



Performing Arts Schedules 2016-17: part 2

Sarasota Concert Association

Sarasota Concert Association (SCA) continues its eighth decade of “**bringing Carnegie Hall to Sarasota**” with a line-up of world-class musicians and ensembles.

■ **December 18—the Emerson String Quartet.** Hailed by The New York Times as “one of the most impressive of American string quartets,” and winner of nine Grammys, three Gramophone Awards, and an Avery Fisher prize, the Emerson Quartet is widely regarded as a giant among American string quartets. The arrival of award-winning conductor and cellist Paul Watkins in 2013 has “complemented their customary power, finesse and unanimity with a fresh, palpable vigor,” that is “electrifying.”

■ **January 9—the Minnesota Orchestra,** conducted by Osmo Vänskä, with cellist Alisa Weilerstein. The Grammy Award-winning Minnesota Orchestra, now in its second century, has long ranked among America’s top symphonic ensembles, with a distinguished history of acclaimed performances, award-winning recordings, radio broadcasts and a visionary commitment to building the orchestral repertoire of tomorrow.



Vänskä, is recognized for his meticulous preparation and compelling interpretations of repertoire from all ages. London’s The Times has called Vanska a “wiry dynamo” and his interpretations “lean, whippy and indefatigably energetic. He never stops probing and pushing.” In May 2015, Vänskä and the Orchestra performed two historic concerts in Havana, Cuba, becoming the first major American orchestra to perform in the island nation since the U.S. and Cuban governments announced steps to normalize relations between the two countries.

Sensitive and emotional performances are the hallmark of cellist Alisa Weilerstein, recipient, in 2011, of a MacArthur Fellowship. The McArthur Foundation hailed her as “a consummate performer, combining technical precision with impassioned musicianship.”

■ **January 30—National Symphony of Ukraine** (NSU), conducted by Theodore Kuchar, with pianist Alexei Grynuk. Formed in 1918, the National Symphony of Ukraine gained international recognition over a remarkably short period of time and is considered to be one of the finest symphony orchestras in Eastern Europe today. After hearing the orchestra perform in Moscow, none other than Dmitri Shostakovich hailed the ensemble as “as distinguished a group of performers as one would be likely to find anywhere.” The orchestra has performed with such illustrious soloists as Arthur Rubinstein, Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern, Mstislav Rostropovich, Emil Gilels, and Jose Carreras.

NSU conductor laureate Theodore Kuchar is one of the most prolifically recorded conductors of the past decade, with over 90 compact discs for the Naxos, Brilliant Classics, Ondine and Marco Polo labels. Pianist Alexei Grynuk, who will be performing

during this NSU concert, has been described by Le Figaro as a “master of transparent and sovereign touch, astonishing personality and absolutely transcendental virtuosity”.

■ **February 22—Apollo’s Fire.** Named for the classical god of music and the sun, Apollo’s Fire was founded in 1992 by the award-winning young harpsichordist and conductor Jeanette Sorrell. Sorrell envisioned an ensemble dedicated to the baroque ideal that music should evoke affekts or passions in its listeners. The resulting Apollo’s Fire is a collective of creative artists who share Sorrell’s passion for drama and rhetoric. The group will perform “In Bach’s Coffee House,” their program of music by Bach, Handel, Telemann and Vivaldi that brought the house down at last summer’s Tanglewood Music Festival. This concert is at Riverview Performing Arts Center.

■ **March 16—Royal Scottish National Orchestra,** by Peter Oundjian, with Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti. The renowned Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) marks its 125th anniversary year. Since its official founding in 1891 (as the Scottish Orchestra), RSNO has worked with some of the world’s most respected conductors and soloists, including Gustav Holst, Richard Strauss, Arthur Rubinstein, Aaron Copland, Luciano Pavarotti and Elmer Bernstein, and has played a crucial role in shaping the musical life of the nation.

Since Peter Oundjian’s arrival as music director of the RSNO, the orchestra has toured China, performed at the BBC Proms and Edinburgh International Festival and released two recordings. Originally trained as a violinist, the Toronto-born Oundjian was the first violinist of the renowned Tokyo String Quartet, a position he held for 14 years.

Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti is one of the most influential violinists of her generation and is the winner of Best Female Artist at both the 2012 and 2013 Classical Brit Awards. Her international television appearances include performing at the opening ceremony of the 2014 Commonwealth Games to a live audience of approximately 40,000 and a TV viewing audience of 9.4million people. Benedetti performs on the Gariel Stradivarius (1717), lent to her by noted collector Jonathan Moulds.

■ **March 30—Daniil Trifonov,** is one of the most sought-after young virtuoso pianists of today’s concert world, in a program of duo piano music with his long-time teacher at the Cleveland Institute of Music, Sergei Babayan. Born and trained in Russia, the young Trifonov burst onto the world stage in 2011 at age 20, at the International Tchaikovsky Competition. Hailed for his emotional intensity, bold energy and remarkable levels of color, pianist Sergei Babayan brings a deep understanding and insight to a stylistically diverse repertoire, which includes a performance history of 54 concertos.

Great Performers Series concerts are at the Van Wezel. The February 22 concert is at the Riverview High School Performing Arts Center, 1 Ram Way in Sarasota. For tickets, call 941-225-6500 or visit www.scasarasota.org.

Violins of Hope

Running February 1-16, 2017, **Violins of Hope** is presented by The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee and the Mazur Family Fund. By telling the



story of these violins, we preserve the history of the Holocaust and honor the survival of the Jewish people. Even in the midst of the unspeakable evil of the Holocaust, there was music. Music was a source of comfort, hope and resistance — a way for the Jews to express themselves and prevent the Nazis from stripping them of their humanity.

Amnon Weinstein, one of the world’s most respected violin makers, has dedicated his life to locating and restoring violins that were played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust, so that they can give voice to the voiceless — their owners and the millions who perished at the hands of the Nazis. He calls these instruments the Violins of Hope, in the belief that, where there was music, there was hope.

Weinstein will bring 16 of these violins to the Sarasota area for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our community to hear these violins played and to experience the stories of their owners.

■ **February 1, 8 pm:** The Len Mazur Concert/Violins of Hope Opening Night

■ **February 6, 7 pm:** A Conversation with Amnon Weinstein and James Grymes with Violins at Riverview High School

■ **February 7, 10:30 am:** A Conversation with Amnon Weinstein and James Grymes with Violins at Temple Beth Israel

■ **February 9, 7 pm:** Community Outreach Performance at State College of Florida Neel Auditorium

■ **February 13, 7 pm:** Community Outreach Performance at First United Methodist Church, Downtown Sarasota

■ **February 16, 7 pm:** Community Outreach Performance at Temple Beth Shalom

For more info or tickets, visit www.jfedsrq.org/violins-of-hope.

Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County

Here are their upcoming shows:

■ **To December 27—Light Chasers Holiday Show & Sale.** Light Chasers has over 500 artist members and is the largest group of plein air painters in Florida. Plein air painters paint the history of what’s happening now and seascapes and landscapes of the Sun Coast. This holiday show and sale will offer many opportunities to take home a painting you love.

■ **January 2-31, 2017—I Wanted To Be Walt Disney with Laurent Dareau.** Reception: January 4, 5-6:30 p.m. Dareau’s work is the expression of the gathering of influences from all times and cultures. Abstract realism, comic art, graffiti - his inspirations come from visual encounters that enhance the work.

Dareau explains, “I paint, I add, I gather, I erase - I feel that I deconstruct more than I construct, in the way that everything needs to be doubted.” He uses images, memories of his child-

hood, his art studies and everyday life: images that are shocking or moving to create a world of his own.

■ **February 2-27, 2017—Sixty Years Of Painting; 1957-2017 with Eleanor Darlington.** Reception: February 9, 5-6:30 p.m. Darlington has her paintings, collages, sculptures, murals and ceramics displayed in a variety of venues and homes around the globe. Her

methods of working with forms of female figures and the power of the feminine spirit has been influenced by her studying and experiencing a variety of international cultures. Her work denotes the rich visual expressions of the inner spiritual lives of women across the diaspora. Like the fabrics and layers she uses in her mixed media work, her references from years of studying the spiritual lives and imagery of various cultures is woven into her artistic expressions.

■ **March 2 to April 14, 2017—Moments Colliding. Jordan Senarens.** Reception: March 9, 5-6:30 p.m. Senarens is an Orlando based painter focusing on the synthesis of art and science. She aims to bring art and science together to prove that two diverse areas are deeply integrated. Through the use of pattern and illusion, she creates new optical dimensions of space outside of our three dimensional Newtonian norm. These patterns engender new spatial planes to interject overlapping moments in time. Through this process she hopes to achieve the feeling that time is both fleeting and infinite.

■ **April 17 to May 31, 2017—Seen Along The Way Isabel Becker.** Reception: May 3, 5-6:30p.m. Becker’s fabric art was inspired by the cloth illustrations of a children’s book. While decorating a room for her grandchildren and as a sewer, the idea of sewing a picture appealed to her and since that time she has been at a sewing machine. When she began, she used commercial cotton fabric; however, now her camera is her constant companion. She has the ability to transfer her photos to cotton fabrics for use in her pictures. She describes her work as “simply fabric, thread and a sewing machine”.

The Alliance is located at 1226 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Info: 365-5118.

Art Center Sarasota

Art Center Sarasota’s exhibition season, entitled “Common Ground,” showcases the works of professional and emerging artists living and working in Florida. The season, which runs through September 29, 2017, comprises seven exhibition cycles, most encompassing up to four exhibits. Berger explains that Galleries One and Two are reserved for exhibits by premier solo artists, art groups and themed curated shows. Gallery Three hosts special projects and community group shows. Shows in these galleries are selected based on cultural and artistic merit and broadest audience appeal. Gallery 4 exhibits work in a juried competition with awards juried by selected independent professionals in the visual arts.

■ **Cycle 2—**(December 8-January 13, 2017) features the annual ACS instructors show; a textile installation by Adriana Carvalho; “**Cracker Politics**” by Michael Adno; and “**Reflections**,” an open, juried exhibit.

■ **Cycle 3—**(January 26-March 3, 2017) features a solo exhibit of work



Velvet Celebration by Peppi Elona

by Dasha Reich; a solo exhibit of work by Robert Burrridge; **ASALH Black Muse 2017**; and “**Classic Fantastic**,” an open, juried exhibit.

■ **Cycle 4—**(March 16-April 21, 2017) features “**Orbs**,” a solo exhibit by Carol Prusa; a solo exhibit of work by Peppi Elona; the “**SPECTRUM II**” installation; and “**From Within**,” an open, juried exhibit.

■ **Cycle 5—**(May 18-June 23, 2017) features an exhibit of works by Amy Ernst and Amy Ragus; a 3D invitational ceramic and sculpture exhibit; “**MASHterpieces IV**”; and “**Unlimited Potential**,” a juried, members only show.

■ **Cycle 6—**(July 6-August 11, 2017) features “**Florida’s Finest**,” an all-media, all-subject juried exhibition highlighting the talented artists of the Sunshine State, in all galleries.

■ **Cycle 7—**(August 24-September 29, 2017) features a solo exhibit entitled “**World Without Men**” by Lowell Gilbertson; an exhibit of works by the Sumi-e Society of Sarasota; and “**Line, Form and Color**,” an open, peer-juried exhibit.

The 9th annual iconcept unconventional couture fashion event will be on February 19, 6 p.m., at The Mall at UTC, Saks Fifth Avenue. Tickets are \$75-\$175. For tickets call 941-365-2032. For more information, call 941-365-2032 or visit www.artsarasota.org. Art Center Sarasota is located at 707 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

Belle Canto’s 2016-17 Season

Experience the beauty of this all-women choral group.

■ **December 10** at The Glenridge Performing Arts Center, 7333 Scotland Way, Sarasota. **Annual Christmas and Community Carol Sing — The Voices of Christmas.** Celebrate the season with the rich and joyous sounds of the First Church Singers joined by Belle Canto. The Voices of Christmas offers a festive evening of holiday classics, refreshing new carols, and sing along favorites accompanied by orchestra and organ. It will be a highlight of your Christmas season. For tickets call (941) 552-5325.

■ **December 18** at First United Methodist Church, 104 S. Pineapple Ave, Sarasota. **The French Connection.** Belle Canto joins the First Church Singers to present a program featuring Gabriel Fauré’s exquisite Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine and the velvet choral sounds of Morten Lauridsen’s Dirait’on from Les Chansons des Roses.

■ **February 19, 2017 at 7 p.m.** at First United Methodist Church, 104 S. Pineapple Ave, Sarasota. **Voix Françaises.** As part of the Sarasota Artist Series, Belle Canto will present a French program including music of Debussy, Ravel, and Cole Porter.

For more info, visit <http://bellecanto.org/our-season> or call 941-400-2152.

continued on next page

Salute to the Arts

Performing Arts Schedules 2016-17: part 2: continued

ArtCenter Manatee

ArtCenter Manatee has a variety of exhibits, events and classes.

■ **The watercolor paintings of Dylan Pierce**, a gifted young artist whose exquisite paintings will be displayed in December Pierce will also teach a two-day workshop, Portraits In Watercolor in early December.

■ **In January** they will have a **premier national watercolor show** from the American Watercolor Society along with the Florida Suncoast Watercolor Society Show.

■ **In February** they'll have the **International Society of Acrylic Painters (ISAP)** in their galleries. ISAP is the premier international organization of acrylic painters.

■ **In April** they'll feature the work of emerging artists in the annual Manatee County Schools Exhibit with the all media work of over 200 students.



