

# Season highlights, picks, must-sees

## Arts and events we think you'd like to know about...

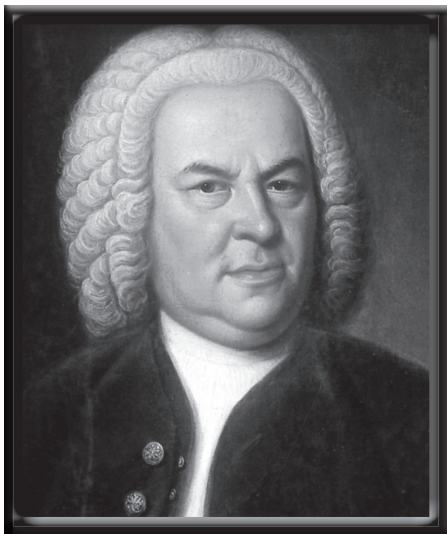
### A Musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda BEFORE Hamilton

★ **Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe** opened its season with *In the Heights*, with music and lyrics by Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda and the book written by Quiara Alegria Hudes. The show runs through November 19.

A decade before Hamilton took Broadway, Miranda had already achieved success with *In the Heights*, the show that won the Best Musical Tony Award in 2008, along with three other Tonys and the Grammy for Best Musical Show Album. *In the Heights* takes place in the mostly Latino Washington Heights neighborhood of Upper Manhattan, where Miranda (who is largely of Puerto Rican descent) himself grew up.

The production tells the story of a Latino community where the corner

**Instrumental Bach,** A selection of violin and harpsichord selections, including Sonatas in A Major and C minor, French Suite for Harpsichord in B minor, with Thea Lobo, mezzo-soprano, Blake Friedman, tenor,



Johann Sebastian Bach



Usnavi (Michael Mendez) and Vanessa (Marissa Buchheit) enjoy a flirtatious moment.

Photo by Vutti Photography

bodega serves the sweetest coffee, the hair salon is gossip central, and the residents chase the American dream while clinging to their roots. The musical pulsates with a spirited hip-hop beat and Latin-infused rhythms. The cast includes popular WBTT artist Michael Mendez in the lead role as Usnavi.

Tickets: Call the Box Office at 941-366-1505 or go to westcoastblacktheatre.org.

### Bachfest @Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota

★ **Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota's** season highlights include "*BachFest Sarasota*," a five-day festival at a variety of venues, November 15-19.

• **BachFest Sarasota: "Intimate,**

Mark Kroll, harpsichord and Carol Lieberman, violin. **November 16, 7 p.m.**, at Church of the Redeemer, 222 South Palm Ave., Sarasota.

• **BachFest Sarasota: "Pipe Organ: King of Instruments"** with organists Ann Stephenson-Moe, Richard Benedum and Cynthia Roberts-Greene. **November 17, noon**, also at Church of the Redeemer.

• **BachFest Sarasota: "Bach to the Future with Ji"**: Hailed by the Chicago Tribune as "a gifted young pianist who is clearly going places," Young Concert Artists pianist Ji performs a program of artful Bach arrangements that includes "Chaconne," English Suite in G minor, and transcriptions of the E Major Partita for Violin. **November 17, 7 p.m.**, at Historic Asolo Theater.

• **BachFest Sarasota: "Bach: Mass in B Minor"** is a presentation of the



Young Concert Artists pianist Ji

Choral Artists of Sarasota. This monumental work, arguably the finest in western musical literature, is the choral feature of the festival, performed by Choral Artists of Sarasota, and soloists include Adelaide Boedcker, Thea Lobo, Blake Friedman and Calvin Griffin. **November 18, 4 p.m.** and **November 19, 7:30 p.m.**, also at Church of the Redeemer. Tickets: 941-306-1200 or visit [artistseriesconcerts.org](http://artistseriesconcerts.org).

