

Notes & News

The Official Newsletter of the Sarasota Concert Association | Winter 2020



Diamond & Gold!

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's (CSO) appearance on February 12 comes in the midst of two celebratory seasons: the 75th Diamond Anniversary season of the Sarasota Concert Association and the 50th anniversary season of the conducting career of **Riccardo Muti**, CSO's legendary Zell Music Director. This double anniversary is all the more fortuitous when one realizes how close it came to never happening.



As the esteemed conductor came to the end of his 19-year tenure as director of La Scala in 2005, he seriously contemplated moving in new directions, directions that would not involve more directorships. But when he conducted the CSO on their European tour in the summer of 2007, something clicked artistically and when the offer to become the orchestra's tenth music director came, he could not resist. The connection he felt was mutual—the musicians of the orchestra wanted Muti as much as Muti wanted them, and in 2010 the deal was sealed.

It is fitting that February 12th's program will feature the music of Sergei Prokofiev, music that has direct ties to Chicago, the CSO—and to Muti's history with the CSO. The first half of the program consists of 10 selections from the two suites Prokofiev extracted from his ballet, *Romeo and Juliet*. American audiences first heard these suites in 1937 when Prokofiev himself directed the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, even before the ballet had been staged. The second half is his Third Symphony, a work that Muti had conducted during that summer tour in 2007. Revisiting it now has provided the opportunity to gauge the impact of their collaboration. In 2007 he was impressed with the power, the precision of the musicians. In 2019 he found no decrease in power, but the power was tempered with a new subtlety. In the words of Muti, they sang, "even in the most brutal music that the symphony requires."

And this music can be brutal, even ferocious at times. The Third Symphony, once derided as being old-fashioned and reactionary, is now viewed as one of his most intensely modern works. But it would be inaccurate to characterize it as predominantly dissonant or harsh—it is also tender, mournful . . . and lyrical. The *Suite from Romeo and Juliet* encompasses a wide range of emotions and colors, from Romeo's first romantic glance of his beloved Juliet to his lament for her death. Perfect music for Riccardo Muti, who has imbued one of the world's greatest orchestras with the rich operatic legacy of his native Italy, to extend that legacy to Sarasota and bring history to life. Don't miss this performance! For tickets, call the SCA box office: 941-225-6500.



Our 75th Anniversary Season Continues

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

**The Knights &
Gil Shaham, Violin**
February 25
Riverview PAC

**The Pacifica Quartet &
Orion Weiss, Piano**
March 12
Van Wezel

Musicians from Marlboro
March 30
Riverview PAC

MUSIC MATINEES

*Free concerts starting at
noon in David Cohen Hall
of the Beatrice Friedman
Symphony Center*

The Blue Heron Sextet
February 11

Sarasota Opera Studio Artists
March 18

**Angela Galestro, flute, and
Jonathan Smith, guitar**
April 15

Donor Spotlight



*“Age is a gift; the important thing is to keep
growing and participating.”*

These are the wise words of **Edie Winston**, a spritely and very engaging nonagenarian, who is also the season sponsor of the Sarasota Concert Association’s 75th anniversary Great Performers Series.

Born in New York, Edie met her husband, Herb, in college at NYU. After pursuing successful careers - Herb in the sporting goods industry and Edie as an occupational therapist and inventor (she holds 44 patents) - they settled in Sarasota more than 30 years ago. They were attracted by the beautiful weather, friendly community of people from all over the world and, of course, the rich cultural offerings.

Edie grew up in a family of musicians and played piano at an early age. She commented: “We regularly attended classical concerts and operas and I saw first-hand the commitment and devotion that is required to become an artist.” That appreciation has led Edie to become a generous patron of many of Sarasota’s music and cultural organizations. “I love the music presented by the Sarasota Concert Association and am happy to help bring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the other fine ensembles to Sarasota this season,” said Edie. “I have led a blessed life and those blessings are meant to be shared.”



Although they have made a home in Sarasota since 1989, **Ling and Michael Markovitz** have only recently been introduced to the Sarasota Concert Association and its programming. That hasn’t prevented them from having a major impact on our organization!

Michael, a successful businessman, and Ling, a life trustee of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and professional musician, wanted to help mark the Concert Association’s 75th anniversary season by sponsoring the world-renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra in its first Sarasota performance since 2007.

In addition to their generous sponsorship, Ling has been instrumental in making arrangements for the Orchestra’s appearance at Van Wezel on February 12 in an all-Prokofiev program under the direction of famed conductor, **Riccardo Muti**, CSO’s Zell Music Director. “Of all the organizations in Sarasota I have been associated with, the Sarasota Concert Association has been among the most approachable,” says Ling. “Michael and I are delighted to support them in their presentation of a top orchestra and finest classical musicians in the world.”

75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration

A Celebration to Remember!

On Sunday, January 26, more than 130 people gathered at Michael's on the Bay at Selby Gardens to celebrate 75 years of bringing world-class artists to Sarasota at our 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration. From the beautiful, sunny weather, to the stunning views of Sarasota Bay, the fabulous food, a well-paced program and extraordinary musical performances – this anniversary celebration will be one to remember!



Guests arrived in their “Sunday best” ready for a party, and they weren't disappointed. As attendees delighted in the sumptuous variety of culinary offerings, Association President **Joy McIntyre** spoke of the organization's long history.

Mayor **Jen Ahearn-Koch** delivered a proclamation honoring the Sarasota Concert Association for its outstanding service to our region. WSMR's classical music host **Bethany Cagle** spoke about SCA's leadership role in the regional classical landscape and our longstanding bond with WUSF Public Broadcasting. **Simon Lasky**, WUSF's jazz host, led an extraordinary interview with 13-year-old **Brandon Goldberg**, who with **Brandon Robertson**, bass and **Marty Morell**, drums, wowed the audience with his musical chops and deep knowledge of music history.



During the event, **Edie Winston** was honored for her longtime commitment to the arts. Edie touched everyone's heart with her meaningful words about her love for classical music and arts education.



To put the exclamation point on this magnificent event, SCA board members **Gail Berenson** and **Charles Turon**, treated the audience to a one piano, four hands performance of Brahms Hungarian Dance No. 5. We are grateful to our two chairs, **Renée Hamad** and **Audrey Robbins**, and the army of hard-working volunteers who created a truly inspirational event that will be a celebration to remember!



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

Managing Editor
Jim Cliff

Contributing Editors
Judy Beilman
Bob Dove
Charles Turon

Graphic Design
Laura Coyle

Public Relations
Su Byron

A Celebration to Remember! More inside...



Special guest **Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch** delivered a proclamation honoring the Sarasota Concert Association for its outstanding service to our region at the 75th Anniversary Celebration at Selby Gardens.

Pictured with the Mayor is SCA Board President **Joy McIntyre**.

To see a gallery of 75th Celebration pictures, visit SCASarasota.org.

To donate, learn more, or subscribe: scasarasota.org | 941-225-6500