Alligator by Kathleen Mailing, Workshop

ArtCenter Manatee offers instruction in painting, watercolor, drawing, pottery/sculpture, jewelry and special interest subjects including glass fusing, basket-making and mosaics taught by professional artist instructors. Their schedule includes over 280 classes for adults and six after school classes for 6-10 year olds. This season, we will offer four special workshops in painting/watercolor and a series of monthly art critiques. The very popular Nights Out series has been expanded, offering everything from glass painting and glass fusing to the more traditional painting, pottery and jewelry.

As for special events, they have their Jazzy Ladies Fashion Show and Luncheon in January showcasing live jazz and J. Jill fashions at the Lakewood Ranch County Club.

In February they'll host the Fine Arts Festival of Manatee County in downtown Bradenton at Wares Creek. This fine arts festival brings talented multimedia artists together for two days in a location that promotes the rich cultural offerings this area has to offer.

ArtCenter Manatee in downtown Bradenton features three galleries, five classrooms, an Artists' Market gift shop and an art library featuring over 3,000 art volumes. Exhibitions in the galleries showcase local, regional and national artists. For more information, visit www.artcentermanatee.org or call 941-746-2862.

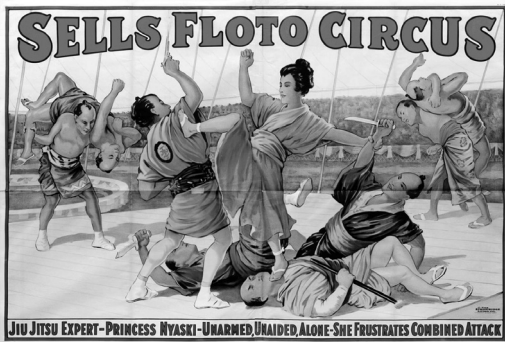
Ringling Museum of Art

Upcoming exhibits:

■ **Pathless Woods** to May 2017. In the new Keith D. and Linda L. Monda Gallery of Contemporary Art, a site-specific installation by American artist Anne Patterson. Pathless Woodswill be an interactive, multi-media installation in which the visitor is invited to walk through a forest of ribbons – sometimes the path is very clear and at other times it is not. The title is taken from a line of Byron's poetry, "There is a pleasure in the pathless woods" and references that the visitor can find his

or her own path through the installation with each choice determining outcome. Pathless Woods continues Patterson's exploration into creating synesthetic environments begun with the 2013 project Graced With Light installed to great acclaim at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. Free with admission.

■ **Asia Under the Big Top** to Feb. 13, 2017. Fantasies of the exotic Far East have always shaped the performing and visual arts of America. Traveling circuses, exotic travelers in their own right, embraced the undeniable draw of the people and cultures of Asia, including "Oriental" attractions and spectacles



by the mid-19th century. Hindu snake charmers and Japanese and Chinese strongmen were among the types of performers imported to entertain American audiences with both their skill and their foreignness. In addition to the performers, many circuses created productions around tales of the "Far East" like 101 Arabian Nights and Aladdin. The shows capitalized on every opportunity to promote the mysterious quality of Asia. Explore how stereotypes and fantasies of Asia played to American audiences under the Big Top through lithographs printed to advertise American circuses from the last quarter of the 19th century through the first half of the 20th century.

■ **Soviet Scenes: Baltermants' Photographs of WWII and Photojournalism from the August Coup** to Jan. 8, 2017. This exhibition presents photojournalism from two key historic moments of the former Soviet Union: World War II and the August Coup of 1991 that ended the communist regime. It features photos from The Ringling's permanent collection. **Soviet Scenes** showcases WWII through the lens of acclaimed photographer Dmitri Baltermants, whose work not only functioned as state-endorsed war propaganda but also captured the emotional toll of war in terms that continue to resonate. In contrast, the August Coup is shown through a range of press images, featuring photographs by Shepard Sherbell, among others, that witness the dissolution of the empire and document life in countries that were formerly part of the Soviet Union. This exhibition showcases various styles of photojournalism and documentary as distinctive content from each time period, underscoring both the climax and collapse of the Soviet era.

All these exhibitions included with regular Museum admission. Tickets are available by calling 941-358-3180. Visit www.ringling.org for information.

New Music New College 2017

New Music New College is a program of New College of Florida that brings talented musicians to the community for performances that audiences are unlikely to hear elsewhere.

■ **January 19, 2017, 5 p.m.**, Artist Conversation at Sainer Pavilion. Ensemble Mise-En: Ligeti Piano Concerto and other works. Concert on January 21, 8 p.m., Sainer Pavilion.

■ **March 2, 2017, 5 p.m.**, Artist Con-



sation at Sainer Pavilion. Cardew's *The Great Learning, Paragraph 7* is on March 3, free concert, at Jane Bancroft Cook Library. Cornelius Cardew's *The Great Learning, Paragraph 2*: NCF students, faculty, and staff, and members of the community on March 4, 8 p.m. in the PepsiCo Arcade.

■ **April 20, 5 p.m.**, Artist Conversation at Sainer Pavilion. Bobby Previte: *Terminals Part II: In Transit*. Friday, April 21, 8 p.m., Sainer Bobby Previte: *Terminals Part II: In Transit*. Saturday, April 22 3 p.m. at Sainer Pavilion.

Programs are in both traditional and non-traditional venues on the New College campus. Tickets are free for New College students, faculty, and staff (just bring your NCF ID to the concerts). Tickets for non-New College students in the community are \$5 at the door with student ID.

Mildred Sainer Pavilion is located at 5313 Bay Shore Rd. The Sudakoff Center is located at 5845 General Dougher Place.

Reservations: 941-487-4888 or at donate.ncf.edu/events. Information: newmusicnewcollege.org.

Island Players

Located on Anna Maria Island, they are Manatee County's oldest community theater. **The Island Players, Inc.** are located at 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Visit www.theislandplayers.org or call 941-778-5755.

■ **Moon Over The Brewery** by Bruce Graham. Directed by Kelly Wynn Woodland. Miriam is a full-time waitress and part-time painter would enjoy male companionship, but Amanda, her precocious teenage daughter, and Randolph, her imaginary friend, have managed to drive away all suitors. Can Warren, the new mailman, succeed where others have failed? Runs January 12-29, 2017.

■ **Play On** by Rick Abbot. Directed by Heiko Knipfelberg. A theater group desperately tries to put on a play in spite of maddening interference from the author who keeps revising the script. Get a peek backstage at a dreadful rehearsal, a disastrous dress rehearsal and the actual performance in which anything that can go wrong, does. March 9-26, 2017.

■ **Vanya And Sonia And Masha And Spike** by Christopher Durang. Directed by James Thaggard Named after Chekhov characters by theatre-loving parents, middle-aged siblings Vanya and Sonia share a family home in Pennsylvania until their movie star sister Masha arrives with her new boy toy Spike, and threatens to sell the house. This is the 2013 Tony Award Winner for Best Play. May 4-14, 2017.

