

The Florida Orchestra to perform
3 nights of free music for Pops in the Park



Media Alert | October 13, 2017

CONTACT: Kelly Smith, Public Relations Manager, ksmith@floridaorchestra.org; 727.362.5448

The Florida Orchestra to perform 3 nights of free music for Pops in the Park

TFO announces more community concerts including 'Sing Out! Tampa Bay,' Family Concerts, Woodson Chamber Concerts and Inside the Music.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – This year The Florida Orchestra expands its fall Pops in the Parks concerts to three nights in a row of free music throughout Tampa Bay on Oct. 21-23. The performances start with TFO's biggest concert of the year in Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg and end with a return to Coachman Park in Clearwater, all under the baton of Music Director Michael Francis in celebration of TFO's 50th anniversary season.

Every year nearly 20,000 people pack Vinoy Park with elaborate picnics, blankets and even candelabras on the St. Petersburg waterfront for Pops in the Park, presented by Ashley HomeStore. This year's concert features movie music from *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars*, as well as *Mambo* from *West Side Story* and *1812 Overture*, with a patriotic fireworks finale.

The concert starts at 7 pm Saturday, Oct. 21, but the festivities begin at 4 pm with family activities including the popular Instrument Petting Zoo, NOMAD Art Bus, Great Explorations and food and drink vendors from the Saturday Morning Market. Community music groups also take the stage:

- 4:15 pm: Lakewood High School's Spartan Steel band
- 4:45 pm: St. Petersburg Community Band
- 5:15 pm: Singers from VSA Florida
- 5:45 pm: Master Chorale of Tampa Bay's Big Sing. Using handouts, the audience can sing along with familiar rounds, spirituals, and standards from the Great American Songbook.

The program has an encore performance at 7 pm Sunday, Oct 22, at **River Tower Park** in Tampa. There will be an Instrument Petting Zoo, but no fireworks at this concert.

The **Coachman Park** performance is 7 pm Monday, Oct 23, in Clearwater. There will be chairs available in the park and an Instrument Petting Zoo, but no fireworks. **Also, please note that no outside food or drink is allowed in Coachman Park;** vendors will be available on site.

The orchestra will collect canned goods for Tampa Bay Harvest at all three locations.

**The Florida Orchestra to perform
3 nights of free music for Pops in the Park**

TFO thanks its generous sponsors: Ashley HomeStore, JJ and the Z RE/MAX, Fidelity National Title, WRH Realty Services, Jim MacDougald, Irene Rubenstein, City of St. Petersburg, City of Tampa, City of Clearwater, WDUV 105.5 and Tampa Bay Times.

More Florida Orchestra Community Concerts

Family Concerts

These interactive, casual chamber concerts introduce young children (preK-2nd grade) to classical music and help develop focus, creativity and critical thinking skills. Performances last about 35 minutes. TFO partners with a variety of community organizations for activities that start 45 minutes before each performance, including the North Suncoast Associates' Instrument Petting Zoo.

Admission is pay what you can at the door or call the ticket center for reservations.

The Science of Sound: TFO Horn Quartet

Featuring the orchestra's French horn section. It explores the brass instrument while giving children a lesson in how sound works – high and low, loud and soft, and more.

- Sat, Oct 14, 10 am and 11:15 am*, Mahaffey Theater Atrium
*The 11:15 performance is sensory friendly. [Click here for more information.](#)
- Sun, Nov 12, 2 pm and 3:15 pm, Dunedin Fine Art Center
- Sat, Dec 2, 10 am and 11:15 am, HCC-Ybor Performing Arts Center

Spring Program TBA

- Sat, Feb 3, 2018, 10 am and 11:15 am, HCC-Ybor Performing Arts Center
- Sat, Apr 21, 2018, 10 am and 11:15 am, Mahaffey Theater Atrium
- Sat, May 12, 2018, 10 am and 11:15 am, SPC-Clearwater Arts Auditorium

Sing Out! Tampa Bay

This community sing-along concert has become an annual tradition, uniting people from all corners of Tampa Bay as one voice. This year the concert returns to the Mahaffey Theater. Music Director Michael Francis will lead the community choir, orchestra and audience in popular film, Broadway and symphonic songs as a celebration of TFO's 50 years in Tampa Bay.

For those who want to apply for the onstage community chorus, go to floridaorchestra.org/sing-out. Applications are due by **October 24 at 5 pm** and do not guarantee participation in the chorus.

Thu, 7 pm, Jan. 25, Mahaffey Theater

Admission is pay what you can at the door.

Woodson Chamber Concerts

These Sunday afternoon chamber concerts return to the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum in St. Petersburg for a second season. Admission is pay what you can at the door, but seating is limited; proceeds benefit the museum. A reception follows each concert.

- **MLK Vigil Performance, Sun, Jan 14, 2018, 4:30 pm**
In conjunction with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Candlelight Vigil

**The Florida Orchestra to perform
3 nights of free music for Pops in the Park**

- **TFO French Horns in Concert, Sun, Feb 4, 2018, 3 pm**
- **Women in Music, Sun, Mar 18, 2018, 3 pm**
- **Program TBA, Sun, Apr 8, 2018, 3 pm**

Inside the Music

Music Director Michael Francis combines a talk with musical demos by the orchestra, followed by a performance of the entire work. Admission is pay what you can at the door.

- **Inside Beethoven's Symphony No. 7**
Wed, Nov 1, 7:30 pm
Palladium Theater in St. Petersburg
- **Inside Beethoven's Symphony No. 6**
Thurs, May 17, 2018, 7:30 pm
Palladium Theater in St. Petersburg

[About 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.