



ENSEMBLE

The Voice of the Choral Art Form in Southwest Florida

Season winds down

Volume 1, Issue 10
April 2013



Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida—An American Rhapsody

The Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida presents “An American Rhapsody,” a celebration of America’s composers. Under the direction of Dr. Timothy McDonnell, the evening

will feature a sampling of works that express the American musical experience. The 80 voice Chorale and the 30-voice Ave Maria University Chamber Choir, accompanied by an orchestra, will perform a program that ranges from the music of Aaron Copland to opera choruses by ragtime composer Scott Joplin, as well as other national choral treasures.

The evening also will include a piano performance by Joseph Donovan, a senior at Ave Maria University, playing George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue,” and the Kellyn Celtic Dancers salute to their American roots during a dance to “Appalachian Spring.”

An estimated 70 percent of early Appalachia settlers came from Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The chorale is dedicating this all-American concert to the men and women who have served in the military. **Continued page 5. See Chorale.**



McDonnell

As the season comes to a close, most will agree its been a productive, rewarding and challenging one. The array of programming was broad and choral devotees had their pick of programming in southwest Florida. It’s encouraging that anyone in southwest Florida is within an hour and a half of any concert between Naples and Bradenton which is not unlike travel time in any large northern city.

Ensemble closes its first full season of publishing with a sense of accomplishment. Our readership has grown to 9000, our website is extremely active and we field an average of 200 e-mail inquiries each month.

Thank you for allowing us to be the voice of the choral art form in southwest Florida.

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Phone 239-472-0168, FAX: 239-472-2094 Website: www.ensemblemedia.org E-mail: ensemble@comcast.net

Naples Orchestra and Chorus—War and Peace, Swords to Plowshares



Through the overarching theme of War & Peace, The Naples Orchestra & Chorus will present

works spanning three centuries of choral and orchestral work which express the devastation and sorrow of war and the hope and promise of peace. From the 18th century they will perform Haydn's *Missa in Tempore Belli*, (*Mass in Time of War*). This major choral work showcases the NOC Chorus and four accomplished vocalists from FGCU's Bower School Music: Soprano, Heather Jones, graduate and teacher; Mezzo Soprano, Lorena Vargas; Tenor, Jonathan McCann; Bass, Raul Esalona.

From the 19th and 20th centuries the concert will include Gliere's, *Russian Sailor's Dance*, Von Suppe's *Light Cavalry Overture*, Miller & Jackson's, *Let there be Peace on Earth* and two distinct versions of *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*.

This is a concert that will lift your heart and raise your spirits. It's one you won't want to miss.

Artistic Director and Conductor: Robert Herrema

Saturday, April 13, 7 PM

Golden Gate High School, Naples

Tickets: www.naplesorchestraandchorus.org



Spotlight

Dr. Jim Cochran
Director of Choruses
Naples Philharmonic Chorale



James Cochran is the founder and director of the 100-voice Philharmonic Center Chorale, as well as resident organist of the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra and director of the Phil-

harmonic Youth Chorale. He has performed as an organ recitalist in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Mexico. Cochran is also the Director of Music at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church in Naples.

As an organ recitalist, he has performed widely in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Mexico and has performed in several series, including *An Appalachian Summer* in Boone, N.C.; *"It's Friday at Trinity"* in Boston, Mass.; *Candlelight Concerts* in Bruton Parish Church, Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia; and the organ recital series at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley, California. In Great Britain, Cochran has been presented at All Soul's, Langham Place, London; Blenheim Palace; St. James Church, Louth; St. Mary's Parish in Bury St. Edmunds and Queen's College, Keble College, and University College, Oxford University.

In April 2001, the Philharmonic Center Chorale was taped in concert with the orchestra and soloists for a nation-wide PBS broadcast which aired in the summer of 2002.

He was invited to participate in the Robert Shaw Choral Institute at Carnegie Hall in New York City in January 1998 and during the summers of 1999 and 2003, Cochran conducted a 1600-voice community choir in the 45th Annual Choir Festival in Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

Dr. Cochran received his bachelor of music degree from Susquehanna University and his master and doctor of musical arts degrees from the Eastman School of Music.