PMP Sarasota Winter Residency

December 22-January 7 is the **PMP Sarasota Winter Residency**. Hear international PMP students (ages 12-20+) work with a music faculty

including Itzhak Perlman and PMP founder Toby Perlman. Approximately 20 free events will be presented on the campus of USF Sarasota-Manatee. Complete schedule and ticket information is at PMPSuncoast.org.

On **January 5** at 5:30 p.m. there will be a **Celebration Concert at the Sarasota Opera House**. Join them for the annual



Itzhak and Toby Perlman

Celebration Concert featuring Itzhak Perlman conducting the PMP String Orchestra and the PMP Chorus led by Chorusmaster Patrick Romano. For tickets, call the Sarasota Opera House at 941-328-1300.

Here are additional performances:

■ **February 15, 2017 (6-9 pm)**—PMP Alumni: Around Town Alumni of The Perlman Music Program perform at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Chagall Nights. Sponsored in part by Sarasota County Tourism Development Tax Revenues. Tickets: selby.org.

■ **April 20, 2017 (5:30 pm & 7:00 pm)**—PMP Alumni: Around Town Alumni of The Perlman Music Program perform at The Ringling.. Tickets: ringling.org/tickets.

■ **April 22, 2017 (10 am-12 pm)**—PMP Alumni: Around Town Alumni of The Perlman Music Program perform at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Chagall Family Saturdays. Tickets: selby.org.

■ **May 17, 2017 (6-9 pm)**—PMP Alumni: Around Town Alumni of The Perlman Music Program perform at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Chagall Nights. Tickets: selby.org.

■ **May 18, 2017 (5:30 pm & 7:00 pm)**—PMP Alumni: Around Town Alumni of The Perlman Music Program perform at The Ringling. Tickets: ringling.org/tickets.

■ **May 20, 2017 (10 am-12 pm)**—PMP Alumni: Around Town Alumni of The Perlman Music Program perform at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Chagall Family Saturdays. Tickets: selby.org.

■ **May 21, 2017 (1-3 pm)**—PMP Alumni: Around Town Alumni of The Perlman Music Program perform at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Spring Garden Music Series. Tickets: selby.org.

For updates & ticket information: www.PMPSuncoast.org.

New College New

New Topics is a collaboration of the **New College Foundation** and **New College of Florida**. This dynamic community series features national speakers on relevant topics of our time. All programs are complimentary and will be held in the Mildred Sainer Pavilion, 5313 Bay Shore Road. For seat reservations and information, contact the New College Events Office at 941-487-4888 or go to donate.ncf.edu/events.

■ **"February 15, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.—Nuclear Weapons: They're Back.** The Sarasota World Affairs Council presents Bob Gallucci, director of the The John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress and former Assistant Secretary of State for Political-

Military Affairs, and in 1998 was appointed U.S. State Department Special Envoy to deal with the threat posed by the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

DGallucci will describe the evolution of the U.S. approach in dealing with nuclear weapons and their re-emergence as critical to Russian defense policy, Chinese force modernization, and regional importance in the Middle East. He will also address the threat posed by the prospect of a terrorist nuclear attack.

■ **February 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. —Tampa Cuban Cigar Makers: A Cultural and Economic Heritage.** The New College Cubano-American Community Project presents Tampa Bay historian Maura Barrios. She will share the origin and history of Cuban cigar makers who settled in Ybor City and the surrounding area in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Her lecture will have a special focus on the historical context and transformation of Cuban communities across generations in West Central Florida.

■ **March 3, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.—Cuban Diaspora: The Evolving Relationship between Florida and Cuba.** The New College Cubano-American Community Project presents Dr. Jorge Duany, anthropologist and director for the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University.

Duany will discuss the Cuban diaspora, and how the recent changes in the U.S. policy toward Cuba affects the Florida's west coast. Duany has published on migration, ethnicity, nationalism and transnationalism in the Caribbean and the United States. He has also published about Puerto Rican and Cuban cultural identity on the islands and in the diaspora.

■ **March 8, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. —Newtown Alive: Courage. Dignity. Determination.** The New College Public Archaeology Lab presents Vickie Oldham, a consultant with the Newtown Conservation Historic District.

The history of Sarasota's African American community was in fragments throughout Sarasota County until the City of Sarasota funded a groundbreaking research project. Consultant Vickie Oldham led the Newtown Conservation Historic District team and discusses its history makers and historic resources.

■ **April 25 at 5:30 p.m.—U.S.-Cuba Relations: What Does Normalization Mean?** The New College Cubano-American Community Project presents Rafael Hernandez, a Senior Research Fellow at the Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo de la Cultura Cubana "Juan Marinello," and a professor and researcher at the University of Havana, the Instituto Superior de las Relaciones Internacionales "Raúl Roa García."

Dr. Hernandez is the founding editor of Temas, a Cuban quarterly, offering an open forum within the realm of the state. In addition, his expertise involves Cuban and U.S. policies, inter-American relations, and Cuban culture, society and politics. Dr. Hernandez will speak about the implications for Cuba brought forth by its new relationship with the United States.

Sarasota Opera

The Opera's 2017 Winter Festival Season:

■ **Madama Butterfly** by Giacomo Puccini. Sung in Italian with English supertitles. Performances: February 11, 16, 19, 22, 25 and March 5, 7, 10, 17, 21, 25

Sarasota Opera's 58th season will open on February 11, 2017 with Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. Set in Japan around 1900, the story follows a

continued on next page

Salute to the Arts

Performing Arts Schedules 2016-17: part 2: continued



Madama Butterfly

young geisha Cio Cio San, affectionately known as Madama Butterfly, who is swept off her feet by the American Naval Officer, B.F. Pinkerton. Leaving her with promises of returning one day, Butterfly waits faithfully for his return which comes three years later, but with unexpected disappointments and a tragic end. Filled with Puccini's most expansive melodies, **Madama Butterfly** is at the top of a very short list of most performed and best loved operas of all time.

■ **The Italian Girl in Algiers** by Gioachino Rossini. Sung in Italian with English supertitles. Performances on February 18, 21, 23, 26 and March 3, 8, 18, 24

A Sarasota First production. Before *The Barber of Seville* or *La Cenerentola* came Rossini's rollicking comedy **The Italian Girl in Algiers** which makes its Sarasota Opera debut. Lindoro's attempts at escape from Mustafà, the Bey of Algiers, have been thwarted and, to top it all off, he is now faced with a hand-me-down bride as his beloved Isabella has gone missing. But a unique turn of events brings Isabella right where she needs to be to save her lost fiancé. And she knows exactly what to do to get them out of this bind.

