



## **MEDIA ALERT | October 9, 2018**

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## **The Florida Orchestra's free Pops in the Park on Oct. 20**

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The Florida Orchestra's free Pops in the Park – its largest concert of the year – is coming to Vinoy Park along St. Petersburg's waterfront on Saturday, Oct. 20. Every year about 20,000 fans pack the park for their favorite music, from symphonic classics to film scores. An explosive *1812 Overture* launches the grand finale with fireworks.

The concert, presented by Ashley HomeStore, starts at 7 pm, led by TFO's new Assistant Conductor Daniel Black. Because many people arrive early to stake out a picnic spot, pre-concert performances and activities start at 4 pm. They include:

- **The Salvation Army Southern Territorial Brass Band** with guest soloist Mark Ridenour to celebrate the Army's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Tampa Bay.
- **The Big Sing with The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay**, celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The sing-along includes spirituals, popular favorites and American standards, with lyric sheets provided.
- **Winners of the 11th Annual 2018 Arts4All Florida Young Soloist Competition.** Arts4All Florida (formerly VSA Florida) provides, supports and champions arts education and cultural experiences for and by people with disabilities.
- **The Florida Orchestra Instrument Petting Zoo**, where kids can try out instruments. Sponsored by TFO's North Suncoast Associates.

On the south end of the park will be food vendors provided by Saturday Morning Market and the Gulf to Bay Food Truck Association.

The family-friendly Florida Orchestra concert includes Bernstein, Mendelssohn and Gershwin along with music from *Frozen* and *Star Wars*. Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* sets off a patriotic finale with fireworks. The orchestra does an encore performance the next night, Sunday, Oct. 21, at River Tower Park in Tampa at 7 pm (no fireworks). In a longstanding tradition, TFO will collect non-perishable goods for Tampa Bay Harvest's annual food drive on both nights.

The Florida Orchestra will perform two more free parks concerts in the spring:

- **Coachman Park, Clearwater**  
Fri, May 10, 2019, 7:30 pm
- **Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park, Tampa**  
Sun, May 12, 2019, 7:30 pm – Mother's Day!

### **[About Assistant Conductor Daniel Black](#)**

Daniel Black previously was assistant conductor and then associate conductor at the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra (2014-17) and is Director of Instrumental Music at Arkansas' Wildwood Arts and Music Academy. [Click for a full bio.](#)

### **About The Florida Orchestra**

*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. This is its 51<sup>st</sup> season. 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. To buy tickets: [floridaorchestra.org](http://floridaorchestra.org) and 727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286.*