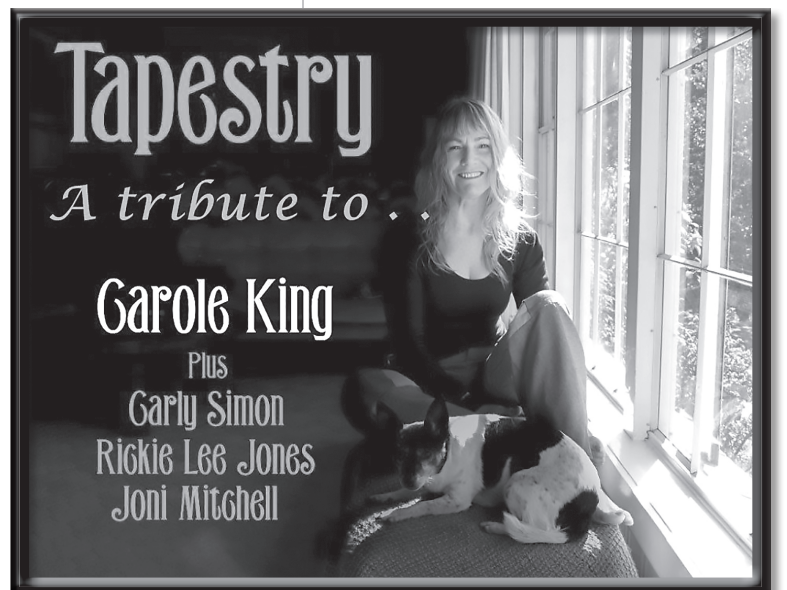
### Blasts from the Past

★ **The Van Wezel** has two female performers music lovers from the sixties

will love: **Janis Joplin** and **Carole King**. Except, they won't actually be there...

• **A Night with Janis Joplin** is on **January 8, 2018**. It's a musical journey celebrating Janis and her biggest musical influences—icons like Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Odetta, Nina Simone and Bessie Smith, who inspired one of rock & roll's greatest legends. The show features a remarkable cast performing such unforgettable songs as "Me and Bobby McGee," "Piece of My Heart," "Mercedes Benz," "Cry Baby" and "Summertime."

• **Tapestry: Tribute To Carole King** is on **January 23, 2018** and faithfully recreates the glorious sound of a Carole King concert, leaving you with memories of the music she wrote and recorded, including "You've Got a Friend," "Take Good Care of My Baby," "It's Too Late," "Beautiful" and "I Feel the Earth Move." Her 1971 album



Tapestry remained the best-selling album by a female artist for a quarter century, and King went on to amass three other platinum and seven gold albums. *Tapestry: Tribute to Carole King* is performed with a live band and multimedia images.

Tickets: visit [www.vanwezel.org](http://www.vanwezel.org).

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season highlights, picks, must-sees... continued

# A Big Play on an International Scale at FST

★ **Florida Studio Theatre's** Main-stage season culminates with the world premiere of Sarah Bierstock's **Honor Killing**, which opens in the Gompertz Theatre on **April 6**. Allisyn Davis, an



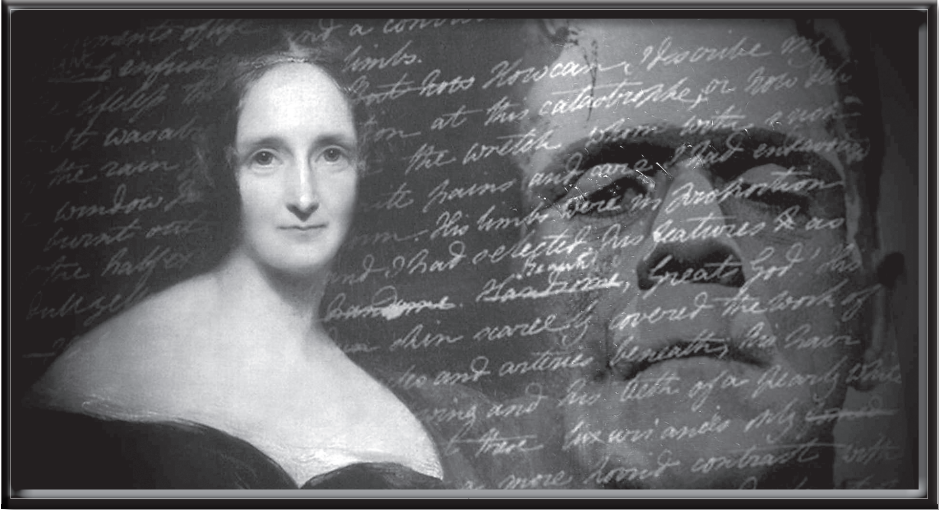
Sarah Bierstock

American reporter for The New York Times, heads to Pakistan to cover the honor killing of a young woman. Through a series of cultural collisions, candid interviews, and dangerous encounters, she learns the details of this event, and faces her own demons and judgments. One culture mirrors the other, asking questions about forgiveness, self-worth, and justice.

