

out and about

Fun Raisers

◆ **The 3rd annual interactive dinner and auction** benefitting children and families receiving help and hope through **Josh Provides Epilepsy Assistance Foundation** will be held on **March 19 at 6 p.m.** at Michael's On East.

Traci Smullen & Anne Weintraub, Esq. are event co-chairs

and Kyla Weiner. Takes place at The Finish Tower at Nathan Benderson Park (5851 Nathan Benderson Cir., Sarasota). Tickets are \$125; proceeds benefit Community Day School's scholarship programs. Contact Melissa Rivera at 941-552-2770 or mriviera@communityday.org for more information; register online at communityday.org/purim-in-paradise.

exhibitions feature artists with mediums ranging from painting to photography. *Twenty-five percent of all proceeds from the sale of the artwork benefit the Sarasota Orchestra.*

Up next:

■ **Lori Childers** Exhibition, "Earth and Sky" offers oil on canvas in a variety of sizes/mixed media framed works on paper. Lori is interested in the

mixed-media paintings by **Liz Cole**, paying homage to the artists' heritage and its influence upon their current work.

Carlstein's latest pieces incorporate the colors, shapes and textures of Africa, using a variety of mediums like natural wood, paper clay and repurposed objects.

Cole's colorful paintings are inspired by the Hungarian culture that was on the maternal side of her family. "The first artist's hands that enchanted me were those of my Hungarian grandmother. Her tool was not a paintbrush but a fine needle that could create gardens of beautifully colored threads. Her language was strange to me but we communicated in special ways that built images and sounds that still stir me today."

The exhibit runs **through March 27**. The public is invited to the First Friday reception on March 6 from 6-9 p.m.

Art Uptown is at 1367 Main Street, Sarasota. Info: 941-955-5409 or visit www.artuptown.com.

WCW PICK

Mystery author Lisa Unger at Bookstore1 in Sarasota

Lisa Unger is the New York Times and internationally bestselling author of 17 novels, including *The Stranger Inside*. With millions of readers worldwide and novels published in twenty-six languages, Lisa Unger is widely regarded as a master of suspense. In *The Stranger Inside*, Lisa Unger introduces one of the most compelling and original killers in crime fiction today.

Date: **March 10 at 1:30 p.m.** Bookstore1 is at 12 S. Palm Ave. Reservations suggested. More event info at www.sarasotabooks.com or 941-365-7900.



Bestselling author, Lisa Unger

assisted by committee members Peggy Abt, Andria Bilan, Sandi Chapnick, Gayle Guynup, Alfred Rose and Dan Vigne. The evening features a four-course meal where guests do the cooking under the skillful eye of Philip Mancini and Chef Jamil. Food, wine, music and unique live and silent auction items make up the evening. Tickets are \$225 each. Online registration at www.JoshProvides.org or call Andria Bilan at 941-302-0070. **RSVP due by March 9.**

◆ **The Neuro Challenge Foundation for Parkinson's** will host its **Annual Gala, "Cause 4 Hope,"** presented by **Amicus Foundation**, at **5:30 p.m. March 14, 2020** at Michael's On East Ballroom. Co-chairing this year's event are Nola and Larry Hietbrink and Jo and Stan Rutstein. The event will honor Dean Sutherland, M.D. for his lifetime of dedication to the local Parkinson's community and there will be an announcement of the Doreen Sutherland Memorial Fund.

The evening will include a cocktail reception in the atrium, a chance drawing and a masterfully prepared dinner in the ballroom followed by a live auction. There will be an after-party with dancing and music by DJ Jonathan Cortez. The gala's proceeds will support the mission of improving the quality of life of people with Parkinson's and their caregivers.

Individual tickets are \$250. For registration, contact Mary Jo Heider, Development Director via email at maryjo@neurochallenge.org or by calling 941-926-6413.

