



ENSEMBLE

The Voice of the Choral Art Form in Southwest Florida

Hollywood, Broadway, Opera, Classics on tap for February



Volume 1, Issue 16
February 2014

February brings music for anyone's taste be it classical, contemporary, Broadway, Opera or Hollywood. There's really no excuse to not see a concert this month. Les Mis, Mozart, Handel, South Pacific, Bach, Baroque, I, Pagliacci, Il Trovatore and so much more. This month serves as a real showcase of the choral art form in southwest Florida. From Anna Maria Island to Marco Island audiences will see the diversity and the versatility of many of the choral groups in the wide ranging selections of music.

Surprisingly, unlike last year, there are no "love theme" programs this month commemorating Valentines Day. Broadway and Hollywood seems to have captured the fancy of many of the groups as they chose a more contemporary menu for this month.

After a January concert lull February begins the sprint toward spring when the season will culminate with many of the major programs.



Rodgers and Hammerstein at the Movies—Naples Philharmonic Orchestra

Join the Naples Philharmonic for a night at the movies. One of the most influential artistic partnerships of the 20th century, Rodgers and Hammerstein dominated both Broadway and Hollywood in the 1940s and 50s. Alongside spectacularly re-mastered footage from the films, the Naples Philharmonic will perform the music from this incomparable duo's impressive list of hits, including *The King and I*, *Oklahoma* and *South Pacific*. It promises to be an exciting evening of music nostalgia, all performed with re-mastered movie clips. This is a show not to miss if you're looking for top notch entertainment

Jack Everly — Principal Pops Conductor

February 11-15, 8 PM, Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts
Information: www.artisnaples.org



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Ensemble is published monthly from September through April by Pelican Wing Publishing LLC, 1577 Sand Castle Road, Sanibel, Florida, a unit of Creative Marketing Associates.

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Sounds of the Chorus

Each month we feature an audio clip to give Ensemble readers a chance to hear a southwest Florida chorus.

Featured chorus this month

Spirit of the Gulf Fort Myers



Mike Slamka

Mike Slamka Artistic Director

Selection

Used with permission of Spirit of the Gulf
Contest song, International competition

Roll on Mississippi, Words and music by James McCafery, Dave Ringle, Eugene West
Arranged by Jay Giallombardo (Ten second delay in audio)



Click Here



Spirit of the Gulf is a chapter of Sweet Adeline's International, a non-profit organization of approximately 30,000 female members in choruses and quartets, worldwide. Spirit is a chorus, who meets regularly to practice, perform, socialize, and have fun. They currently have over 150 singers of all ages, all walks of life, and all parts of Florida as well as many snowbirds from "up North". Spirit of the Gulf was voted Most Entertaining Chorus at three International competitions in Las Vegas, Hawaii, and Denver. In October, 2012 they competed in the International Competition in Denver and finished in sixth place competing with choruses from around the world.

Be sure to catch their spring show: Saturday, March 1, 3 PM, First Christian Church, Fort Myers. This is a talented show chorus that brings a stage alive with their colorful costumes, snappy routines and outstanding singing.

Tickets: www.spiritofthegulf.com

Spotlight

Vince Vance
Singer

Sarasota Choral Society



Vince Vance has been involved with The Sarasota Choral Society since 1994. He sang in the chancel choir at

Bee Ridge Presbyterian where Dr. Julia W. Rohr was directing the choir (she was serving as the Sarasota Choral Society's Artistic Director at that time). Vince has been involved in the organization, where he sings in the tenor section, every year since. He has served as stage manager, Vice-President, President, and is currently serving as the Secretary of the organization. Vince enjoys singing in the group mainly due to its annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* kicking off the Christmas Season. Vince is especially gratified to see young people getting involved in the production. They are the ones who will keep this timeless music alive in the future, He says.

Vance's personal musical experience goes all the way back to Junior High School where he started playing the clarinet and eventually switched to saxophone. While playing in the Wind Ensemble under Dr. James Croft at the University of South Florida, he joined the flying club there and fulfilled a lifelong ambition of learning how to fly. He is now a professional aviator flying for NetJets Aviation, Inc. where he transports celebrities, sports figures, and high worth individuals around the country.

He later joined the Sarasota Choral Society. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience with The Sarasota Choral Society and would highly recommend it to anyone interested in community chorus. It is a growing organization that maintains the highest artistic standards and has been around Sarasota for almost 70 years."

Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida
presents

MOURNING GLORY

REQUIEM

MICHAEL HAYDN

GLORIA

ANTONIO VIVALDI

Timothy McDonnell, Artistic Director & Conductor

Friday, February 7 at 8:00 p.m.

Sanibel Community Church
1740 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel

NO ADMISSION FEE
Free Will Offering Suggested

(239) 560.5695 | www.symphonicchorale.org

Symphonic
Chorale
of Southwest Florida

PO Box 07105
Fort Myers, FL 33919

The Symphonic
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organization

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Contest winner

Once again we received an enormous number of responses to our January quiz but unlike the quiz prior where we only had five correct responses, this one produced 30 correct responses. But, alas, there could only be one winner and that was the first correct response received.



Rossini

The correct answer for the rakish looking gentleman pictured above was **Gioachino Antonio Rossini** and his most recognized choral work was *Stabat Mater*. He, of course also wrote *The Barber of Seville* and *Otello* among the 38

opera's he composed. Of the Barber of Seville, Beethoven said to Rossini, "It will be played as long as Italian opera exists. Never try to write anything else but opera buffa; any other style would do violence to your nature."



Thompson

Our \$100 gift certificate winner is Dr. George Thompson of Bradenton who happens to be an opera buff as well as one who loves choral music. George, a retired physician from Colorado, received his first issue of *Ensemble* a year ago and says he'll put his winnings to good use buying concert tickets this season. His two favorite choruses are the Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and the Key Chorale.

Key Chorale - Handel and Haydn Rediscovered

Handel's recently discovered Gloria, Haydn's beloved Lord Nelson Mass and his Te Deum for Mother Theresa with nationally acclaimed soprano Mary Wilson and chamber orchestra.

"Shining soprano Mary Wilson, a gift from the gods if I ever heard one," - San Francisco Classical Voice.

Joseph Caulkins, Artistic Director

Saturday, February 15, 2:30 PM
First Church, Sarasota
Tickets: www.keychorale.org



Joseph Caulkins
Artistic Director



Voices of Naples—Bach to Broadway

Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 3pm

Naples United Church of Christ, Naples

Sunday February 23, 5 PM

Sanibel Congregational Church

Tickets: Call 239-455-2582



Dr. Doug Renfroe, Artistic Director

The Bach Ensemble—Treasures from the German Baroque **SCHÄTZE DES DEUTSCHEN BAROCKS**

In the second of their season series The Bach Ensemble will feature German Baroque

Sunday, February 23, 2014, 7 PM, Grace Lutheran Church, Naples

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014, 7 PM, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Marco Island

Tickets: www.thebachensemble.org



Dr. Ron Doiron, Artistic Director

I, Pagliacci—Opera Naples

Join Opera Naples and the Opera Naples Chorus and Orchestra in the big event tent. This unique version of the story about life as a circus performer incorporates real circus acts in collaboration with Circus Sarasota.

You will laugh and cry with Canio, one of the most iconic figures in all of opera.