Musica Sacra Cantorum - Chichester Psalms and Bloch's Sacred Service



Parrish

Dr Bob Parrish, artistic director, offers his audience a wide spectrum with two works from Bernstein and Bloch

Bloch's *Sacred Service*, *Avodath Hakodesh*, is an intense psychic drama. As Bloch began to reclaim his Jewish heritage, he said "An immense sense of pride surged in me. My entire being vibrated; it is a revelation." His description of an overwhelming moment when the limited human spirit is suddenly lifted into the realm of the infinite has many Biblical parallels—think of Moses on Mount

Sinai, or Elijah encountering the "still, small, voice." It is a moment of spiritual revelation that informs and animates the entire

Sacred Service. Again and again, when talking about the piece, Bloch returns to the idea. Time magazine pointed out in a review of the first New York performance: "in spirit his *Service* was universal, as much for Gentiles as for Jews." And Bloch himself believed that the work was "more cosmic and universal than Jewish."



Continued page 4, See Chichester

Chichester, Continued from page 2

Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms was commissioned for the 1965 Southern Cathedrals' Festival at Chichester Cathedral. The world premiere took place in Philharmonic Hall, New York on July 15, 1965 with the composer conducting. *Chichester Psalms* was Bernstein's first composition after his Third Symphony (Kaddish). They are his two most overtly Jewish works. While both works have a chorus singing texts in Hebrew, the *Kaddish* Symphony has been described "as a work often at the edge of despair, while Chichester Psalms is affirmative and at times serene."

The Psalms and the first movement in particular are noted among performers for their musical difficulty, with the opening section of the first movement often considered one of the hardest passages for choral tenors ever written, owing to the range of the piece and its rhythmic complexity.

Sunday, April 23, 4 PM

St. Boniface Episcopal Church, Sarasota

Tickets: www.musicasacraantorum.org

Gloria Musicae presents

Music in Reel Time

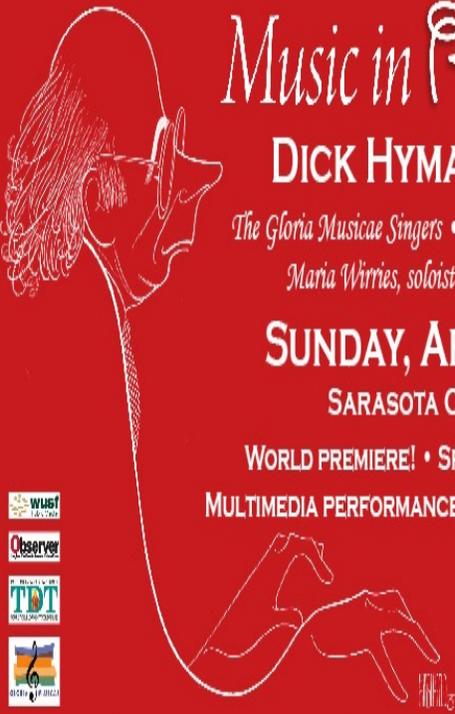
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Symphonic Chorale
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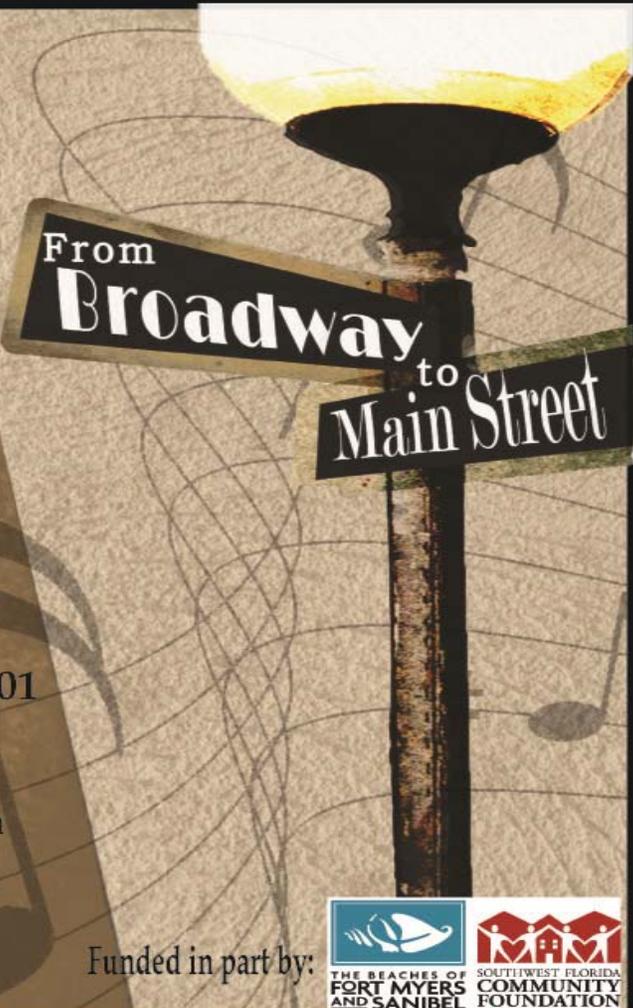
An American Rhapsody