Honor Killing first appeared on the FST stage during the Richard and Betty Burdick Reading Series as part of the 2017 Sarasota Festival of New Plays. Richard Hopkins expands on the choice to bring this show to the Mainstage stating, "It's been in the development process for a couple of years now, and we feel it's ready for prime time. It's a big play that is on an international scale, starting in America, but then quickly going to Dubai, to Afghanistan, to different parts of the Mideast. It's also a high tech show. There's a lot of video and it's fun to get to watch this reporter who's a high-end educated investigative reporter dealing with an issue that's close to her heart. It's a good mystery and a good thriller." Tickets: [www.floridastudiotheatre.org](http://www.floridastudiotheatre.org).

## IT'S ALIVE!

★ 2018 is the 200th anniversary of the publication of **Frankenstein** and **New College** will be marking this milestone by using Mary Shelley's influential work as the basis of John Cage's **Circus On**, a template for turning text into a performance. **"It's Alive! a Monstrous Circus On Frankenstein"** will be a live, multimedia presentation, sprawling



"It's Alive! a Monstrous Circus On Frankenstein" — March 4, 2018

over the outdoor Koski Plaza and all levels of New College's ACE building. New College students, faculty and staff, abetted by ensemblenewSRQ, will sing, declaim, emote, dance, perform and wreak general havoc. *Come see the monster if you dare!* A Monstrous Circus On Frankenstein is on **March 4, 2018**, 4 p.m., in Koski Plaza/ACE Building. Cost: \$15. Pre-concert talk: **7:30 p.m.** Artist conversation: Thursday, March 1, 2018, 5 p.m., ACE Building lounge (free).

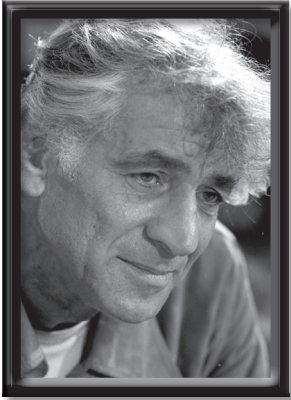
## Sarasota Orchestra

★ **Highlights of the Masterworks** series include a performance by violinist **Midori** and the celebration of composer **Leonard Bernstein**. Midori joins the Sarasota Orchestra for an intensely romantic concert. In tribute to the 100th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's birth, Midori interprets his



Violinist Midori

Love of nature is the central theme for Beethoven's famous "Pastoral" Symphony. You'll envision musical nymphs and centaurs frolicking through the countryside and the perfect peace found in a pastoral setting. Rossini's Barber of Seville Overture, from the famous opera, a comedic love story, is full of zest and whimsy.



Leonard Bernstein

Midori Honors Bernstein will be performed **February 22** at Neel Pac and **February 23-25** at the Van Wezel with Michael Balke, Conductor.

Tickets: [www.sarasotaorchestra.org](http://www.sarasotaorchestra.org).

## Working to Close the Gender Gap in Technology

★ **Ringling College's Town Hall Lecture Series** has **Reshma Saujani** on **April 9** at the Van Wezel. Saujani

is the founder and CEO of Girls Who Code, a national non-profit organization working to close the gender gap in technology. Through its summer immersion programs and clubs, Girls Who Code is leading the movement to inspire, educate, and equip young women with the computing skills to pursue 21st Century opportunities. Saujani began her career as an attorney and activist. In 2010, she surged onto the political scene as the first Indian American woman to run for U.S. Congress. During the race, Saujani visited local schools and saw the gender gap in computing classes firsthand, which led her to start Girls Who Code.



Started in 2012, the organization has grown to reach 40,000 girls in every state by the end of 2016. This year, Girls Who Code will run 78 Summer Immersion Programs and 1500 Clubs.

The results speak for themselves: 90 percent of alumnae have declared or intend to declare a major or minor in computer science. Saujani's TED talk, "Teach Girls Bravery, Not Perfection," has more than three million views and has sparked a national conversation about how we're raising our girls. She is also the author of the groundbreaking new book, *Women Who Don't Wait In Line*. Saujani is a graduate of the University of Illinois, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and Yale Law School. She's been named one of Fortune's "World's Greatest Leaders," Fortune's 40 under 40, a Wall Street Journal Magazine "Innovator of the Year," one of the 50 Most Powerful Women in New York by the New York Daily News, and CNBC's Next List, Forbes's Most Powerful Women Changing the World among many other recognitions. Tickets: [www.rclassociation.org/purchase-tickets/](http://www.rclassociation.org/purchase-tickets/).