◆ On **March 7, 7 p.m., Hershorin Schiff Community Day School** invites the community to celebrate Purim with "**Purim in Paradise**," an island-style fete. Highlights to include live music, gourmet bites from Apollonia Grill, tropical beverages, and more. Co-Chairs are Rachel Benderson

Art Exhibits

◆ Art Center Sarasota:

■ **Cycle 3 (to March 7)** Gallery One features a solo exhibit of current works by New College professor **Kim Anderson**. Gallery Two features a solo exhibit of moving sculptures by New College professor **Ryan Buysens**.

Gallery Three features "ASALH: Black Muse 2020," an annual group exhibition by artist members of the Manasota chapter of ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History); and Gallery Four features an open, all-media, all-subjects, juried exhibition titled "Eye Candy."

■ **March 9-14: A pop-up exhibition of works by John Pirman and Tom Stephens.** Opening reception is March 9, 5-7 p.m.

■ **March 13: "Off the Wall"** is a special evening event showcasing postcards created by regional and national artists that will be offered for sale in a unique way.

■ **Cycle 4 (March 19-April 18)** Gallery One features a solo exhibit of recent paintings by Sarasota artist and illustrator **Javier Rodriguez ("Javo")**. Gallery Two features a solo exhibit of whimsical cut-paper artworks titled "A Razor's Edge" by Sarasota-based artist **Philomena Mariano**. Gallery Three features an exhibition of works by **SERVER-US**, a Miami-based group of Cuban-American artists whose works explore a vision of unity and heterogeneity in contemporary America. Gallery Four features an open, all-media, all-subjects, juried exhibition titled "Uncharted." Opening reception is March 19, 5-7 p.m.

Art Center Sarasota 707 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Info: 941-365-2032 or visit www.artsarasota.org.

◆ **The Harmony Gallery** features local artists showcasing their work in solo exhibitions throughout the Sarasota Orchestra's season. These juried

area between abstract and representative art. Her work has some recognizable elements like a bridge, a figure, a landscape and some natural perspective, but also uses abstract elements to create a moment that takes the viewer into a new imaginative space. She finds the landscapes around the state of Florida inspiring.

Exhibit dates: March 3-31. Public reception: March 11, 5-6:30 p.m. **Location:** 709 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

◆ There's a watercolor exhibit at **Palmetto Historical Park & Agricultural Museum** by **Pat Robertson**. Robertson is a 33 year resident of Manatee County, specifically Palmetto and Terra Ceia. She is a watercolorist and took her first class at ArtCenter Manatee and is a signature member of the Florida Watercolor and the Suncoast Watercolor Societies.

The exhibit will run **through April 9**. Some of the paintings will be for sale and can be picked up after the exhibit closes. For more information, call (941)721-2034. The park and museum are located at 515 -10th Ave. West, Palmetto.

◆ Local artists's work is on display in **Historic Spanish Point's Visitors Center** new gallery at 337 N. Tamiami Trail in Osprey. The Artists at the Point is **Emma Bruno**, a Florida native and nature enthusiast, who graduated from Ringling College of Art and Design. Her artwork is a commentary on both the convenience culture and ocean pollution. Her work has been featured in several recent shows and environmental events including a solo exhibition at Art Ovation Hotel in Sarasota. Her artwork is on display **through March 27**.

Historic Spanish Point is a 30-acre outdoor museum located on Little Sarasota Bay in Osprey.

◆ **Art Uptown Gallery** will exhibit **Ancestral Threads**, featuring sculpture assemblage by **Melanie Carlstein** and acrylic

◆ **To March 13, the ArtCenter Manatee** brings three world-class watercolor artists representing the best in watercolor today to the Kellogg Gallery. They are: **Thomas Schaller** AWS NWS TWSA, **John Salminen**, AWS NWS TWSA, and **Dean Mitchell** AWS NWS. Admission is \$5.

In the Searle and Reid Hodges Galleries the Center will feature the work of **The Florida Suncoast Watercolor Society** in their **Annual Aqueous Show**. This annual exhibit always displays the versatility of watercolor, from photorealism to abstractions.