Timothy McDonnell, Artistic Director

Showcasing the music and the heroes of our great land!
Featuring: The Chorale, Ave Maria University Choir,
Kellyn Celtic Dancers and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 7:00 PM
First Christian Church
2061 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers 33901

Tickets: \$25(\$10 students)
Phone orders: 239-560-5695; Online at www.ticketriver.com
Email: symphonicchorale@yahoo.com



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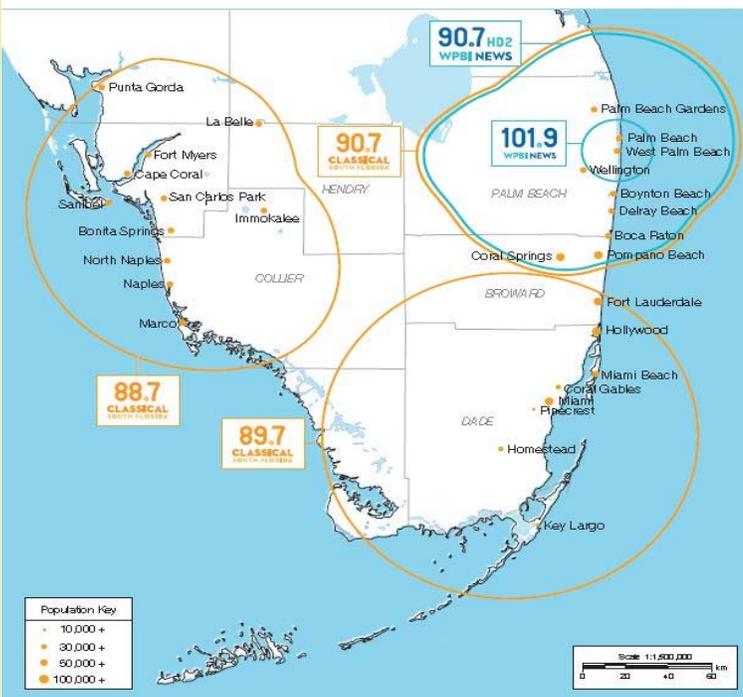
WNPS Brings Classical Music Back to Southwest Florida's Airwaves

Classical South Florida (CSF), a nonprofit listener supported public radio organization dedicated to broadcasting classical music, has begun airing its programming in Fort Myers and throughout Southwest Florida on WNPS 88.7FM.

CSF acquired the local frequency early last year. "We're delighted to bring a full-time classical music service back to Southwest Florida's airwaves," said CSF program director, Jason Hughes. "Classical South Florida's programming can now be heard by more than 5.7 million people throughout all of South Florida – from the upper Keys to the Palm Beaches and Treasure Coast, and from Fort Myers to Naples and Marco Island. We're proud of our continued growth, and we look forward to bringing our new listeners the very best in classical music programming for many years to come."

The CSF program schedule will include broadcasts of nationally renowned programs such as Performance Today, SymphonyCast and live performances from The Metropolitan Opera, as well as Florida favorites such as Backstage with the New World Symphony.

More information on programming is available online at www.classicalSouthFlorida.org.



