

Marcy Miller

**Executive Director,
Artist Series
Concerts of
Sarasota**

The Artist Series Concerts (ASC) has a new Executive Director following a 17-year term by the retiring executive John Fischer. The organization tapped Marcy with her impressive career in the arts including fundraising, collaboration with other organizations, and strategic planning to provide leadership to its 24th season that will see 28 concerts with over 80 performing artists.



With the 2019-2020 cultural event calendars and ticket brochures in mailboxes, several non-profit organizations are welcoming

new executives as previous leaders retired or accepted another position just in time for the build up to the “season.” The Artist Series Concerts (ASC) has a new Executive Director following a 17-year term by the retiring executive John Fischer. The organization tapped Marcy Miller with her impressive career in the arts including fundraising, collaboration with other organizations, and strategic planning to provide leadership to its 24th season that will see 28 concerts with over 80 performing artists.

“I am pleased to manage and direct a wonderful non-profit music organization that brings internationally and nationally recognized artists to Sarasota,” Marcy says. “I had been to a few concerts and the organization and the position appealed to me. I encourage everyone to attend the concerts whether it is jazz, pop, classical, or Broadway. We bring extraordinary music that is not heard anywhere else in Sarasota at a reasonable cost. I’m excited to be working with the staff that includes the artistic director, director of competitions and outreach, public relations, and executive assistant. The 150 ASC Friends provide financial support and assist at events and the educational and competition activities.”

Over 540 concerts have been presented by the Artist Series Concerts since it was established in 1996 as the Artist Series of Sarasota with annual attendance of 6,000 to 7,000 concertgoers. This season’s theme of New Faces, New Stars is a reflection of its mission to provide increased live performance opportunities to emerging artists. This year’s 29 performances includes classical voice, piano, and instrumental recitals; pop, jazz, and world music concerts. A perusal of the 2019-2020 concert brochure illustrates a wide variety of music to suit every musical taste from 60’s favorites, Chopin, young artists, Latin American tunes, to five concert grand pianos, music by great American composers, Russian folk songs, and tango artists.

The schedule also includes three chamber soirées and the Lunch & Listen series. In the absence of a home performance venue, the concerts are held at the Historic Asolo Theater, Sarasota Opera House, Michael’s On East ballroom, Plantation Golf and Country Club in Venice, and in the Fischer-Weisenborne residence.

Judy Beilman, a long-time friend of Marcy and Sarasota community volunteer, says, “Marcy and I met 15 years ago, fittingly, at a concert in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We discovered we shared many interests in addition to music and our bond was further solidified when we both returned to work in the non-profit development field after raising our families. My husband and I moved to Sarasota in 2016 and we were thrilled when Marcy and her husband Brian joined us in moving to this lively arts community. As a member of the Friends of Artists Series Concerts, I was delighted when they tapped Marcy for the Executive Director position. She brings the perfect combination of a warm personality, solid leadership experience, and a love for the mission.”

Marcy’s initial task list includes board member growth especially in quantity and participation on committees. Also on her list is to increase donations by five to ten percent. She also plans to investigate the expansion to other venues. She admits that her lack of music background may be a challenge, but says she has always

been motivated to do her best as a student, teacher, fundraiser, and arts administrator. With qualities of patience, persistence, discipline, the ability to listen to the team, to collaborate and discuss toward consensus building, Marcy is embracing the position with passion for the organization’s mission.


For six years Marcy was the Executive Director of the William King Museum of Art in Abingdon, Virginia. Evelyn Goldston, a retired physician, says, “I worked with Marcy in her job as Museum Director as a Board member and Board President and ended as best friends. Marcy is a combination of quiet intelligence, compassion, organization, perseverance when faced with problems and diplomacy in their resolution. Our loss here in Abingdon was Sarasota’s gain when Marcy moved.”

Perhaps a lesser-known activity of ASC is the educational outreach programs that bring professional classical performance artists to schools to instill in students an interest in music that hopefully will be nourished throughout their lives. Thousands of students and school staff have the opportunity to hear accomplished musicians in their schools. During the past year artists performed at all Sarasota County high schools, Pine View School, Oak Park School, Manatee School of the Arts, and Out of Door Academy. Through demonstrations, performances, and master classes, the program has reached more than 12,500 area students and teachers in the past five years. ASC also sponsors with the Sarasota Music Club the Suncoast Music Scholarships that award \$20,000 annually to area high school students for further music education.

Marcy earned a Bachelor’s degree in psychology from Yale University, a Master’s degree from Sacred Heart University, and an MBA in marketing from Columbia University Graduate School of Business. She was the Associate Director of Development at the University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center and Associate Director of Clinical Programs and Director of Development—Neurology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Previously she was a public school teacher for seven years.

Marcy was raised in Lexington, Massachusetts, by a father who loved people, loved learning, and was vice-president of human resources at an electronics company. He was also the caregiver to Marcy’s mother who was diagnosed with MS at age 30 and was wheelchair-bound by age 38. That did not deter her family from traveling twice to Europe. In his late 80s her father taught classes at his retirement center and had a keen interest in world water scarcity.

Marcy’s husband Brian is retired from the mining industry that required frequent moves from state to state. Their two sons are engineers—one in Massachusetts and one in San Francisco. Marcy has recently returned to her love of singing and is taking voice lessons with perhaps joining a choir or chorus. In addition to singing, she enjoys reading and hiking. She also would like to travel the world especially South America and Asia. Her guilty pleasure—chocolate!

What does she want her legacy to be? By family, to be remembered as a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother. By her colleagues, to be remembered as someone they enjoyed being around, working for, and working with. With her educational and professional work credentials, Marcy is a welcome addition to Sarasota’s vibrant cultural environment. 

 STORY: Carol Darling

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