

November 2019

The Master Chorale

It's not often music-lovers have the pleasure of hearing 130 voices resounding in concert, but the Master Chorale of South Florida offers four varied opportunities for that particular kind of rapture this season. Conducted by Brett Karlin with guest artists and orchestra, the tri-county chorale goes for Baroque right off the baton this month with two performances of three gems from the period: Handel's Zadok the Priest, originally composed for the coronation of King George II; Vivaldi's most popular choral work, Gloria; and Bach's mesmerizing Magnificat. Another highlight, Beethoven's epic Symphony No. 9, follows in February.

Nov. 15, 8 p.m., Coral Ridge
Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale;
and Nov. 17, 4 p.m., Roberts Theater
at St. Andrew's School, Boca Raton.
Tickets \$35 in advance, \$40 at the
door. masterchoraleofsouthflorida.
org, 954-641-2653 — GC

The Symphonia: Happy Birthday Beethoven

We know what you're thinking again with the Beethoven? But who'd deny Ludwig his props on the 250th anniversary of his birth? Certainly not the Boca Symphonia and quest maestro James Judd, former Florida Philharmonic music director. He returns to conduct this third concert in the season-long Connoisseur Series, "Celebrating Women in Music," two of whom will take their turn in the spotlight. Elissa Lee Koljonen on violin and Yumi Kendall on cello will be soloists for a program featuring the Beethoven mainstay, Symphony No. 5, and the less-renowned King Stephen Overture, as well as a couple of pieces by Miami-native Ellen Taaffee Zwilich, the first female composer to win the Pulitzer Prize

for Music. The women-centric theme continues with the following concert on March 29, conducted by Reno Philharmonic music director Laura Jackson.

Feb. 9, Roberts Theater at Saint Andrew's School, 3900 Jog Road, Boca Raton, thesymphonia.org. — GC

Florida Grand Opera: Il matrimonio segreto

Sure, the big names dominate the company's 79th season — Mozart's Don Giovanni, Puccini's Madama Butterfly and Verdi's Rigoletto. But the season finale emerges from deeper in the operatic vault. Domenico Cimarosa's Il matrimonio segreto, translated as "The Secret Marriage," was one of the most popular operas in the world in the early 1800s and, apart from Mozart's, remains arguably one of the greatest comic operas. With Amadeus's comic flair and a charming score resonant of Rossini, the opera unveils a father's attempts to marry off his daughter as a family secret is unearthed that changes everything. Leopold II was so delighted with the opera's premiere in 1792 in Vienna that he ordered supper served to the company and the entire opera repeated immediately thereafter — the longest encore in opera history.

April 18-26, Miami-Dade County Auditorium, 2901 W. Flagler St., Miami, fgo.org. — GC

Lang Lang

The superstar pianist, who just last season was trying to dispel whispers that he may never fully recover from a hand injury, makes a fearless return to Miami during the 2019-2020 Knight Masterworks Season Classical Music Series with Johann Sebastian Bach's Goldberg Variations. One of the iconic pieces in Western music, the beauty of

the Goldbergs is balanced by the legendary technical challenges of their kaleidoscopic architecture.

Lang Lang performs 7:30 p.m. May 11 at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Tickets: \$50-\$170. Visit ArshtCenter.org.— BC

Our critics' picks in

COMEDY

The Naked Magicians

Well the show's title got your attention, didn't it? But lurid interest aside, what's so funny about nude illusionists? It turns out that this show — picture Magic Mike meets Penn and Teller — is really bawdy stand-up with a duo of hot dudes from Down Under.

The stripped-down stars,
Christopher Wayne and Mike Tyler, are
well known in their native Australia.
Wayne had his own TV show, More
Than Magic, and is a popular comedy
writer. Before striking gold with this
touring production, Tyler's reputation
as one of the best close-up magicians
around was sealed with his nearconstant booking of more than 250
shows a year as a magician, mentalist
and hypnotist.

