



NEWS RELEASE | August 7, 2017

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The Florida Orchestra adds FINAL FANTASY video game concerts; tickets go on sale

- **Single tickets for TFO concerts go on sale Aug. 14**
- **Orchestra announces second season of Happy Hour concerts**
- **Rock concerts, new Mahaffey weekend matinees on sale**

Photos: Distant Worlds, Marshall Charloff as Prince, Happy Hour and more, [click here](#)

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – Adding another big moment to its fast-approaching 50th anniversary season, The Florida Orchestra is bringing back the phenomenally popular video game concert **Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY®** for two performances in January 2018 at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg.

Reserved seat tickets start at \$25 and go on sale Monday, Aug. 14, along with single tickets to TFO's entire 50th anniversary 2017/18 season. Orchestra subscribers can buy tickets early, on Monday, Aug. 7.

On the heels of an international tour celebrating three decades of the FINAL FANTASY® video game, Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY® brings your favorite characters to life on the big screen as The Florida Orchestra performs the powerful repertoire live, under the baton of Grammy winner Arnie Roth. Costumes welcome.

TFO's previous FINAL FANTASY® video game concert sold out after attracting fans from throughout the Southeast, so a matinee performance has been added to meet demand. **Concerts will be Friday, Jan. 26, at 8 pm, and Sunday, Jan. 28, at 2 pm. Tickets are \$25, \$35, \$50, \$60, \$75 and \$95.**

The Florida Orchestra's 50th anniversary concert season officially opens Oct. 6-8 with Music Director Michael Francis conducting *Carmina Burana*, featuring the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater in the Tampa Bay Times Masterworks series. The season embraces old favorites as well as new pieces, ranging from Dvorak's *New World Symphony* to Verdi's massive *Requiem*. The Raymond James Pops series opens Oct. 13-15 with *Swing is the Thing* and includes the Music of Star Trek & Star Wars and Rodgers & Hammerstein. The expanded morning Coffee concert season, with performances in St. Petersburg and Clearwater, opens Oct. 12. Full schedules of these previously announced series are available at floridaorchestra.org.

Single tickets to these concerts and series go on sale Aug. 14:

- **Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY®:** \$25, \$35, \$50, \$60, \$75 and \$95.

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- **Tampa Bay Times Masterworks and Raymond James Pops series:** \$15, \$30 and \$45. Also includes both weekend matinee series. Kids and teens ages 5-18 get in free to Masterworks concerts with Classical Kids tickets.
- **Coffee Concert series:** \$24, \$29, \$34 and \$42.
- **Happy Hour concerts:** \$35 general admission
- **Rock concerts:** \$35, \$50 and \$65.

Three Happy Hour concerts added to schedule

In a party mood for its 50th anniversary, TFO announces a second season of its casual Happy Hour concerts, presented by Smith & Associates Real Estate and co-sponsor Cigar City Brewing. The spirited mix of live symphonic music, free drinks and snacks, and a meet-and-greet with TFO musicians is Thursdays after work at the Straz Center in Tampa. Bars open at 5:30 pm and stay open throughout the hour-long concert, which starts at 6:30 pm. Complimentary beverages include Cigar City beer and Tito's Handmade Vodka drinks. **Tickets: \$35 general admission.**

- **Cheers!** A festive combination of holiday favorites, including selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, and celebratory music for TFO's 50th anniversary. Stuart Malina conducts. **Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017 Ferguson Hall at the Straz**
- **Fiesta!** A concert with Latin flair, including music from Astor Piazzolla and more. Jeff Tyzik conducts. **Thursday, April 5, 2018 Ferguson Hall at the Straz**
- **50!** A sendoff of TFO's 50th season with music that stands the test of time, from Vivaldi's "*Goldfinch*" *Flute Concerto* to John Williams' *Raiders March*. Stuart Malina conducts. **Thursday, April 26, 2018 Ferguson Hall at the Straz**

Rock concerts offer music of Pink Floyd, Prince

The Florida Orchestra will perform two high-caliber rock concerts produced and conducted by Brent Havens, each with a vocalist, full rock band and rock lighting. They will be performed at the Mahaffey in place of TFO's Rock subscription series. **Tickets: \$35, \$50 and \$65.** (Note: These dates are different from previously announced.)

- **The Music of Pink Floyd:** Journey to *The Dark Side of the Moon* and *The Wall* – two of the best-selling albums of all time – for a night of Pink Floyd's classic hits like *Money*, *Comfortably Numb* and *Another Brick in the Wall*, among many more. Brent Havens conducts, with Randy Jackson as vocalist. **Friday, Feb 2, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater**
- **The Music of Prince:** The Florida Orchestra honors the eclectic and innovative spirit of the iconic superstar. Celebrated producer and songwriter Marshall Charloff does justice to the vast songbook Prince left behind, with hits like *Purple Rain*, *When Doves Cry*, *Raspberry Beret* and many more. Brent Havens conducts. **Friday, May 11, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater**

Masterworks and Pops series branch out with matinees

This season TFO is introducing two new weekend matinee series at the Mahaffey Theater, offering more flexibility for families. A five-concert Raymond James Pops series will be 2 pm Saturdays, including Holiday Pops and R&B Legends with Michael Lynche. A five-concert Tampa Bay Times Masterworks series will be 2 pm Sundays, including Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* and Rachmaninoff's *Symphony No. 2*. **Tickets: \$15, \$30 and \$45. Kids and teens get in free to all Masterworks concerts with Classical Kids tickets (available in advance).**

Compose Your Own series of Masterworks and Pops programs for just \$25 each, with a minimum of three concerts for \$75, or subscribe to a curated premium package with priority seating and all of the perks, including early access to tickets for special concerts such as the gala concert with Sting and

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Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY®. **(Sting gala concert tickets go on sale exclusively to subscribers September 25 and to the public on October 2.)**

Tickets may be purchased online at floridaorchestra.org; by phone at 727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286; and at The Florida Orchestra Ticket Center in the St. Petersburg College Building at 244 2nd Avenue North (main floor) in downtown St. Petersburg. Business hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Click for concert schedules and subscription [information](#).

Click for more on Music Director [Michael Francis](#)

[About The Florida Orchestra](#)

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in the 2017/18 season, The Florida Orchestra is recognized as Tampa Bay's leading performing arts institution, the largest professional symphony orchestra in Florida, and one of the most vibrant and innovative orchestras in America. Under the leadership of Music Director Michael Francis, it performs more than 130 concerts a season, with series of classical, popular, and morning coffee concerts in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, as well as free Pops in the Park concerts. Dedicated to bringing music to all people, connecting to the community is a priority, with pre-concert talks, family and youth concerts and other educational activities. Kids and teens get in free to classical Masterworks concerts with Classical Kids tickets. To subscribe or buy tickets: 727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286; floridaorchestra.org.