■ **Dialogues of the Carmelites** by Francis Poulenc. Sung in French with English supertitles on March 4, 9, 12, 15, 18, 25

A Sarasota First production. Based on real events and set during the French Revolution's infamous "Reign of Terror", Poulenc's opera **Dialogues of the Carmelites** tells the story of Blanche de la Force as she goes against the wishes of her aristocratic family and dedicates her life to God's service by joining a Carmelite order. The revolution threatens to destroy all that is most sacred to the nuns and Blanche's faith is put to the ultimate test to choose between life or following her sacred calling through to the end.

■ **The Love of Three Kings** by Italo Montemezzi. Sung in Italian with English supertitles on March 11, 14, 16, 19, 22, 26

One of opera's most passionate stories has music to match in this early 20th century masterpiece. Forced to marry Manfredo, the son of the man who conquered her country, Princess Fiora's heart belongs to Avito. The two lovers have been meeting in secret, but they are playing a dangerous game, as the blind King Archibaldo grows suspicious. Last seen at Sarasota Opera in 2003, the rich orchestral

lines and expressive vocalism will make for an exciting night of theater.

Sarasota Opera Concert Series

■ **Artists Choice Concert** is on March 19, 2017, 7:30 p.m. Enjoy principal and studio artists as they perform their choice of the best of opera and song.

■ **Spring Opera Spectacular** is on March 26, 2017, 7:30 p.m. All great things must come to an end so let's make it unforgettable. This concert will feature favorite 2017 Winter Festival Artists performing arias, scenes, and ensembles with the Sarasota Opera Chorus and Orchestra under the direction of Victor DeRenzi.

Sarasota Opera is in the midst of its 57th consecutive season which is also the final season of the company's internationally acclaimed Verdi Cycle, the company's commitment to perform every work of Giuseppe Verdi. Sarasota Opera opened its season on January 30th with the Sarasota Opera premiere of Verdi's glorious Aida followed by Mozart's Così fan tutte, Beethoven's Fidelio, and Verdi's The Battle of Legnano which marks the final operatic installment of the Verdi Cycle.

Sarasota Opera launched a new website, www.verdicycle.org/ dedicated to the company's 28-year Verdi Cycle. Features of the website include listings of all of Verdi's operatic and non-operatic music performed by Sarasota Opera, including production information and photos; testimonial pages from, artists who performed in Verdi Cycle productions, as well as audience members who saw Verdi Cycle operas, scholarly resources for Verdi enthusiasts; and even a countdown clock tracking the time left to the completion of the Verdi Cycle.

For more information and to purchase tickets call the Box Office at 328-1300; visit in person at 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, or go to www.sarasotaopera.org.

Florida Studio Theatre

Florida Studio Theatre has its 2016-17 Winter Mainstage and Cabaret Seasons in progress.

Mainstage:

■ The Mainstage has the Tony Award-Winning musical **Million Dollar Quartet** in the Gompertz Theatre. Inspired by the famed recording session at Sun Records, this electrifying musical tells the story of icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins. In 1956 Memphis, they came together to make music, and ended up making history. *The New York Times* praised the show's "Explosive vitality", and the *Washington Post* calls it "An extraordinary jam session." Runs to January 1.

■ In the second slot of the season is the Regional Premiere of **Clever Little Lies** by Joe DiPietro, opening in the Keating Theatre on December 16. Set during an uproarious family dinner, secrets are exposed and clever little lies are crafted when a confidence shared between father and son escalates into an unexpected family disclosure that could change everything. **Clever Little Lies** is a story of long-term love and marriage...for better...and for worse. Directing this comedy that *The New York Times* calls "Good old-fashioned comfort food for theatregoers" is FST's

Associate Director Kate Alexander. It runs to March 4.

■ After that is the Regional Premiere of **brownsville song (b-side for tray)** by Kimber Lee, opening on January 27 in the Gompertz Theatre. Set against the gritty backdrop of rundown Brooklyn, **brownsville song** is a vivid and uplifting story of one family's courage and endurance after a senseless act of gang violence alters a high school senior's dreams forever. Left to pick up the pieces, his family must find hope and resilience within their tight-knit Brooklyn borough. Runs January 25-March 26.

■ Finishing the season is the Regional Premiere of Victoria Stewart's **Rich Girl**, which opens in the Gompertz Theatre on April 7. Based on Henry James' short novel *Washington Square*, **Rich Girl** is set in contemporary Central park and tells the story of hapless but wealthy Claudine. Her celebrity-financial-guru mother has obvious misgivings about her daughter's amorous entanglements with Henry—an artist with rugged good looks. He's got just enough charisma along with a negative bank balance. *The New York Times* calls it "highly appealing" and *Talkin Broadway* says it is "a candidate for widespread success." It runs to May 26.

Cabaret:

■ Florida Studio Theatre's Cabaret Season kicked off with a trio of dynamic ladies in **Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves** in the Court Cabaret. From the 1970s to today, female artists have been pop pioneers; pushing boundaries and charting new musical territory. Featuring songs by powerhouse performers such as Cher, Tina Turner, Reba McEntire, and Peggy Lee, this production is directed by FST Associate Artist Catherine Randazzo. Audiences may remember Randazzo's direction of last year's hit cabaret *Yesterday*. Runs to January 29.

■ The cabaret's second slot has two talented musicians in **Piano Men**, opening in the Goldstein Cabaret on December 2. From honkytonks to magnificent concert halls, the men of **Piano Men** performed on a variety of stages, lived diverse lifestyles and most importantly, wrote about their experiences. A tribute to virtuosity and elegance, this cabaret features the works of the 20th Century's best pianists such as Billy Joel, Elton John, and Barry Manilow. Runs to March 30.

■ Rounding up the cabaret season is **Older Than Dirt**, which opens February 10 in the Court Cabaret. Getting old is not for sissies, but it sure is good for a laugh. This musical comedy revue provides a witty and heartfelt 360 degree view of aging. Featuring songs by Shel Silverstein, Adam Sandler, and Neil Young, **Older Than Dirt** takes the audience on a journey through the pitfalls and perks of aging. Featuring songs such as "When I'm 64," "Don't Be Ashamed of Your Age," and "Forever Young." Runs to June 4.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.floridastudiotheatre.org or by calling the Box Office at 366-9000.

Stage III Series:

■ Connecting audiences once again with the emotionally rough edges of raw, live theatre, FST relaunches the Stage III Series. This three show series begins with the haunting production of **Stalking the Bogeyman**. Second in the line-up is the gripping story of **Gideon's Knot**. Concluding the season is the profound and poignant, **Grounded**. "We are relaunching this series to do more edgy work again, but in simple circumstances on the Bowne's Lab stage. It's gritty and simply produced," said Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins.

The first show of the series is **Stalking the Bogeyman**, by Markus Potter.