For more information, visit ArtCenterManatee.org, or call 941-746-2862.

At The Bishop

◆ **Special exhibition: Myakka River: A Florida Treasure.** For more than 20 years, **Clyde Butcher** has explored the deeper regions of Myakka and spent seasons experiencing its changes and its diverse ecosystems. Designated as a Florida Wild and Scenic River, the tannic waters flow through bottomland swamp and freshwater marsh spilling into lakes and sinkholes.

Alligators, turtles and cottonmouths swim in the river. Herons, cranes and limpkins strut through its shallows, feeding in the muck. In the rainy season, the river rises and floods. In the dry months, the river shrinks and wildlife once again lines the banks of the Myakka River.

The exhibition features the large-format, photographs taken by world-renowned landscape photographer Clyde Butcher and runs **through September 6**.

Theatre

◆ Asolo Rep:

■ **Agatha Christie's Murder On The Orient Express** runs to **March 8**. Just after midnight, the exotic Orient Express is hurtling

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down the tracks – to a murder. With a locomotive full of suspects and an alibi for each one, it's the perfect mystery.

■ The rep also has the 2018 Broadway hit **The Lifespan of a Fact (to March 19)**, directed by Asolo Rep Associate Artistic Director Celine Rosenthal. Demanding magazine editor-in-chief Emily Penrose hires a determined millennial fact-checker named Jim Fingal to work on a groundbreaking essay. Like magazines everywhere, this one is reeling from poor ad sales and shrinking circulation. But with this potentially sensational essay, salvation looms. When overly eager Jim takes his fact-checking too far, the ultimate showdown between “truth” and “accuracy” is about to begin – with delicious consequences.

■ Lucille Lortel Award-winner George Brant's **Into The Breaches! (to March 21)**, is directed by Cleveland Play House Artistic Director Laura Kepley. In the midst of World War II, the Oberon Play House's director and leading men are off at war and the future of the theatre is in jeopardy. But the show must go on and Maggie, the director's wife, has a solution. She will take her husband's place and enlist women to take on the roles in the first scheduled show of the season: an ambitious production of Shakespeare's Henry V.

■ Asolo Rep will also present Laura Yee's smart, feisty and funny **The Great Leap (March 18 - April 11)**. San Francisco, spring 1989. Manfred Lum is a sparky kid who plays street basketball in Chinatown – vertically challenged, but with undeniable ball skills. He talks his way onto a college team headed to Beijing for an exhibition game and finds himself in the middle of China's post-Cultural Revolution. Smart, feisty and hilarious, **The Great Leap** is about family, history, and learning that every game is a second chance.

■ At the Conservatory, the season continues with Sarah Ruhl's **Dead Man's Cell Phone (to March 8)**. A woman impulsively decides to answer a ringing cell phone only to find that the owner of the phone is dead and involved in some mysterious business.

■ The Conservatory will return to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens for William Shakespeare's classic love story **Romeo & Juliet (April 7 - 25)**. The Gardens will set the scene for this timeless tale filled with passion, laughter, tears, and arguably the most romantic poetry in all of literature. Tickets: 941-351-9010 or www.asolorep.org.

📍 At Venice Theatre:

■ **Yard Sale: A Musical About Junk—to March 8** by Molly Bass and Jeff Hartman. One person's junk is another one's treasure. This original musical comedy about a break up, a yard sale and a mermaid caught won awards at a recent national festival.

■ **Guys and Dolls—to March 22.**

Book by Abe Burrows Jo Swerling and music and lyrics by Frank Loesser. Based on The Idyll of Sarah Brown and characters by Damon Runyon and hailed as the perfect musical comedy, this award-winning, classic gambles with luck and love under the bright lights of Broadway.

■ **The Capitol Steps** perform **March 8-10**. Often seen and heard on PBS and NPR, the Capitol Steps began as a group of Senate staffers who set out to satirize the very people and places that employed them. Since then, this no-holds-barred political comedy act has become one of Venice Theatre's favorites. No elected official is safe when the Capitol Steps are in the house.

