

Season Preview: Classical

Expect an abundance of riches across genres and venues

By Greg Stepanich
ArtsPaper Editor

Even with the loss of one orchestra's Palm Beach County concerts (the Atlantic Classical Orchestra, which will stick to Stuart and Vero Beach this time around), the upcoming classical season is hard to complain about, with its roster of major ensembles and performers, several world premieres, and a deep lineup of compelling music across the genre spectrum.

October

The classical season got underway with a concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach. On Oct. 1, the church opened its 35th year of concerts with its usual first group, the **Trillium Piano Trio**, led by Jupiter-based pianist Yoko Sata Kothari. Music by Haydn, Turina and Mendelssohn were on the program. Also that afternoon, the student **Lynn Philharmonia** was to perform works by Bartok and Rachmaninoff, plus the young American composers Gina Gillie and Gala Flagello; Guillermo Figueroa conducted the band at the World Performing Arts Center on Lynn's Boca Raton campus.

On Oct. 15, the **Delray String Quartet**, the resident group at St. Paul's, begins its season with a program called "The Bullfighter." The Kravis Center



Members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center perform one of the six Brandenburg Concertos of J.S. Bach, a holiday tradition in New York that has come to Palm Beach. Musicians from the society will perform the concertos Dec. 6 at the Society of the Four Arts. **Photo provided**

hosts the **Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería de México** on Oct. 30, led by conductor Carlos Miguel Prieto and featuring Venezuelan pianist **Gabriela Montero** in her First Piano Concerto (Latin).

November

Things heat up with the Miami-based concert choir **Seraphic Fire**, which presents excerpts from Rameau's 1737 opera *Castor et Pollux* on Nov. 5 in Boca Raton (venue TBA).

On Nov. 15 at the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach, the **Chamber Music Society of Boca Raton** begins its 11th season with cellist **Gary Hoffman** and pianist **Jon Kimura Parker** in the Cello

Sonata of Rachmaninoff; they are joined by CMSPB artistic director **Arnold Sussmann** on violin for the Piano Trio No. 1 of Smetana.

The **Palm Beach Symphony** starts its golden anniversary season at the Kravis Center on Nov. 19 with pianist **Yefim Bronfman** in the Brahms Second Piano Concerto. Conductor Gerard Schwarz opens the concert with a world premiere from composer Bright Sheng, and later conducts a suite from Richard Strauss's opera *Der Rosenkavalier*. That same day, *The Symphonia* of Boca Raton starts things off at St. Andrew's School with an environment-themed

concert featuring violinist **Hina Khuong-Huu**, winner of the 2023 Elmar Oliveira Competition, in Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir d'un lieu cher*.

Conductor Alastair Willis also has programmed the second *Water Music* suite of Handel, Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and *Chokfi*, a work by composer Jerod Tate.

December

The Symphonia kicks off the month Dec. 3 with a concert at Spanish River High School led by Laura Jackson, featuring tenor **Leo Williams** in Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings*, Mozart's *Jupiter Symphony* and selections from American composer Patrick Harlin's *Wilderness Anthology*.

The Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach renews its commitment to a New York holiday tradition with the complete *Brandenburg Concertos* of J.S. Bach as played by the musicians of the **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** on Dec. 6.

Violinist **Tessa Lark** and pianist **Peter Dugan**, billing themselves as the **Visionary Duo**, perform at the Norton Museum on Dec. 7.

The **New World Symphony**, the young players of the Miami Beach-based orchestral academy, return to the Kravis on Dec. 11 for a concert featuring Mahler's Sixth Symphony. The following day, *Seraphic Fire* presents its annual Christmas concert at a TBA venue in Boca Raton.

Japanese violinist **Akiko Suwanai** joins the Palm Beach Symphony on Dec. 13 for the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto; the program also includes the Ninth Symphony of Dvořák and a world premiere by conductor Schwarz. In the Kravis's Rinker Playhouse that same night is a concert by five members of the **Young Concert Artists**. Two of those members are singers, making for an unusual mix of chamber and art song pieces.

On Dec. 17, veteran violinist **Itzhak Perlman** makes his annual winter visit to Palm Beach County with his klezmer program, *In the Fiddler's House*.

January

Four Arts artistic director **Wu Han** focuses on Beethoven as the new year begins, with a three-concert look at the composer's chamber music, beginning Jan. 7 with a traversal of all five of his cello sonatas, played by **David Finckel**, with Wu Han at the piano. On Jan. 10, they will offer piano trios by Beethoven and his one-time teacher, Joseph Haydn, while a different kind of trio — violin, viola and cello — plays the Bethesda-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church on Jan. 11 for CMSPB; artistic chief Sussmann is joined by violinist **Benjamin Beilman** and cellist **Edward Arron** for music of Handel, Leclair, Dvořák and the young American composer Jessie Montgomery.