Based on the true story made famous on *This American Life*, *Stalking the Bogeyman* follows renowned journalist David Holthouse's secret pursuit of justice for a crime hidden for 25 years. This new play explores the dangers of vengeance, the power of forgiveness, and the strength of family. Runs January 4-15.

■ Next in the series is **Gidion's Knot** by Johnna Adams. Over the course of a 90-minute parent/teacher conference, a grieving mother and an emotionally overwhelmed primary school teacher have a fraught conversation about the death of the mother's son, the teacher's student, Gidion. Gidion may have been bullied severely - or he may have been an abuser. As his story is slowly uncovered, the women try to reconstruct a satisfying explanation for Gidion's act and come to terms with excruciating feelings of culpability. Runs February 15-26.

■ Concluding this series is the gritty and gripping, **Grounded**, by George Brant. An ace fighter pilot is reassigned to desk duty following an unexpected pregnancy. After the birth of her child, she is relegated to operating drones from her base in Las Vegas. As she destroys enemies from the safety of a control room, *Grounded* takes us on a journey of self-discovery, identity, and morality. Hopkins comments about the nature of this solo show stating, "This production deals with the desensitization of flying fighter planes over Nevada compared to Afghanistan. What happens to a person's psyche in these circumstances?" Runs March 22-April 2.

Tickets may be purchased from the FST Box Office in person or by calling 366-9000 or at www.floridastudiotheatre.org.

The Van Wezel

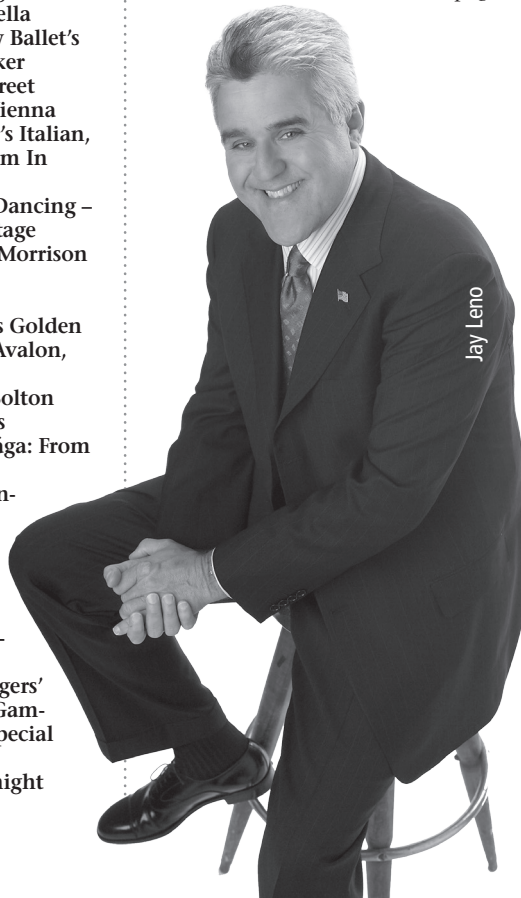
The Van Wezel offers Broadway shows, classical performances, dancing stars and returning family favorites. A highlight of this year's season will be Steve Martin, Martin Short, accompanied by Martin's Grammy winning bluegrass band Steep Canyon Rangers. This show is the featured performance of The 2017 Van Wezel Foundation Gala.

■ **December 7:** Fame - The Musical
■ **December 10:** The Oak Ridge Boys' Christmas Celebration Tour
■ **December 12:** The Beach Boys - 50 Years Of Good Vibrations, Christmas & Hits
■ **December 13:** Garrison Keillor
■ **December 21:** A Christmas Carol
■ **December 27-28:** Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella
■ **December 29:** Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker
■ **December 30:** 42nd Street
■ **January 3:** Salute To Vienna
■ **January 5:** My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm In Therapy
■ **January 10-11:** Dirty Dancing - The Classic Story On Stage
■ **January 12:** Matthew Morrison With Seth Rudetsky
■ **January 13:** Jay Leno
■ **January 14:** Dick Fox's Golden Boys Starring Frankie Avalon, Fabian, Bobby Rydell
■ **January 15:** Michael Bolton
■ **January 17:** Elvis Lives
■ **January 18:** Zoltán Mága: From Budapest With Love
■ **January 19:** Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra With Wynton Marsalis
■ **January 22:** Adam Trent: The Futurist
■ **January 24-26:** Riverdance - The 20th Anniversary World Tour
■ **January 27:** Kenny Rogers' Final World Tour The Gambler's Last Deal With Special Guest Linda Davis
■ **January 28:** Gladys Knight

■ **January 29:** Johnny Mathis - Live In Concert
■ **February 1:** Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons
■ **February 2:** *A British Invasion: The Boston Pops Plays The Beatles*
■ **February 6:** Sex Tips For Straight Women From A Gay Guy
■ **February 7:** Itzhak Perlman
■ **February 8:** An Evening Of Classic Lily Tomlin.
■ **February 9:** The Philadelphia Orchestra, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Music Director
■ **February 10:** Steve Martin & Martin Short: An Evening You Will Forget For The Rest Of Your Life With The Steep Canyon Rangers
■ **February 14:** Neil Berg 108 Years Of Broadway
■ **February 15:** Twyla Tharp, Fiftieth Anniversary Tour
■ **February 17-18:** Pippin
■ **February 19:** The Manhattan Transfer And Take 6 A
■ **February 21:** Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
■ **February 23:** Lang Lang
■ **February 27:** Jackie Evancho
■ **February 28:** The Russian National Ballet Theatre
■ **March 1:** Leonard Slatkin At The Helm, The Orchestre National De Lyon
■ **March 2:** Smokey Robinson
■ **March 5:** Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs!
■ **March 7:** Taj Express
■ **March 12:** An Intimate Evening With Kristin Chenoweth
■ **March 14-15:** Annie
■ **March 17:** "Once" the musical
■ **March 21:** The Jive Aces
■ **March 23:** Shadowland By Pilibolus
■ **March 25 & 26:** "'Chicago'
■ **March 27:** Nitty Gritty Dirt Band
■ **March 28:** Momix
■ **April 4:** Menopause The Musical
■ **April 5:** Rhapsody & Rhythm The Gershwin Concert Experience
■ **April 7:** Neil Sedaka
■ **April 8:** Rain: A Tribute To The Beatles
■ **April 12:** Chris Botti
■ **April 13:** The Four Tops And The Temptations
■ **April 18:** Under The Streetlamp
■ **April 19:** David Sedaris
■ **April 20:** Alton Brown
■ **April 23:** One Night Of Queen
■ **April 25-30:** Kinky Boots

Call the Box Office at 941-953-3368 or order tickets at www.vanwezel.org.

continued on next page



Jay Leno

Salute to the Arts

Performing Arts Schedules 2016-17: part 2: continued



Gloria Musicae Singers

Gloria Musicae

■ **December 11**—Sarasota Opera House. Gospel version of Handel's Messiah, in collaboration with the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe.