April Events

Charlotte Chorale
Directors Favorites
April 6, 4PM
Cultural Center Theater, Port Charlotte
Tickets: 941-204-0033

Mastersingers
Major works by Mozart, Bernstein, Finzi and Forrester
April 6, 7:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs
April 7, 4PM
Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral

Gloria Musicae
Gloria Musicae Gala
Sarasota Opera House
Tickets: www.gloriamusicae.org

Suncoast Chorale
A Sprig of Thyme
April 12, 7:30 PM
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Tickets: www.suncoastchorale.com

Naples Orchestra and Chorus
War and Peace-Swords to Plowshares
April 13, 7 PM
April 14, 2 PM
Golden Gate High School, Naples
Tickets: www.naplesorchestraandchorus.org

Key Chorale
"Annelies," inspired by the diary of Anne Frank.
April 14, 8 PM
Players Theater, Sarasota
Tickets: www.keychorale.org

Exsultate
Poetry- Words in Search of a Song
Apr 14, 3:30 PM
Grace United Methodist Church, Venice
Tickets: 941-484-8491

Suncoast Chorale
A Sprig of Thyme
April 14, 3:30 PM
Venice Presbyterian Church
Tickets: www.suncoastchorale.com

Mastersingers
Sounds of Spring
April 14, 4 PM
BIG Arts, Sanibel

North Port Chorale
Spring Fling
April 27, 7 PM
Tickets: www.northportchorale.org

Key Chorale to present Annelies

This is one of those “don’t miss it” concerts. Artistic Director Joe Caulkins continues his string of innovative programs with



Annelies, a concert-length setting of Anne Frank’s Diary of a Young Girl, the account of a young Jewish girl’s observations and thoughts while she and her family were forced to go

into hiding during the Holocaust in Holland.

Annelies is the first adaptation of the diary of Anne Frank into a large-scale choral work. It brings to life the diary written by Annelies Marie Frank between 1942 and 1944 when she and her family hid in the back of an Amsterdam warehouse. From the windows, Anne looked up to the beauty of the sky, and downwards to the brutality meted out by the Nazis. The contrasting sights inspired some of the most profound and memorable thoughts in an extraordinary diary, read by millions of people throughout the world.



Anne Frank

After two years, the family was betrayed and transported to concentration camps. Anne Frank and her sister, Margot, were eventually transferred to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where they both died of typhus in March 1945.

Otto Frank, the only survivor of the family, returned to Amsterdam after the war to find that Anne’s diary had been saved, and his efforts led to its publication in 1947. It was translated from its original Dutch and first published in English in 1952 as The Diary of a Young Girl. It has since been translated into many languages. The diary, which was given to Anne on her 13th birthday, chronicles her life from 12 June 1942 until 1 August 1944.

Sunday, April 14, 2PM and 7PM, The players Theatre, Sarasota

Tickets: www.keychorale.org

Fort Myers High School Chorus joins Mastersingers for spring concert.

Among the works the combined choirs will be performing is Mozart’s Missa Brevis in D. The program also includes works by early 20th Century composer Gerald Finzi, Broadway’s Leonard Bernstein and contemporary composer Daniel Forrester.

The concert will include the high school’s Greenwave Singers, the school’s 40-voice mixed choir, and Fermata, the female choir. Greenwave and Fermata have earned superior ratings from the District 11 Music Performance Assessment.

See Page 4 calendar for date, time and venue.

Exsultate—Poetry— Words in Search of a Song



For this concert, grant awards from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation and the Woman’s Exchange Founda-

tion enabled *Exsultate* to commission composer David Brunner to expand the collection of Wendell Berry poetry that he set to music. Titled *A Timbered Choir: The Sabbath Poems, 1979-1997*, the collection already included “The Circles of Our Lives,” “The Wheel,” and “We Clasp Hands.” First published in 1998, The Chorale is pairing the new, full Brunner song cycle with a comparable one of Robert Frost poems set to music titled *Frostiana* by composer Randall Thompson.