The Four Arts Beethoven mini-festival concludes Jan. 14 with musicians from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center performing two early trios and the septet for winds and strings.

On Jan. 15, violinist **Pinchas Zukerman** joins the Palm Beach Symphony for a movement from Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir d'un lieu cher* as well as Mozart's Third Violin Concerto. Sibelius's Second Symphony and *Four Hymns Without Words*, by American composer Adolphus Hailstork, fill out the evening.

The Duncan Theatre's Classical Café series at Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth Beach opens Jan. 17 with a visit from the **Neave Trio**. Meanwhile, on Jan. 20, the conductor-less **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra** and pianist **Nobuyuki Tsuji** perform Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 at the Kravis.

The Symphonia launches its third concert on Jan. 21 with Joseph Bologne's overture to his opera *L'amant Anonyme*, Haydn's Symphony No. 60, and Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Greensleeves*.

American pianist **Jeremy Denk** visits the Four Arts on Jan. 24 for music by Bach, Chopin, Clara Schumann and Schubert, as well as the American composer Missy Mazzoli's *Heartbreaker*.

Closing out the month on Jan. 29 at the Kravis is the **Cleveland Orchestra**, with violinist **Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider** performing the Bruch Concerto No. 1. Conductor Franz Welser-Möst has also scheduled Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony and *Cleveland Pictures* from late British composer Oliver Knussen.

February

The **Calidore String Quartet** comes to the Four Arts on Feb. 4 with music of Bach arranged by Mozart, and Purcell arranged by Benjamin Britten, as well as quartets by Mendelssohn and Britten. Veteran pianist **Vladimir Feltsman** plays the Grieg Piano Concerto on Feb. 5 with the Palm Beach

— EST. 1947 —

DELRAY BEACH PLAYHOUSE

YOUR HIDDEN GEM ON LAKE IDA

2023 / 2024

SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

BEST OF BROADWAY

Cabaret Series

DECEMBER 11 - 14, 2023

JANUARY 8 - 10, 2024

FEBRUARY 19 - 22, 2024

MARCH 25 - 28, 2024

SCAN CODE

FOR TICKETS!

MAY 13 - 16, 2024

DELRAY BEACH PLAYHOUSE

950 NW 9TH ST, DELRAY BEACH, FL 33444 | 561.272.1281

DELRAYBEACHPLAYHOUSE.COM

Facebook Instagram YouTube Twitter LinkedIn

@DELRAYBEACHPLAYHOUSE

Symphony; conductor Schwarz has also scheduled Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* and a world premiere by composer and South Florida native Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. Another young foursome, the **Ulysses Quartet**, kicks off the Flagler Museum's music series on Feb. 6.

A wind quartet and a pianist from London's **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields** come to the Four Arts on Feb. 7 for music by Poulenc, Mozart, Glinka, Françaix and the late-19th-century Austrian composer Heinrich Molbe. The next day at the same venue, the Metropolitan Opera's **Peter Gelb** gives a talk on the future of opera, and on Feb. 9, four young singers in the Met's **Lindemann Artists Program** give a concert of arias. And on the 11th, the **Schumann Quartet** offers music of Mozart, Beethoven and Janáček.

Violinist **Elissa Lee Koljonen** brings a recital program to the Flagler Museum on Feb. 13 with pianist **Sheng-Yeng Kuan**, while on Valentine's Day the **Tesla Quartet** plays the Duncan Theatre, and at the Rinker Playhouse, young musicians from Philadelphia's **Curtis Institute of Music** drop by for a "Curtis on Tour" concert.

American cellist **Alisa Weilerstein** is the soloist Feb. 17 when the **Detroit Symphony Orchestra** arrives at the Kravis; she'll play the Elgar concerto on a concert with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* and



Conductor Franz Welser-Möst will lead the Vienna Philharmonic in two concerts, March 8 and 9 at the Kravis Center. **Photo provided**

Wynton Marsalis's *Herald, Holler and Hallelujah!* Weilerstein and conductor Jader Bignamini repeat the program on Feb. 18 with Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony replacing the Rimsky.

The eclectic **Beo String Quartet** stops by the Flagler on Feb. 20, and on Feb. 22, pianists **Juho Pohjonen** and **Wu Qian** play four-hand repertoire at one piano by Mendelssohn, Debussy, Dvořák and Cécile Chaminade in a CMSPB concert at the Norton Museum.