■ **January 22**—Brahms Beyond the Lullaby—4 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, Sarasota 7750 S Beneva Rd, Sarasota. Presenting two works by Brahms *Liebesslieder Walzer* and *Zigeunerweisen*.

■ **March 5**—Faithfully French Choral Gems Verdi Requiem Voices of Freedom at 7 p.m. at First Church 104 S Pineapple Ave, Sarasota. Two favorite French works Duruflé Requiem and Poulenc Gloria.

■ **April 23**—One of Verdi's most masterful works in partnership with: Master Chorale of Tampa Bay & The Sarasota Orchestra. 4:30 p.m. at Sarasota Opera House.

■ **July 4 at 4:30 p.m.**—at First Church, Sarasota, 104 S Pineapple Ave, Sarasota. Gloria Musicae's annual patriotic salute.

Tickets: 941-387-6046 or visit www.GloriaMusicae.org.

The Circus Arts Conservatory

Upcoming shows include:

■ **Sailor Circus 2016 Holiday Performances** December 26 - 29, 8 performances only. Celebrate with the whole family at this annual circus production featuring students ages 8-18.

■ **Circus Sarasota 2017 Performances** February 10 - March 5, 2017. Extra week of performances added by popular demand! Legendary Nik Walenda will headline a show that features an impressive array of international circus artists.

■ **Cirque Des Voix: Circus of the Voices** March 24 - 26, 2017. Only 3 shows. World-class circus artists combine with the 100+ voices of the Key Chorale and the musical mastery of the 30-piece Cirque Orchestra.

■ **Sailor Circus 2017 Spring Performances** April 11-15, 2017. 6 performances only. The Greatest 'Little' Show on Earth presents the 68th annual spring production featuring 100+ youth performers.

For more information, call 941-355-9805. The Big Top is located at the SE corner of University Town Center Mall, 140 University Town Center Drive, Sarasota. Tickets and info are at www.circusarts.org.

La Musica International Chamber Music Festival

La Musica International Chamber Music Festival runs April 3-12. Visit www.lamusicafestival.org or call 366-8450, ext. 3.

3rd Annual Suncoast Blues Festival

The 3rd Annual Suncoast Blues Festival will be held January 27-28, 2017 at the Sarasota Fairgrounds, 3000 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota.

■ **January 27:**

- **Balkun Brothers**, who some say is blues the way that Black Crowes, Allman Brothers and Gov't Mule play it.
- **Jordan Patterson** is blessed with a to-die-for voice and has a wit and personality that make him a major star in the making.
- **Chris Duarte** plays passionate, intense blues psychedelia/jam jazz guitar in your face.

■ **January 28:**

- **Tommy Z** is an award-winning and critically acclaimed guitarist/singer/songwriter/producer from Western New York. He has been described as a "blues treasure" by Jim Santella (WBFO) and in 2007 was inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame.
- **Charles Wilson's** music is as timeless as James Carr, Johnny Adams and Al Green oozing soul and blues and has the bloodline and the talent to deserve his title as "The Crown Prince of Soul".
- **Annika Chambers**, 2015 Blues Music Award Nominee, performs soulful, heartwarming and ground stomping tunes. She leads her high-energy blues band from Texas like nobody's business.
- **Studebaker John**, or John Grimaldi, hails from Chicago and rocks his audiences with some amazing fret work and harmonica that only a Chicago-blues-born musician can pull off.
- **Carl Weathersby** was born in Mississippi and moved to Chicago to perfect his chops. He mixes Southern charm, soulful vocals and fierce guitar playing that exemplifies true grit.
- **Selwyn Birchwood** is a 30-something blues guitarist, vocalist and songwriter from Tampa. He was the winner of the Blues Foundation's 2013 International Blues Challenge, as well the winner of the Albert King Guitarist of the Year award, presented at the same event.

There will be plenty of food, beer, beverages and a wide variety of shopping booths. After Parties: The 5'O Clock Club at 1930 Hillview, Sarasota and Aces Live at 4343 Palma Sola Blvd. off Cortez Road West in Bradenton.

Tickets: call: (941) 758-7585. Visit suncoastbluesfestival.com.

GuitarSarasota

GuitarSarasota has its 2017 International Classical Guitar Concert Series. All Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.

■ **Saturday, February 4, 2017:**

Thibaut Garcia - France
 ■ **Saturday, February 25, 2017:** Marco Sartor - Uruguay
 ■ **Saturday, March 18, 2017:** Duo KM: Klingenberg & Montes - Germany and Chile
 ■ **Saturday, April 1, 2017:** Manuel Barrueci - Cuba



Individual Tickets available from December 18 until noon on the day of each concert. All remaining tickets are available at the door, the day of the concert from 7 p.m. No credit cards. Tickets: \$25 members; \$30 non-members. Student Tickets (\$5 day of concert - door only - cash only from 7:15 p.m.)

GuitarSarasota has its 2017 Mini-Concert & Lecture Series. Series includes professional musicians from Sarasota/Bradenton, Miami, Tallahassee, and beyond. Starts at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at Crocker Memorial Church in Pioneer Park, 1260 12th Street, Sarasota. Free and open to the public, no reservations. Seating is open, available on a first come, first served basis. Host is Dr. Zachary Johnson of GuitarSarasota who introduces guests and engages the audience in an enlightening conversation with the artists. This is not your usual concert format.

- **Monday, December 12:** Jimmy Moore - Classical Guitar and Folk Music Arrangements
- **Monday, January 9:** Joe Shields - Classical Guitar
- **Monday, February 13:** Kevin Mandeville - classical guitar
- **Monday, March 13:** Lyndall Vickers - classical guitar
- **Monday, April 10:** Community and Youth Showcase

Info: www.guitarsarasota.org. For information call 941-362-2991.

Sarasota Contemporary Dance

Sarasota Contemporary Dance (SCD) is into its 11th season, which "promises to be filled with energy and passion," says Artistic Director Leymis Bolaños-Wilmott. Through May, the company will keep up its momentum of bringing innovative contemporary dance to the community with a variety of performances that feature Jazz, and nationally acclaimed dancers and choreographers, as well as emerging choreographers.

■ **Voices of Sarasota Contemporary Dance.** December 1-4. The Voices annual spectacle is a hallmark of the company's

approach to dance--full of movement, physical enjoyment, thought, and moments of delight and absolute hilarity. Our audiences are eager for works by emerging choreographers, work that expands the boundaries of art, the company's performances break new ground. Original and adventurous, these pieces presented are choreographed by company members and emerging choreographers chosen during our summer festival to expand their works for the main stage.

■ **Dance Makers - 11th Annual Concert.** February 9-12. This show features imaginative dance pieces by nationally acclaimed contemporary choreographers Michael Foley, Doug Gillespie, and Adele Myers. SCD is proud of the caliber of choreographers gathered to present. These works are selected by the Artistic Director not only to present the strength, power, charm, and diversity of our company, but also to fulfill our mission of presenting a range of contemporary dance for a multi-generational and multi-cultural audience in our community.

