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Sarasota Concert Association opens its 77th season with the Detroit Symphony on Thursday, January 20th Emanuel Ax, Benjamin Beilman with Alessio Bax, Takács Quartet with Joyce Yang and Warsaw Philharmonic with Bruce Liu fill out the Great Performers Series

(January 4, 2022)

The Sarasota Concert Association opens its 2022 Great Performers Series with the dynamic Detroit Symphony Orchestra with Music Director Jader Bignamini at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall on Thursday, January 20th. Jader Bignamini began his tenure as the Detroit Symphony's Music Director in their 2020/21 season, and his engaging conducting style and connection with the musicians is an impressive collaboration of artistic talents. Cellist Joshua Roman brings his exciting energy to perform the Dvořák *Cello Concerto*. Former Principal Cellist with the Seattle Symphony, Joshua Roman is also an innovative composer and has performed with orchestras around the country, including the San Francisco Symphony, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and the Detroit Symphony.

The program opens with *Banner*, by acclaimed composer Jessie Montgomery. *Banner* weaves together the theme from *The Star-Spangled Banner* with the commonly named black national anthem, *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing* by James Wheldon Johnson. The program concludes with Jader Bignamini conducting Ravel's orchestration of Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

In February the Sarasota Concert Association brings Grammy Award-winning pianist Emanuel Ax to the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall on Tuesday, February 1st. Emanuel Ax performs an all-Chopin recital featuring late Chopin works including nocturnes, mazurkas, and the *Polonaise Fantasie*.

In late February, violinist Benjamin Beilman performs with pianist Alessio Bax at the Riverview Performing Arts Hall on Friday, February 25th. Benjamin Beilman is known for his fine interpretive finesse. With the award-winning Alessio Bax on piano, the two perform Ferruccio Busoni's Violin Sonata No.2 and César Franck's popular Violin Sonata.

The Sarasota Concert Association presents the Takács Quartet featuring pianist Joyce Yang on Tuesday March 15th at the Riverview Performing Arts Center. The globe-trotting Takács Quartet, now in its 47th season, showcases their musical collaboration in Ravel's String Quartet and Grammy-nominated pianist Joyce Yang adds her virtuosity to Schumann's Piano Quintet.

The final concert in the Great Performers Series presented by the Sarasota Concert Association takes place at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall on Monday April 4th and features the Warsaw Philharmonic, led by Music Director Andrey Boreyko. First Prize winner of this year's International Chopin Piano Competition, Bruce Liu, joins the orchestra in Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 and the program concludes with Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. Founded in 1901, the Grammy Award-winning Warsaw Philharmonic is one of Poland's oldest musical institutions. Andrey Boreyko began his appointment as Music Director of the Warsaw Philharmonic in the 2019-20 season, and most recently he served as Music Director of southwest Florida's Naples Philharmonic.

Sarasota Concert Association is excited to welcome audiences back for our 2022 concert season. We are also committed to the health and well-being of our patrons, staff and volunteers. As a participant in Safe Arts Sarasota, a collaboration of Sarasota County's major arts organizations, we have implemented protocols for attending our concerts. Please see our website at www.SCAarasota.org for more information.

Single tickets start at \$25. Three-concert subscriptions offer a 10-percent savings off regular prices. Five-concert subscriptions are \$98 to \$355. To purchase single tickets and five-concert subscriptions, visit www.SCAarasota.org/tickets or call the box office at 941-966-6161. To choose your own 3-concert mini-series, call the box office at 941-966-6161.

The 2022 Great Performers Series at a Glance:

Thursday, January 20, 7:30 p.m., Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra with cellist Joshua Roman

Renowned cellist Joshua Roman joins Music Director Jader Bignamini and the Detroit Symphony in a program highlighted by Dvořák's beloved Cello Concerto and Mussorgsky/Ravel's rousing *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Tuesday, February 1, 7:30 p.m., Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

Pianist Emanuel Ax performs Chopin

A favorite of Sarasota audiences, legendary pianist Emanuel Ax performs an all-Chopin program of the composer's late works, including Sonata No. 3, Scherzo No. 4, a selection of nocturnes and mazurkas, and the Polonaise-fantaisie.

Friday, February 25, 7:30 p.m., Riverview Performing Arts Center

Violinist Benjamin Beilman with pianist Alessio Bax

Benjamin Beilman displays his astonishing virtuosity along with international competition-winning pianist Alessio Bax in Busoni's Sonata No. 2 and Franck's Violin Sonata.

Tuesday, March 15, 7:30 p.m., Riverview Performing Arts Center

Takács Quartet with pianist Joyce Yang

Grammy-nominated pianist Joyce Yang joins the internationally-renowned Takács Quartet in their celebrated return to Sarasota, performing Ravel's String Quartet and Schumann's Piano Quintet.

Monday, April 4, 7:30 pm, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

Warsaw Philharmonic with pianist Bruce Liu

Music Director Andrey Boreyko leads the Warsaw Philharmonic in Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, and First Prize winner of this year's International Chopin Piano Competition Bruce Liu joins the Orchestra in Chopin's beloved Piano Concerto No. 1.

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 from December to April. The Great Performers Series, in its 77th season, brings world-renowned orchestras and chamber groups to the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and the Riverview Performing Arts Center. Music Matinees feature outstanding regional artists in free community concerts at Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center and other venues. For more information about SCA, visit www.scasarasota.org.

Photo Captions and Credits

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Music Director Jader Bignamini. Photo by Justin Milhouse

Cellist Joshua Roman performs with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Photo by Hayley Young

Pianist Emanuel Ax. Photo by Maurice Jerry Beznos

Violinist Benjamin Beilman. Photo by Stephan Ruiz

The Takács Quartet. Photo by Kiduck Kim

Warsaw Philharmonic conducted by Music Director Andrey Boreyko. Photo by DG Art Projects

For additional artist photos, please contact Lisa Eveland-Malaev.