest when it's made together with our community. We can't wait to share the stage with all of you."

To participate, registrants must be able to read music and play a standard orchestra instrument – strings, woodwinds, brass or percussion. They must be 18 or older or a senior in high school. Spots are limited; registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Music will be available five weeks before the rehearsal and concert. There will be video auditions for those who'd like to sit with an associate position string player.

Play Out Tampa Bay

Rehearsal: May 20, 7:30 pm – 10 pm | Straz Center Ferguson Hall
Concert: May 21, 7:30 pm | Straz Center Ferguson Hall | Open to the public | Admission: Pay what you can
Registration: Feb 10 through March 20
Registration fees: $80 for community members, $40 for students, due upon acceptance. Scholarships are available upon request through the registration form.
For more information and registration link (when open), click here

About The Florida Orchestra

The Florida Orchestra's mission is to INSPIRE | EDUCATE | UNITE to build community through the power of music. As Tampa Bay's premier performing arts institution — and the largest professional orchestra in Florida — TFO is led by internationally acclaimed Music Director Michael Francis and features 70 full-time musicians and conductors. Now celebrating its 58th season, TFO is widely recognized as one of the most vibrant and innovative orchestras in the nation. Each year, the orchestra reaches more than 150,000 people through more than 100 world-class performances and robust education and community impact programs across Tampa Bay. Its diverse programming spans classical masterworks, popular and film music, family-friendly concerts and collaborations with global artists. Beyond the concert hall, TFO brings music to schools, youth and senior centers and underserved communities, ensuring access to the arts for all. As a cornerstone of the region's cultural landscape, TFO plays a vital role in strengthening Tampa Bay's creative and economic vitality by attracting audiences, tourism and related business activity.
***For tickets and information**: FloridaOrchestra.org.*
***To learn more about how you can support the power of music**, contact: sweymouth@floridaorchestra.org To donate now: FloridaOrchestra.org/donate*

The Florida Orchestra is a non-profit 501(c)3 EIN: 59-1223691 CH#1830.