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Sarasota Concert Association presents
Francisca Mendoza, violin, and Aza Torshkoeva, piano
In a Music Matinees Concert
Wednesday, December 11 ▪ David Cohen Hall

Sarasota Concert Association's popular free concert series launches its 2019-2020 season with a performance by two internationally acclaimed artists.

(Sarasota, Florida) The Sarasota Concert Association's free Music Matinees launches its 2019-2020 season with violinist Francisca Mendoza and pianist Aza Torshkoeva, Wednesday, December 11, at noon in David Cohen Hall at the Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center, 709 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. The program will include "Mélodie" by Tchaikovsky; "Liebesleid" ("Love's Sorrow") and "Schön Rosmarin" ("Fair Rosmarin") by Fritz Kreisler; "Romance" by Henryk Wieniawski; "Un Sospiro, Concert Etude," S. 144, No 3 by Franz Liszt; "Meditation," from *Thaïs* by Jules Massenet; and "Zigeunerweisen" ("Gypsy Airs") by Pablo de Sarasate. All Music Matinees are free and at noon at the Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center, 709 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Seating is open; no reservations accepted. **For more information about Music Matinees, email Gail Berenson at berenson@ohio.edu or Mike Brooks at mpbrks@gmail.com.**

Violinist Francisca Mendoza was praised by The Washington Post as “A musician of uncommon individuality and power with the musical temperament of a coiled spring.” Other reviews include: “Spectacular aplomb, allure of a great concert artist; outstanding virtuosity” (El Mercurio, Chile); “Brilliant performance—accurate to the last detail” (Haaretz, Israel); and “Captivating musical expression. Fiery and spectacular performance” (Avui, Barcelona). Mendoza performed her first concert at the age of eight and appeared as a soloist with the Conservatory’s Youth Orchestra when she was 14. She later won a scholarship from the Organization of American States to study in the United States where she obtained a Diploma in Performance from The Cleveland Institute of Music and a master’s degree from The Eastman School of Music. Selected by Musical America as a Young Artist Of The Year in 1990, Mendoza has performed around the world to rave reviews. In New York City, she performed at Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, and Steinway Hall, and has been a guest artist with Robert Sherman on WQXR. In 2015, Mendoza was invited by the Museo Del Violino Antonio Stradivari in Cremona, Italy, to adjudicate their International Violin Making Competition and to perform in a gala concert at the prestigious Teatro Ponchielli. Born into a prestigious musical family in Chile, Mendoza began her violin studies at the age of four at the Conservatorio Nacional de Música de Santiago. In addition to performing, Mendoza has taught for many years and holds a private studio in Sarasota.

Aza Torshkoeva hails from Kamchatka, Russia. As a child, Torshkoeva began piano lessons with her mother, winning her first piano competition in only the second grade. Since then, she has won over 30 international piano competitions, including the

International Piano Competition of Young Performers in Finland and the Florida Orchestra's Concerto Competition in Tampa. Torshkoeva attended the College of Music in Petropavlosk - Kamchatskiy, Russia, and the School of Music in Professional Education of Piano Playing in Elizovo, Russia. She received her master's degree in Piano Performance from the University of South Florida in 2013. Torshkoeva has performed the music of David Del Tredici in Manhattan with the Florida Orchestra and was the recipient of the Presidential Scholarship from the president of Russia. She is also listed in the "Encyclopedia of the Most Talented Children of Russia." Torshkoeva was an accompanist and taught piano at the University of South Florida's School of Music and is presently a member of the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota music faculty, where she teaches courses in piano performance and music appreciation. Torshkoeva has been a featured soloist with the Bradenton Symphony Orchestra and has performed as part of the "Piano Grand!" concert for the Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota.

Music Matinees is a series of free concerts featuring performances by high-caliber, area-based artists. The series is designed to offer a wide variety of musical genres, including classical, folk, and jazz, featuring both vocal and instrumental performers. The 2019-2020 Music Matinees concert season continues with **Russell Andrade**, tenor, and **Lee Dougherty Ross**, piano (January 22); **Harry Miedema and The Blue Heron Sextet** (February 11); **Sarasota Opera Studio Artists** (March 18); and **Angela Galestro**, flute, and **Jonathan Smith**, guitar (April 15).

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About the Sarasota Concert Association

The Sarasota Concert Association (SCA) is a nonprofit organization that fosters greater appreciation for world-class classical music by offering the community two engaging programs December to April. The Great Performers Series, in its 75th season, brings world-renowned orchestras and chamber groups to the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and the Riverview Performing Arts Center. Music Matinees features outstanding regional artists in free community concerts at Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center and, occasionally, other venues. For more information about SCA, visit www.scasarasota.org.

All photos courtesy of the artists