



MEDIA ALERT | October 1, 2018

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The Florida Orchestra's first Pride Weekend Oct. 5-6

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – This week is The Florida Orchestra's first-ever Pride Weekend, celebrating Tampa Bay's vibrant LGBTQ community with the music of Bernstein's Broadway (Oct. 5-6), conducted by Michael Francis in Tampa and St. Petersburg.

In the lobby before each concert, members of the [Tampa Bay Pride Band](#) will perform, and [Come Out St. Pete](#) and the [Gay Men's Chorus of Tampa Bay](#) will set up information tables. The weekend leads up to National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.

"The orchestra has been a vital part of the community for more than 50 years. We're using the power of live music to celebrate and reflect all that makes Tampa Bay so wonderfully diverse and unique," said Community Engagement Director Erin Horan. "We want everyone to feel welcome at The Florida Orchestra."

Bernstein's Broadway marks a century of an American original, Leonard Bernstein, with selections from *West Side Story*, *Candide*, *On the Town* and more, conducted by Music Director Michael Francis to open the Raymond James Pops series. Concerts are 8 pm Friday at the Straz Center in Tampa and 2 pm and 8 pm Saturday at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$18, plus fees, at FloridaOrchestra.org.

TFO's Pride Weekend is a natural evolution of its growing community programs and partnerships. "For the past two summers, TFO has been involved in the St. Pete Pride Festival, and we've had a great experience connecting with people," said Community Engagement Manager Daryn Bauer. "This weekend we come together as one big community to listen to some of the best music ever."

[About Michael Francis](#)

Maestro Francis took over as music director of The Florida Orchestra in the fall of 2015 and instantly became a huge hit. [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 51st 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 and 727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286.