

Notes & News

The Official Newsletter of the Sarasota Concert Association | FALL 2019



Celebrate 75 Years of Inspired Music!

This year we're celebrating our 75th season of bringing internationally renowned symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, and soloists to Sarasota County. To mark this thrilling milestone, we're hosting a fundraising event commemorating our legacy and offering patrons a chance to show their support. The 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration is Sunday, January 26, 11:30 a.m., at Michael's on the Bay at Selby Gardens. The event is co-chaired by two leaders in philanthropy, **Renée Hamad** and **Audrey Robbins**. They have created an exquisite affair, including a festive brunch catered by Michael's On East against the stunning backdrop of the gardens and Sarasota Bay. Even better? Proceeds will support our Great Performers Series, free Music Matinees, and our complimentary student ticket program.

Oh—and while you're enjoying the tastes and sights—let's not forget why we are patrons of Sarasota Concert Association: the sounds. Guests will be treated to the joyous music of the Brandon Goldberg Trio, featuring **Brandon Goldberg**, a 13-year-old jazz piano prodigy. Brandon began to play piano by ear when he was three years old. He started with classical lessons at age five, but quickly found his passion for jazz and learned about the music and its history by listening to his favorite artists, including Bill Evans, Oscar Peterson, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, and John Coltrane, just to name a few.



Brandon Goldberg

Brandon continued his jazz studies at the University of Miami and Litchfield Jazz Camp and Festival, where he worked with renowned jazz musicians. Since then, this keyboard wunderkind has already released a debut album, headlined at the Newport Jazz Festival, and appeared on the most prestigious stages of the music world. "I just want to be playing with the best musicians and be surrounded by people who are happy to make music and happy to pass along what they learned from the greats to the next generation like me," says Brandon. Come join us to celebrate our past and our future with this prodigious young talent.

If you would like to become a sponsor of this extraordinary event, we have several options available. Should you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Judy Beilman: development@scasarasota.org. See you at the 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration!



75th Anniversary Season



Chicago Symphony
Orchestra,
Riccardo Muti,
Zell Music Director

January 15, 2020

7:30 Van Wezel

Behzod Abduraimov, Piano

January 29, 2020

7:30 Van Wezel

The Orpheus Chamber
Orchestra

February 12, 2020

7:30 Van Wezel

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

February 25, 2020

7:30 Riverview PAC

The Knights,
Gil Shaham, Violin

March 12, 2020

7:30 Van Wezel

The Pacifica Quartet,
Orion Weiss, Piano

March 30, 2020

7:30 Riverview PAC

Musicians from Marlboro

941-225-6500 | scasarasota.org

President's Corner



During the past 75 years, performance venues for the Sarasota Concert Association have taken us all over town, from the Woman's Club auditorium (now the Keating Theater), the Municipal Auditorium, circus tents, boxing rings and, finally, the iconic Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. As scheduling in recent times became more complicated, our Great Performers Series added a second venue - the Riverview Performing Arts Center. Riverview is a beautiful new auditorium with a fine acoustical shell, ideal for the performance of chamber music and soloists. Years ago, when SCA performances took place in the Exhibition Hall (now the Municipal Auditorium), accommodations were not very comfortable. The stage was rather small, the seats on the floor were 1940's-style folding chairs, and the benches in the balcony had no backs. Still, enthusiastic patrons vied for tickets.

Music Matinees, our free community outreach series showcasing talented local and regional musicians, was introduced by SCA in February 2001 under the name Munchtime Musicales. It was originally sponsored by the Selby Library but, and after 10 years, audiences had outgrown the capacity of the Geldbart Auditorium. **Martha Leiter**, an SCA board member and founder of Musicales, continued her leadership and moved the series to David Cohen Hall. Since then, Music Matinees continues to attract full-house audiences and shines as SCA's gift to the community. Performances are presented monthly from December through April...and the seats are very comfortable! More memorable anecdotes from our storied history will be shared with patrons in the Great Performers Series program book at the opening concert on January 15, 2020.

Finally, please accept my personal invitation to join us for our special **75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration**. See you there!

Joy McIntyre

President, Sarasota Concert Association

Internet Magic: Website Wizardry

If you haven't seen it yet...now is the time! Open your computer, tablet or phone and visit: www.scasarasota.org. A new look and a lot of functionality will easily assist you when looking for anything SCA. And it's also a lot of fun! Animated menus help locate whatever you need quickly, from anywhere in the site.

The new site is compatible with smartphones and tablets; instead of reducing the size of the site which is designed for a computer, our new website automatically re-formats the content to fit your device. It's in tune with the times and today's technology. Whatever you want to see can be found from wherever you are on the site. For example: if you're viewing the season's concert schedule, and want to see the works being performed in a specific concert, simply click on that concert date. For information on artists, you can click to read their biographies, see photos, and in some cases, watch their videos. And then, you can click to the online box office!