Seraphic Fire's Enlightenment Festival returns with two concerts, one of which, on Feb. 25 at St. Gregory's in Boca, features works by Haydn: the *Te Deum* for Empress Maria Theresa, the Nelson Mass, and "The Battle of the Nile."

The month ends at the Flagler with pianist **Marta Aznavoorian** and her sister, cellist **Ani Aznavoorian**, on Feb. 27, and the **Verona Quartet** on Feb. 28 at the Duncan Theatre.

March

Pianist **Bailey-Michelle Collins** offers a solo recital March 3 on the St. Paul's series in Delray. Russian pianist **Daniil Trifonov** plays Mozart's early Piano Concerto No. 9 with the **Rotterdam Philharmonic** on March 4 at the Kravis Center; conductor Lahav Shani has also programmed selections from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* ballet score and Estonian master Arvo Pärt's *Swanson*.

On March 5, Chicago's **Black Oak Ensemble**, a string trio, closes the Flagler music series, and on March 6, pianist **Emanuel Ax** joins the Palm Beach Symphony for the Mozart Piano Concerto No. 25; Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony is scheduled, as is a world premiere by eminent American composer Aaron Jay Kernis. That same day at the Four Arts, the **Escher Quartet** performs quartets by Haydn, Janáček and Ravel. On March 7 at Bethesda-by-the-Sea, American mezzo **Sasha Cooke** sings a recital program for CMSPB, accompanied by pianist **John Churchwell**.

One of the biggest events of the classical season comes March 8 and 9 at the

Kravis, when the **Vienna Philharmonic**, under Austrian conductor Franz Welser-Möst (leader of the Cleveland Orchestra), arrives for a two-day stay. On March 8, the program features Mahler's Ninth Symphony and the *Three Pieces for Orchestra* of Alban Berg. On March 9, it's the Berg pieces and the Ninth Symphony of Anton Bruckner.

American pianist and composer **Michael Stephen Brown**, in his Four Arts concert March 13, brings a varied program including music by Mendelssohn, Haydn, Debussy, Ravel and the 19th-century German composer Delphine von Schauroth. Two of Brown's own works are on his recital, including a COVID pandemic-inspired work called *Breakup Etude for Right Hand Alone*. That same day, the young American pianist **Evren Ozel** wraps the Duncan's Classical Café series with a solo recital.

Audience favorite **Alexander Platt** returns to the Symphonia on March 17 to lead the orchestra in music of Fauré (*Masques et Bergamasques*) and Mendelssohn (Symphony No. 3), plus a flute concerto (No. 7) by French flutist and composer François Devienne; the soloist is **Les Roettge** of the **Jacksonville Symphony**. On March 18, violinist **Joshua Bell** and his Academy of St. Martin in the Fields comes to the Kravis in a program TBA; two days later, the **Galvin Cello Quartet**

visits the Rinker for the Kravis's Young Artists Classical Series.

April

The **Jerusalem Quartet** brings a concert of quartets by Haydn, Brahms and Shostakovich to the Four Arts on April 3, while April 4 at the Norton, four leading wind players and pianist **Orion Weiss** team up for quintets by Mozart and Beethoven for the CMSPB. On April 13, the Symphonia closes out its season with a dramatization by conductor Alastair Willis of life at the Eszterhaza Palace working for Joseph Haydn.

Russian pianist **Anna Geniushene** ends the Four Arts season April 24 with a recital featuring the Op. 1 compositions of seven composers: Clementi, Tchaikovsky, Chopin, Weinberg, Schumann, Berg and Brahms. On April 25, the Palm Beach Symphony performs Beethoven's landmark Ninth Symphony, 200 years after its debut, with the help of several University of Miami vocal groups and four soloists, as yet unannounced.

Also on the 25th, the CMSPB ends its season at Bethesda-by-the-Sea with harpist **Emmanuel Ceyson**, accompanied by four leading string players, in a program of music of Debussy, Saint-Saëns, Ravel and Marcel Tournier.

Seraphic Fire ends its season April 28 at St. Gregory's in Boca Raton with a varied program.

BOCA RATON MUSEUM OF ART

SMOKE & MIRRORS

MAGICAL THINKING IN CONTEMPORARY ART



APPEARING NOVEMBER 18, 2023

501 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, FL 33432
bocamuseum.org | 561.392.2500

Teiger Foundation

PNC BANK



Sarah Charlesworth, *Levitating Woman*, 1992-93, cibachrome with lacquered wood frame. © The Estate of Sarah Charlesworth. Courtesy Paula Cooper Gallery, New York