Tickets for Venice Theatre events are available at VeniceTheatre.org, by calling the box office at 941-488-1115, or in person at the box office. The theatre is located at 140 Tampa Ave. W. on the island in Venice.

📍 Florida Studio Theatre has the following:

Cabaret:

■ **Outlaws and Angels** by Richard Hopkins and Rebecca Hopkins **runs to March 29** in FST's Goldstein Cabaret. A celebration of songs by the rugged outlaws of country music and the angels who loved them. With hits by legendary “outlaws” like Hank Williams, Willie Nelson, and Johnny Cash and “angels” such as Tammy Wynette and Dolly Parton, **Outlaws and Angels** tells the American story of lessons learned from hard knocks and lively living. Featuring songs as “*I Walk the Line*,” “*Desperado*,” “*The Bargain Store*,” and “*The Devil Went Down to Georgia*.”

Mainstage:

■ **Handle With Care** by Jason Odell Williams runs **through March 8** in FST's Keating Theatre. A young woman from Israel, Ayelet, reluctantly joins her grandmother on a trip to the U.S. Circumstances both absurd and tragic bring Ayelet, who has little command of the English language, together with Josh, a young American man who has little command of romance, on Christmas Eve. Is their inevitable love an accident or is it destiny, generations in the making?

■ **American Son** by Christopher Demos-Brown runs **to March 22** in FST's Gompertz Theatre. Set in a Miami-Dade police station in the middle of the night, a mother is hunting for answers about her missing teenage son. Soon her husband appears, and the evening spirals out of control. Fresh from its critically-acclaimed Broadway run, this drama tackles family relationships, love, loss, and identity.

■ **Light My Fire** Richard Hopkins and Rebecca Hopkins Arrangements by Jim Prosser runs **to June 14**, in the Court Cabaret. With hits by Bob Dylan, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and more, **Light My Fire** celebrates the musical soundtrack of one of America's most turbulent and electrifying decades. Featuring such songs

as “*She Loves You*,” “*Somebody to Love*,” “*Do You Believe in Magic*,” and “*Piece of my Heart*.”

■ FST has its annual **Stage III Series** with **The Nether** by Jennifer Haley, a dark, futuristic play exploring the moral, ethical, and legal implications of virtual reality. When Detective Morris discovers “The Hideaway,” a secret realm within The Nether offering its visitors a disturbing brand of entertainment, she launches an investigation into the complex morality of the digital world. The Nether is in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre.

Tickets can be purchased at the FST Box Office, by calling 366-9000 or at FloridaStudioTheatre.org.

📍 The Players Centre for Performing Arts has:

■ **Head Over Heels to March 8.**

This laugh-out-loud love story is set to the music of the iconic 1980's all-female rock band The Go-Gos, including the hit songs, “*We Got the Beat*,” “*Our Lips Are Sealed*,” “*Vacation*,” Belinda Carlisle's “*Heaven is a Place on Earth*” and “*Mad About You*.” **Head Over Heels** follows the escapades of a royal family on an outrageous journey to save their beloved kingdom from extinction—only to discover the key to their realm's survival lies within each of their own hearts.

They're at 838 N. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota. Info: 941-365-2494 or visit www.theplayers.org.

📍 WBTT has:

■ Vinnette Carroll's **Your Arms Too Short to Box with God**. Based on the Book of Matthew, this song and dance tells the story of Jesus, his apostles, and the women who inspired, followed and consoled him. It's a tale of love, betrayal and redemption, told through rousing gospel music. WBTT's production celebrates the show's creator, the late Vinnette Carroll, who was the first African-American woman to direct a show on Broadway. Harry Bryce will direct. It **runs to April 5**.

For more information, visit westcoastblacktheatre.org or call 941-366-1505.