Performed in Italian with English subtitles

J. Ernest Green, Conductor

Steffani Pearce, Artistic Director

The Ritz-Carlton Tiburon

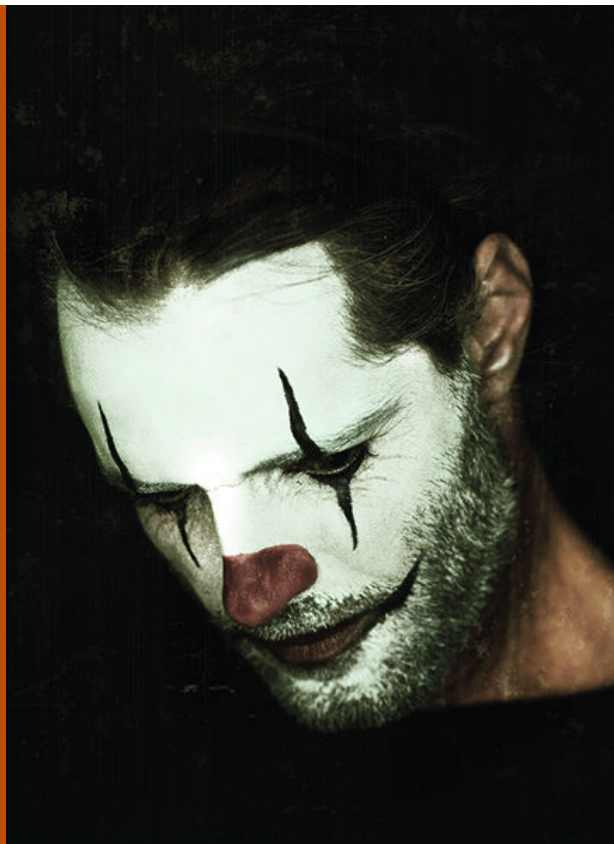
Friday, February 21, 2014, 8 PM

Saturday, February 22, 2014, 8 PM



Jonathan Burton
Tenor

Tickets: www.operanaples.org



Sarasota Opera

Il Trovatore



Not seen in Sarasota since 1993, Verdi's hot blooded drama tells the story of a troubadour's quest for love, a soldier's lust and a gypsy's undying thirst for vengeance. Premiered in 1853, *Il Trovatore* features operatic favorites such as the famous "Anvil" Chorus and the valiant tenor cabaletta "Di Quella Pira"

Saturday, February, 7PM

Wednesday, February 12, 8PM

Sunday, February 16, 1:30 PM

Saturday, February 22, 8 PM

Tuesday, February 25, 8 PM

Thursday, February 27, 8 PM

The Barber of Seville



One of the most beloved works in the operatic repertory returns to Sarasota Opera's stage! Determined to win the heart of the beautiful Rosina with charm and wit, rather than money, Count Almaviva enlists the help of Figaro, the Barber of Seville, to steal her away from her guardian, Dr. Bartolo.

Saturday, February 15, 8 pm

Tuesday, February 18, 8 pm

Thursday, February 20, 8 pm

Sunday, February 23, 1:30 pm

Wednesday, February 26, 8 pm

Friday, February 28, 8 pm

Tickets: www.sarasotaopera.org

Naples Orchestra and Chorus... ...Mozart to Les Mis



The season's second concert will present Mozart's Symphony No. 41, *The Jupiter*. Completed in 1788, it was his last symphony composition, and may never have been performed in its entirety during his lifetime.

Vaclave Nelhybel is considered one of the 20th century's most prolific composers. He was a superb craftsman, as you will hear in *Music for Orchestra*. Working with young players was an important part of his life.



The musical production of *Les Miserables*, was first performed on stage in 1985. The orchestra, chorus, and NOC'S star tenor, Lederian Townsend, will perform selections from one of Broadway's longest running musicals.

Dr. Robert Herrema, Artistic Director and Conductor

Herrema Saturday, February 22, 7 PM
Sunday, February 23, 2 PM

Lely High School, Naples

Tickets: www.naplesorchestrandchorus.org

Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida
presents

MOURNING GLORY

REQUIEM
MICHAEL HAYDN
GLORIA
ANTONIO VIVALDI

Timothy McDonnell, Artistic Director & Conductor

February 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Covenant Presbyterian Church
2439 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers

TICKETS
\$30 Preferred, \$25 Festival Seating
Students \$10 or free with paying adult
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Other February Events

Belle Canto
Belles Sing the Blues
Sunday, February 16, 2 PM
Glen Ridge Performing Arts Center, Sarasota
Tickets: 941-552-5300

FGCU Chamber and University Choirs
American Choral Music
Thursday, February 20, 7:30 PM
U Tobe Hall, FGCU
Tickets: www.fgcu.edu/CAS/BSM/concerts.html

Exsultate
Voices of illumination
Sunday, February 23, 3 PM
Grace United Methodist Church, Venice
Tickets: 941-484-8491

Anna Maria Island Chorus and Orchestra
Opera on Anna Maria Island, La Traviata
Sunday, February 23, 2 PM
Crosse Point Fellowship Church, Holmes Beach
Tickets: www.amicco.org

An Invitation to...

Franc D'Ambrosio's Hollywood: SONGS OF THE SILVER SCREEN

A Benefit to support the Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28
6:30 p.m. Hors d'Oeuvre Reception & Silent Auction
8:00 p.m. Concert
Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, 2301 First Street, Downtown Fort Myers

Featuring Franc D'Ambrosio, Broadway's
longest running Phantom of the Opera

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symphonicchorale@yahoo.com

\$100 per person
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