■ **Evolving/Revolving.** May 11-14. Remembering dancers and choreographers who have graced our stage as well as ones that are nationally celebrated, this concert is a mixture of re-staged favorites by Alyson Dolan (recent winner of the Austin Critics Best-Dancer Award), and includes new works by Sarasota's local Hip-Hop sensation Kris Tetris Powell and former Sarasota Ballet stalwart Sayward Grindley.

Held at Jane B. Cook Theater at the FSU Center for the Performing Arts at the FSU Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets: 941-359-0099.

GPAC—The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch

■ **Nate Najar's Jazz Holiday** on December 16 at 8 p.m. Features the wonderful Molly Ryan on vocals, Dan Levinson on clarinet, James Suggs on trumpet, John Lamb on bass and Mark Feinman on drums. We'll be swinging some Holiday favorites along with Bossa Nova and as usual a healthy dose of Ellington, including some of my adaptations from the Ellington/Strayhorn Nutcracker.Co-Produced by the GPAC and South County Jazz Club.

■ **Hunter & Doe** on January 13 at 8 p.m. Two of Canada's most versatile performers come together in Hunter & Doe to create an unusually magical blend of percussive guitar, agile vocals, dynamic fiddle playing, and fiercely rhythmic tap footwork. The explosive duet of Stephanie Cadman, a world renowned step-dancer and a fierce fiddler, and Jeremy Walmsley, a multi-instrumentalist and a stellar high tenor, is breaking musical boundaries and giving birth to a new, electric fusion of sound. Fierce fiddle, guitar, vocals and tap will fire up this winter eve.

■ **wild carrot** on January 18 at 8 p.m. Can you play a 1930s standard followed by a traditional tune from the 1800s and then

launch into a song written just last week? Pam Temple and Spencer Funk of the award-winning, Cincinnati-based duo wild carrot can! Rooted in traditional American music, their music reaches to jazz, blues, traditional folk songs, not-so-traditional songs, show tunes, and originals. Blending guitar, mandolin, concertina, penny whistle, dulcimer, and bowed psaltery, wild carrot's entertaining, honest, and moving performances have something for everyone.

Held at The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch, 7333 Scotland Way, Sarasota. Info: 941-552-5325.

Looking Ahead to Summer 2017

Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training will present the inaugural season of Dog Days Theatre for summer 2017, a new theater project offering smart, contemporary works just light enough for the dog days of summer. Each July and August two plays will be mounted in the Cook Theatre using professional actors, directors and designers from the community and around the country along with the talents of the Conservatory's graduate students.

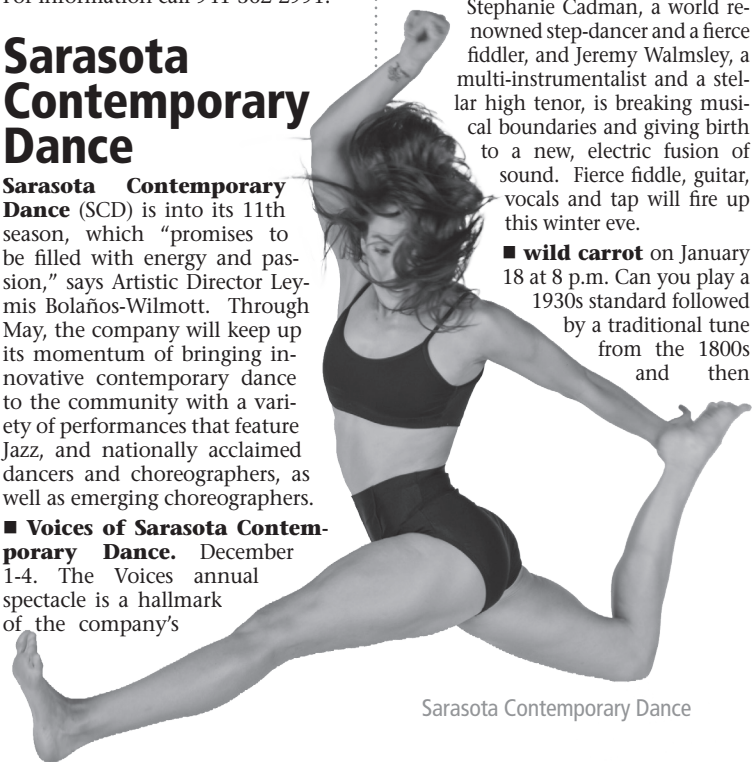
The **season opens July 12, 2017** at 7:30 p.m. with Tony Award and Laurence Olivier Award-winning playwright Alan Ayckbourn's British comedy *Relatively Speaking*, which runs through July 30. It is followed by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright's stage adaptation of James M. Cain's *Double Indemnity*, the crime novel which inspired the groundbreaking film noir of the same name. *Double Indemnity* opens August 9 at 7:30 p.m. and runs through August 27.

"Dog Days Theatre promises an inaugural season of unmissable theatre," said Greg Leaming, Director of the FSU/Asolo Conservatory. "It was founded to engage artists and audiences in an edgy and exciting alternative to the reduced theatre offerings in this culturally rich community during the summer months. It is also a perfect way to expand the footprint of the Conservatory in Sarasota and provide even more opportunities for our students to demonstrate their talents. All in all, the season will offer high quality, professionally-produced theatre that is artistically and emotionally compelling, yet light enough to make it the perfect summer outing."

Ayckbourn's first big London hit in 1967, *Relatively Speaking* tells the comical tale of Greg and Ginny, a young couple who have only known each other for a month but are already talking marriage. When Ginny heads off to visit her parents, Greg decides to drop in by surprise to ask her father for his daughter's hand. He discovers a scribbled address and arrives at the home of Philip and Sheila enjoying a peaceful Sunday morning breakfast in the garden. Turns out that Ginny has gone to visit her ex and Philp and Sheila are not Ginny's parents. Hilarious imbroiglio ensues. The result is a beautifully crafted milestone of British theatre and an evening of pure enjoyment.

A guy. A dame. A scam. A corpse. They're the standard ingredients of the classic noir films of the 30s and 40s, and *Double Indemnity*'s steamy tale of love and murder is the undisputed masterpiece. Insurance agent Walter Huff has nosed around the business long enough to smell a scam, so when he meets Phyllis Nirdlinger to talk about her husband's insurance coverage, he gets a perfumed whiff of trouble he can't resist.

Tickets are available by calling 941-351-8000, visiting www.asolorep.org, or visiting the Asolo Repertory Theatre Box Office, located at 5555 North Tamiami Trail in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts. Summer box office hours are Monday-Friday 10am-5pm.



Sarasota Contemporary Dance