

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Sarasota Concert Association

Presents

The John Miller Jazz Ensemble

Thursday, April 1

The George Nickson Percussion Ensemble

Tuesday, April 13

Outside at Selby Gardens Downtown Campus

(February 25, 2021) The Sarasota Concert Association (SCA) presents two outdoor performances at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in downtown Sarasota this spring. The John Miller Jazz Ensemble will perform on Thursday, April 1, 5:30 p.m.; and the George Nickson Percussion Ensemble on Tuesday, April 13, 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and must be purchased in advance. The audience is limited to 150 guests; all concertgoers must wear masks while on the Selby Gardens' property; and social distancing parameters will be in place. Seating will be provided. These concerts are made possible, in part, by the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and Sarasota County's Tourist Development Tax. The John Miller Jazz Ensemble is also sponsored, in part, by Jan and Bill Farber. *For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.SCAarasota.org or call the box office at (941) 225-6500.*

Linda Moxley, SCA's executive director, says, "We're pleased to present two live concerts this spring in the beautiful setting of Selby Gardens. John Miller, principal bass for Sarasota Orchestra, has gathered an ensemble of virtuosic musicians who will perform inspired jazz standards as the sun sets over Sarasota Bay. We also look forward to hearing what the George Nickson Percussion Ensemble has in store for us. Their remarkable talents on a multitude of percussion instruments, from vibraphone to marimba, is sure to provide an exciting musical evening."

The John Miller Jazz Ensemble features saxophonist Peter Carney and trombonist George Mancini, along with an array of other jazz musicians.

The George Nickson Percussion Ensemble features George Nickson and Mike Truesdell on percussion, with guest artist Samantha Bennett on violin.

As principal bass of the Sarasota Orchestra, **John Miller** enjoys collaborating with a wide range of musicians in various genres. He has performed as soloist with orchestras in New York and Florida and has performed Schubert's "Trout Quintet" with Andre Watts. Miller also regularly performs with a variety of jazz groups and has made several recordings, including his 2002 debut, "Miller and Ramsier play Ramsier" on Albany records. He was a member of the New World Symphony in Miami, where he toured Japan, the UK and Costa Rica.

Dallas Symphony's principal percussionist, **George Nickson**, is joined by percussionist, **Mike Truesdell**, and violinist **Samantha Bennett**, in a unique program, showcasing a dazzling array of percussion instruments, including the marimba, vibraphone, xylophone and more. The program, specifically designed for

Sarasota Concert Association, features selections from J.S. Bach's "Well-Tempered Clavier," Steve Reich's "Nagoya Marimbas," works by Ivan Trevino, Anders Koppel, and Maurice Ravel, and ragtime xylophone selections.

A percussionist of great versatility and virtuosity, George Nickson has been hailed by The New York Times as "a performer handling his role with ease and flair." Nickson is principal percussionist of The Dallas Symphony Orchestra and served as principal percussionist of the Sarasota Orchestra from 2012 to 2019. He performs frequently with the orchestras of Boston, Detroit, Washington, D.C., Toronto, Honolulu, and San Francisco. A champion of new music, Nickson regularly appears as conductor in performances with his group, ensembleNEWSRQ.

World-renowned percussionist Colin Currie describes Mike Truesdell as "a poet and the thinking musician's percussionist – a maverick with grace and subtlety." Mike is assistant professor of percussion at Ithaca College, and a Juilliard graduate, where he received his doctorate degree, Truesdell brings his creativity, technical skills and stunning virtuosity to the stage for this unique performance.

For more information about the Sarasota Concert Association, visit www.SCAarasota.org.

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 concert series from December to April. The Great Performers Series, in its 76th season, brings world-renowned orchestras and chamber groups to the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and the Riverview Performing Arts Center. The Music Matinee Series features outstanding regional artists in free community concerts at Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center and other venues. For more information about SCA, visit www.scasarasota.org.

Photos courtesy of the artists.