Our new website was created by **Laura Coyle** of 342 MAD Marketing and Design Solutions, who also designs much of our printed materials. We are grateful to **Bob Germain** who, for the past several years, has volunteered to maintain SCA's website, keeping it fresh and in proper working order. Kudos as well to **Su Byron**, for her website assistance and social media management.

Donor Spotlight



“Dynamic Duo” best describes **Renée Hamad** and **Audrey Robbins**, co-chairs of the Sarasota Concert Association’s 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration. A shared dedication to the arts and commitment to education often finds these friends serving together on projects that enhance our community and cultural life. We are fortunate to have these two generous philanthropists and busy volunteers leading this milestone celebration for the Concert Association.

Renée Hamad, an SCA board member since 2010, was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt. She trained to become a concert pianist; however, at 17, her life took a different direction when she won a scholarship to attend the American University in Cairo. Smiling, Renée says: “in the first hour on the first day of classes I met the man who was to become my husband four years later.” Sam Hamad had a successful career in the pharmaceutical industry, which led to posts in Canada, New Jersey, London and Paris. He retired in 1999 and settled his family on Longboat Key where they had vacationed often with their two children.

Three years later, the Hamads moved to Sarasota. It wasn’t long before Renée was hosting Musical Afternoons in her home to raise money for the Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital Guild. She also found time to earn a B.A. degree in Human Development from Eckerd College where she was the first recipient of a Phi Beta Kappa award. While attending Eckerd, Renée was recruited to serve as Board Vice Chair for an area nonprofit – Second Chance, Last Opportunity - a position she still holds today. Currently, Renée is an active member of seven other boards and enjoys helping the community.

When asked why she agreed to serve as co-chair of SCA’s event, Renée replied: “I agreed to host the Sarasota Concert Association’s 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration in honor of John Goodman, who invited me to join the SCA board and was a dear friend of my mother and me.” John Goodman served as SCA Board Chair from 2005-2013. He passed away on January 1, 2019.

Audrey Robbins grew up in Denver, and after living for ten years in the Caribbean, where she raised her two children and founded a school, she moved to Sarasota in 1999. Mentoring young people has been a life-long passion for Audrey. She served as head of the Math Department at The Out-of-Door Academy in Sarasota from 1999 until her retirement in 2015.

If you have attended a performance or fundraising event for the arts in Sarasota, chances are you will have seen Audrey and her husband, Harry Leopold. They generously support and actively participate in all of the cultural offerings of our community. Audrey currently serves as chair of the Development Committee of the Sarasota Ballet and on the Leadership Council of Planned Parenthood.

Audrey says: “Music was my first love and I especially adore chamber music. I am pleased to serve as co-chair of the Sarasota Concert Association’s 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration. SCA brings major classical musicians and ensembles from around the globe to our community, which complements the outstanding offerings of our locally-based musicians and ensembles.” Another reason Audrey agreed to co-chair our event? “I never say ‘no’ to Renée.”



2020 Subscriptions now available!

- Subscribers enjoy priority seating
- Subscriptions are a huge savings over single ticket purchases

Join us and be a part of our 75th Diamond Anniversary Season Celebration!

Managing Editor
Jim Cliff

Contributing Editors
Judy Beilman
Mike Brooks
Su Byron
Bob Dove
Joy McIntyre

Graphic Design
Laura Coyle

Public Relations
Su Byron

PO Box 211
Sarasota, FL 34230
941-225-6500
scasarasota.org

Music Matinees – A Showcase for Regional Talent



Aza Torshkoeva



Francisca Mendoza

You are undoubtedly aware of the Sarasota Concert Association's Great Performers Series that annually presents an outstanding array of the world's finest orchestras, ensembles, and soloists. But are you aware of our free **Music Matinees** - showcasing a variety of talented musicians who currently reside among us?

The 2019-2020 Music Matinees season will open on December 11 with Francisca Mendoza, violin, and Aza Torshkoeva, piano. Subsequent performances will feature Russell Andrade, tenor, and Lee Dougherty Ross, piano, on January 22; Harry Miedema and The Blue Heron Sextet on February 11; Sarasota Opera Studio Artists on March 18; and Angela Galestro, flute, and Jonathan Smith, guitar, on April 15. All concerts begin at noon in David Cohen Hall - Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center, 709 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

SCA continues to offer these concerts free of charge, as performance opportunities for musicians whose talents are making strong contributions to our region's cultural excellence. The program's co-chairs, SCA board members **Gail Berenson** and **Mike Brooks**, invite you to attend and encourage you to arrive early - seating is limited and the hall often fills to capacity!