📍 Urbanite Theatre has:

■ **The Feast** By Cory Finley running **March 13 – April 19**. Matt and Anna's relationship seems to be blossoming until the sewers under their apartment begin to speak. Deftly mixing the comedic, mysterious and macabre, **The Feast** is a delicate study of the psychological condition, and how we hurt and heal the ones we love.

They're at 1487 2nd St, Sarasota. Info: (941) 321-1397.

Farmer's Markets

📍 **Venice Farmer's Market** runs **8-noon every Saturday** at City Hall. Sample local delicacies and take in some artwork. A variety of other ready-to-eat foods are available at the more than 50 stands featuring vibrantly

colored baskets of organic and farm-to-table fresh produce from regional farms, as well as plenty of handmade arts and crafts. Info: 941-445-9209 or visit TheVeniceFarmersMarket.org.

📍 **Phillippi Farmhouse Market** is at Phillippi Estate Park for the 11th year. The market, located at 5500 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, is open **9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Wednesday through April**.

The Phillippi Farmhouse Market is the area's only mid-week market, featuring local agriculture, including a local USDA-certified organic grower, plant, herb and floral vendors as well as a variety of food trucks. The market also features local raw honey, several bakeries, local artisans with hand-crafted items, a wellness vendor and a dog-washing station, as well as local musicians.

Phillippi Farmhouse Market has free parking. For information, call 941-861-5000 or visit www.scgov.net.

Concerts & Shows

📍 At the Van Wezel: (partial list)

■ **March 10—The Color Purple**. It's the 2016 Tony Award winner for Best Musical Revival. With a soul-raising, Grammy-winning score of jazz, gospel, ragtime and blues, **The Color Purple** gives an exhilarating new spirit to this Pulitzer Prize-winning story. It's the re-imagining of an epic story about a young woman's journey to love and triumph in the American South.

■ **March 16—An American In Paris**. In postwar Paris, romance is in the air and youthful optimism reigns. Gershwin's soaring melodies are matched by gravity-defying dance as the world rediscovers the power of love in this production. Winner of four Tony Awards and inspired by the Academy Award-winning film, this production features your favorite Gershwin songs including “*I Got Rhythm*,” “*Liza*,” “*S Wonderful*,” “*But Not for Me*,” and “*Stairway to Paradise*.”

Tickets: VanWezel.org or call (941) 953-3368.

Live Music

📍 Artist Series Concerts:

■ **March 7-8, Historic Asolo Theater. Russian Renaissance: “World Music with a Russian Soul:”** After emerging with the \$100,000 Grand Prize at the 2017 M-Prize Competition, the largest prize for chamber music in the world, Russian Renaissance has established itself as one of the most electrifying ensembles of today. They perform every genre from tango and folk to classical and jazz. They're redefining traditional Russian folk instruments (balalaika, domra, button accordion, contrabasso), while capturing the attention of audiences worldwide. Their program includes Russian folk songs plus works by Astor Piazzolla, Bela Fleck, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Egberto Gismonti and more.

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■ **March 19, 11 a.m.**; performance 12:15 p.m. luncheon Michael's On East. **Palm Court Treasures** with Daniel Jordan, violin; Natalie Helm, cello; and Joseph Holt, piano: Evocative of afternoon tea at the Ritz and of tea dances held amidst an enchanting court of potted palms, the term "Palm Court" remains synonymous with the light music repertoire that became popular in the resorts, spas, bandstands, floral halls – and palm courts – of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Violinist Daniel Jordan and cellist Natalie Helm, both principal musicians with the Sarasota Orchestra, join pianist Joseph Holt for a musical trip back in time.

■ **March 24, 6 p.m.**; dinner 7:30 p.m. performance Plantation Golf & Country Club. **BOY-GIRLBOY-GIRL** featuring vocalists Laura Monagle, Michaela Ristaino, Don Lobacz and Tommy Lueck, with Joseph Holt, piano: Hailed as "Milwaukee's Manhattan Transfer," BoyGirlBoyGirl takes the A-Train through some of the best four-part vocal jazz around. Wisconsin natives Don Lobacz, Tommy Lueck, Laura Monagle and Michaela Ristaino perform a variety of tunes, covering everything from greatest hits of the Rat Pack days to tight harmonies of old-time radio.