Artistic Director
Stephen Johns

Sunday, April 14, 2013, 3:30 pm
Grace United Methodist Church, Venice
Tickets: www.exsultate.org

Chorale. Continued from page 1

Local veterans’ groups are invited to host tables at the performance to provide information about their services. Call 239-560-5695 for more information.

“We’ll be balancing classic American choral favorites with some of American music’s blockbuster instrumental works”, McDonnell said. “Combining the Rhapsody in Blue with Appalachian Spring will be like taking the Subway from Grand Central Station to the Blue Ridge Mountains, but it will be a quintessentially American musical journey. We’ll be presenting Rhapsody in Blue as well as Appalachian Spring in their chamber orchestra versions. This kind of intimate texture will be matched by many of the choral works that we sing, which have folk music as their origin. “

Saturday, April 20, 7 p.m.

First Christian Church, , Fort Myers.

Tickets: 239-560-5695, online at www.ticketriver.com

Tax increases likely to affect charitable donations

By Jim George, Publisher



Choral organizations should not be surprised if they see a noticeable drop in donations in the coming years. The latest tax increase on the

wealthy, capped deductions, the increase in payroll taxes and the taxes associated with Obamacare means a large chunk of money passes from personal discretionary income to government spending of those same dollars. The Obama administration has also signaled they intend to continue raising taxes in the future to finance its spending programs.

Most economists are predicting a tepid GDP growth rate of two percent and unemployment to remain in the eight percent range for the next several years.

Discretionary money, whether donated for philanthropic reasons or for tax deductions, will be in much shorter supply and that means there will be heavier competition for the available dollars. When money is short arts groups suffer, primarily because large donors tend to support community social programs such as United Way and food banks rather than the arts. Many arts groups rely on smaller donors...those people who donate \$500 or less. This lower and middle income group will feel the impact of the

payroll tax increase and Obamacare taxes which, according to many economists, will range from a few hundred to as high as \$2000 annually...a significant hit to the average family's budget. Hence, they'll have to make a decision as to whether they make a donation or pay household expenses.

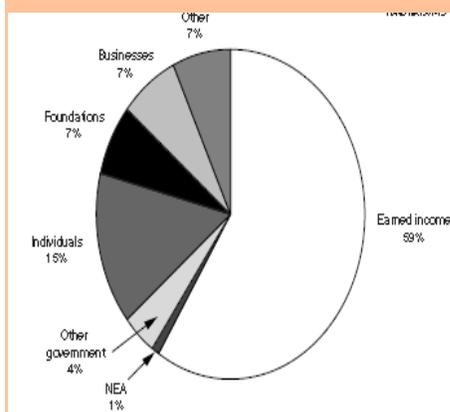
The Obama administration is also threatening to cut the nonprofit tax deduction. Estimates vary, but the consensus seems to be that if the charitable-giving tax deduction is cut, individual donations could fall by between 9 percent and 15 percent, which would eliminate many programs, especially those run by smaller charities. With charitable donations in the United States hitting \$298.4 billion in 2011 it is obvious that a reduction of individual giving by any meaningful percentage would eliminate billions of dollars' in donations. A 15 percent reduction, for example, would mean nearly \$45 billion less in charitable donations. America's nonprofits as we know them are heavily dependent on tax exemption, and without it, many nonprofits get hurt especially non-essential nonprofits.

An informal survey by Ensemble of several choral organizations in southwest Florida indicated that some are already seeing a tightening with average size of donations dropping about twenty percent and some historical donors dropping out altogether.

Non-profits enjoy diverse sources of revenue, aside from earned income, the most important of which is the individual donor who makes up 15 percent of the total, double the size of the next largest group, according to the study, The Performing Arts in a New Era.

The nearby chart shows the breakdown

of donations by category of donation vs earned income.



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 1997 Economic Census.

Figure 7.3—Sources of Revenue for Nonprofit Performing Arts Organizations, 1997

The report, which did not take into account the recent tax increases, predicted that the pressure will continue on funding nonprofit organizations.

The trend in recent years has been an increase in the number of small donors rather than an increase in the size of the donation. Since the recent payroll tax increase and the pending tax increases for Obamacare will have a greater affect on the small donor, the number of small donors is likely to drop off, reversing the trend of recent years.