Lobacz and Lueck are well-known to Midwest audiences thanks to their appearances with Four Guyz in Dinner Jackets and other theatre companies. Monagle appears regularly with Boulevard Theatre, the Fireside Theatre, Off the Wall, and Children's Theatre of Madison. Ristaino has appeared in Milwaukee with Skylight Music Theatre and now makes her home in Sarasota where she performs with Choral Artists of Sarasota.

■ **April 4, 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, April 5, 3 p.m.** Historic Asolo Theatre. Soo Been Lee, Violin / Young Concert Artist International with Dina Vainshtein, piano: **Beethoven's 250th birthday festivities** continue with a performance by the eighteen-year-old artist known as "Korea's hottest violin prodigy." A first prize winner at the 2014 Young Concert Artist International Auditions, SooBeen Lee has been building an international reputation for years.

In addition to Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 4, Lee will perform works by Ysaÿe, Clara Schumann and Grieg. Boston-based pianist Dina Vainshtein has performed at the Alice Tully and Weill Recital Halls and was the recipient of a special prize for the best collaborative pianist at the Tchaikovsky International Competition.

Tickets: call 941-306-1202 or visit www.ArtistSeriesConcerts.org.

Choral Artists:

■ **Listen to the Earth:** This world premiere features James Grant's original choral cantata, "Listen to the Earth." Grant created texts that are inspired by the writings of astronauts and ecological writings by John Muir and Robert W. Service. Choral Artists commissioned the work to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in April 2020.

Featuring Marcus DeLoach, baritone soloist. **Sunday, April 19,**

7 p.m., at Sarasota Opera House. For more information, visit www.ChoralArtistsSarasota.org.

Sarasota Orchestra Presents:

Beethoven and Bartók Masterworks 6

- **March 12, 8:00 p.m.**, Neel Performing Arts Center
- **Friday, March 13, 8:00 p.m.**, Van Wezel
- **Saturday, March 14, 8:00 p.m.**, Van Wezel
- **Sunday, March 15, 2:30 p.m.**, Van Wezel

Hear Bartók's music alongside his idol Beethoven in a virtuosic showcase led by Keith Lockhart, longtime Boston Pops conductor and Artistic Director of the Harvard Music Festival. The program features critically-acclaimed soloist Jeremy Denk, in Beethoven's challenging Piano Concerto No. 4. The evening opens with Kodály's Dances of Galánta, a nostalgic trip down memory lane to the composer's childhood in a Slovakian town. Bartók's iconic and exhilarating Concerto for Orchestra will provide a breathtaking end to this dazzling program.

Pops Series:

My Favorite Things, March 6, 7 Big vocals and iconic hits take center stage when Sarasota Orchestra's Principal Pops Conductor, Andrew Lane, presents his all-time favorites with sensational Broadway actor Maria Wirries by his side. The energetic voices of the Center Stage Singers round out the sound for a joyful concert that includes great songs and scores from **The Sound of Music, Mamma Mia!, Funny Girl, Les Misérables, Titanic, Schindler's List, Harry Potter** and more.

- **Wednesday, March 18, 5:30 p.m.**, Holley Hall
- **Thursday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.**, Holley Hall
- **Friday, March 20, 5:30 p.m.**, Holley Hall
- **Saturday, March 21, 8:00 p.m.**, Holley Hall

The Great Escapes season wraps up with this high-energy, deeply passionate concert with a Latin twist. Exotic beats from salsa, rumba, tango and bossa nova genres inspire this energizing mix of thrilling sounds. Enjoy music from Carmen, The Girl from Impanema, DeFalla's Ritual Fire Dance, Rodrigo's beautiful flute concerto, Charbier's España and more.

Masterworks 7 American Impressions

- **Friday, April 3, 8:00 p.m.**, Neel Performing Arts Center
- **Saturday, April 4, 8:00 p.m.**, Van Wezel
- **Sunday, April 5, 2:30 p.m.**, Van Wezel

Aaron Copland's expansive, tuneful, and highly original Symphony No. 3 is the centerpiece of this exploration of American influence led by conductor Teddy Abrams. Twenty-five-year-old Canadian violinist Blake Pouliot brings his artistry to the fantastically dramatic shifts and unbridled emotion of Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2, composed shortly after the composer's return to the Soviet Union following two decades in the West. Abrams kicks off the program with one of his own compositions.

Tickets: www.SarasotaOrchestra.org or by calling the Sarasota Box Office at (941) 953-3434.

Sarasota Concert Association:

■ **March 12, 7:30 p.m.: The Pacifica Quartet and Orion Weiss, Piano.** Orion Weiss, acclaimed as "one of the most sought-after soloists of his generation," joins forces with the Pacifica Quartet—an ensemble widely praised for its gripping interpretations of string quartet cycles. (At Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.)

■ **March 30, 7:30 p.m.: Musicians from Marlboro.** An offshoot of the Marlboro Festival created by Rudolf Serkin, the Musicians from Marlboro are acclaimed both for their joyous, thoroughly prepared performances and for fostering artists at the beginning of their careers—including such luminaries as Yefin Bronfman, Richard Goode, and Richard Stoltzman. (At River-view Performing Arts Center.)

■ **Sarasota Concert Association's Great Performers Series Pacifica Quartet with pianist Orion Weiss (March 12); and Musicians from Marlboro (March 30).** For more information and tickets, visit www.scasarasota.org.

■ **SCA's Music Matinees noontime concert** season continues with **Sarasota Opera Studio Artists (March 18); and Angela Galestro, flute, and Jonathan Smith, guitar (April 15).** All Music Matinees performances 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, email Gail Berenson at berenson@ohio.edu or Mike Brooks at mp-brks@gmail.com.

For more information about SCA, visit www.scasarasota.org.

At Fogartyville:

■ **March 14—Hanneke Cassel Band.** Boston-based fiddler Hanneke Cassel is a performer, teacher and composer whose career spans over two decades. Her style fuses influences from the Isle of Skye and Cape Breton Island with Americana grooves and musical innovations, creating a cutting-edge acoustic sound that retains the integrity and spirit of the Scottish tradition. The band features Grammy Award Winning (Silk Road Ensemble) Mike Block on cello and alternating guitarists Keith Murphy and Christopher Lewis.

■ **March 15—"Cool Vibes"** featuring vibist Errol Rackipov and the Errol Rackipov Group. Jazz vibraphonist, marimbist, and composer Rackipov has performed along with his bands "Dream Hunter" and "Groove Culture" throughout Europe and the United States with such greats like Terence Blanchard, Bob Moses, Herb Pomeroy, Marc Eagan, Kenny Werner, Ratzo Harris, and Paquito D'Rivera.

Rackipov has been working as a professional musician, composer and producer in various styles of music from Jazz to R&B and has participated in numerous projects throughout the world.

■ **March 22—Logan Ledger.** Ledger came to music fairly early: he began singing as a young child and started playing old-time and bluegrass music on guitar at age 12. Enamored of early roots music recordings of Appalachian ballads and string bands from the 1930s, he soon discovered the music of Hank Williams and George Jones and devoted himself wholeheartedly to learning all he could about country music.

■ **March 27—HuDost and Hymn for Her.** Hymn for Her have been busy touring across the country and abroad over the past few years, injecting juiced-up backwoods country blues with a dose of desert rock psychedelia that has been described as "Hell's Angels meets the Amish," and "Hillbillies with electronics opening Pandora's Box".

The two create their "ripsaw sounds" (Los Angeles Times' Randy Lewis) with only a few instruments. Wayne, mainly playing the kick-drum, high-hat, acoustic guitar and harp, serves as the group's rhythmic driving force.

■ **March 29—McKasson, McDonald, and McLane Sunday.** The acclaimed Celtic music duo of fiddler Ryan McKasson and guitarist/vocalist Eric McDonald performs with legendary Vermont accordionist Jeremiah McLane. Ryan McKasson, Eric McDonald and Jeremiah McLane are masters of tradition who purposefully explore the dark corners floating on its edges.

Pulling from parallel strands of influence, they create a swirling level of intensity that traverses darkness, light, and everywhere in between. An air of mystery pervades a sound compelling enough to transcend boundaries and appeal to music lovers of all stripes.

Tickets: 941-894-6469.

The 12th Annual Ballroom Dance Competition

○ **The Sarasota Dancesport Challenge** is back celebrating its 12th year. Continuing a long-held tradition and well-earned reputation, the Sarasota Challenge organizer, renowned coach and judge, a former European ballroom finalist, Lithuanian champion and owner of **Empire Ballroom Studio** Sid Pocius extends an invitation to all Sarasota and surrounding areas to attend one of most elegant, fun events this year featuring world-renowned artists that have inspired and captivated audiences through the art of dance.

Doors open on **March 21** with a **4 p.m.** seminar taught by world recognized champions Max Sinista and Tatiana Seliverstova followed by a 5pm seminar with The World Rhythm Champion Irina Kudryashova. The Sarasota dancesport seminars are an opportunity to be educated by the World's Best Latin and Smooth professional dancers and phenomenal coaches. The seminars are open to the public for all level of dancers.

Competitions for pro/am and amateur couples in the Smooth and Ballroom divisions begins on **March 22 at 8 a.m.**, followed by

the Rhythm and Latin divisions at 1 p.m. The cocktail reception at 7:30 p.m. will be followed by formal gourmet dinner in the ballroom, an awards reception and more general dancing.

The evening will conclude with a Professional Show Extravaganza featuring the headliners of the evening, Champion dancers Max and Tatiana. Location: The Hyatt Regency Sarasota.

For tickets and more info, contact www.sarasotachallenge.com. 941.799.0800.

The Sarasota Ballet

○ On **March 27** at the Van Wezel, they have Program 6, the company premiere of Sir Frederick Ashton's full-length **Romeo and Juliet**, bringing the grandeur and passion of Shakespeare's tragedy to the Sarasota stage.

It was choreographed by Ashton in 1955 to Sergei Prokofiev's score for the Royal Danish Ballet. Romeo and Juliet evidences Ashton's choreographic ability to portray the nature of humanity through dance.

Closing the Season is Program 7 **opening April 24** and featuring three company premieres by Jerome Robbins, Sir Frederick Ashton, and David Bintley. Premiering in 1970, Robbins' **In the Night** comprises of a trio of pas de deux, and contemplates romantic love in stages evidenced by three couples – one euphoric, another restrained, and a third tempestuous. The work demonstrates a refinement of Robbins' approach to dance, while maintaining a dash of his trademark cynicism.

Choreographed during the opening stages of the Second World War, Ashton's Dante Sonata is a synthesis of wartime symbolism and his reflections upon experiencing Franz Liszt's piano piece of the same name—itsself composed on Liszt's reactions to Dante Alighieri's pivotal masterwork.

The sentiment of Dante Sonata is, for Ashton, uncommonly bleak and hopeless, with Roslyn Sulcas of The New York Times describing it as, "an embattled expressionist encounter between good and evil with no clear outcome."

The final ballet of Program 7 will be a company premiere of a work by David Bintley. One of the great English choreographers of today, Bintley has been heralded by of whom Neil Norman, Chief Dance Critic of The Stage, as the "torchbearer of an extraordinary legacy." Bintley has ended his tenure as Director of the Birmingham Royal Ballet in order to pursue increasing demand for his choreography.

Tickets www.SarasotaBallet.org or call 941-359-0099. 📞

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