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Reshma Saujani, founder and CEO of Girls Who Code

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## Asolo Plays on Women's Issues

★ In March **Asolo Rep** has **ROE**— Lisa Loomer's play about Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 case that legalized abortion, changed the face of women's rights, and divided a nation. ROE sheds light on the difficult choices women make and the passion each side has for its cause. ROE will be directed by Lavina Jadhvani, who assisted director Bill Rauch during the play's world premiere at Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2016, and will run in rotating rep from **March 14 through April 14**.

Directed by Greg Leaming, Asolo Rep Associate Artistic Director and Director of the FSU/Asolo Conservatory, Obie Award-winner Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' Gloria opens April 6 in the Cook Theatre. A group of burnt-out millennials can't manage to get ahead at one of



Alfred Eisenstaedt, 1898-1995, Gloria Swanson and her husband Michael Farmer, 1932, Gelatin silver print

The photographs on exhibition, part of The Ringling's permanent collection, present subjects both notable and obscure. While only a fraction of the thousands of images Eisenstaedt created in his lifetime, they offer a glimpse into the work of one of the most celebrated photojournalists. Alfred Eisenstaedt: Defining Moments runs **November 18-March 18, 2018** at The Ringling.



New York's most esteemed cultural magazines — and they're not afraid to spend their days voicing their complaints to one another. When a seemingly normal day at the office turns out to be anything but, these aspiring journalists are given inspiration in a way they never expected. A Pulitzer Prize-finalist and one of The New York Times Best Theater Picks of 2015, Gloria runs through April 29, 2018.

## One of the Luminaries of American Photojournalism

★ **Alfred Eisenstaedt** was one of the luminaries of American photojournalism. The German-born Eisenstaedt learned his craft in Europe in the 1920s and 30s, pioneering the use of the small Leica 35mm camera to get closer to his subjects and create more candid pictures.

Fleeing the rise of fascism in the 1930s, Eisenstaedt came to the US where he became one of the first photojournalists of LIFE Magazine, the weekly newsmagazine that chronicled the twentieth century in pictures. His career at LIFE photographing the notable and newsworthy, spanned nearly 40 years and resulted in some of the most iconic images of the era.



Elsa Schiaparelli & Salvador Dalí

## First-ever: Elsa Schiaparelli and Salvador Dalí at the Dalí Museum

★ The works of two celebrated artists **Dalí** and **Schiaparelli** are at **The Dalí Museum** in St. Petersburg through **January 14, 2018**. It's the first

exhibition dedicated to the creative relationship and masterpieces of **Elsa Schiaparelli** and **Salvador Dalí**. The exhibit, presented in collaboration by The Dalí Museum and Schiaparelli Paris, explores how each artist's innovative approach both delighted and shocked the worlds of fashion and art. Sensuality and a daring beauty were trademarks of their collaborations. Dalí & Schiaparelli will feature Haute Couture gowns and accessories, jewelry, paintings, drawings, objects and photos, as well as new designs by Maison Schiaparelli design director Bertrand Guyon.

The Dalí Museum is located at One Dalí Boulevard, St. Petersburg. For additional information, visit [TheDali.org](http://TheDali.org).

## The Sarasota Ballet's Principal Film Series

★ **The Sarasota Ballet** kicks off **The Principal Film Series** which invites audiences to explore the world of dance through cinema and gain a special insight into the history of ballet. The four films featured during the Season are Nancy Buirski's **Afternoon of a Faun** — **Tanaquil Le Clercq**; performance highlights of **Kate Honea**, **Principal Dancer of The Sarasota Ballet**; the National Gallery of Art presentation of **Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes** narrated by Tilda Swinton and a feature on famed French **Choreographer Roland Petit**.

The Principal Film Series kicks off with Kate Honea, Principal of The Sarasota Ballet on **November 13, 2017**. Join her as she shows clips from some of her favorite on-stage roles so far at The Sarasota Ballet and reveals the hard work and dedication required for a dancer to prepare for each performance. Starts at 6 p.m. at the FSU Center for the Performing Arts in Studio 1.

The series continues with Roland Petit, *Defining a New French Chic* on



Kate Honea

**February 12, 2018**. The creative figure in France's post-war ballet, Roland Petit was responsible for defining a new French chic and erotic frankness in dance, typified above all by his wife, the glamorous star Zizi Jeanmaire.

Diaghilev And The Ballets Russes is on **March 12, 2018**. Conceived by impresario Sergei Diaghilev, the Ballets Russes is regarded as the most influential ballet company of the 20th century, in part because it promoted ground-breaking artistic collaborations among young choreographers, composers, designers, and dancers, all at the forefront of their fields.

Afternoon of a Faun, Tanaquil Le Clercq, is on **April 2, 2018**. Of all the great ballerinas, Tanaquil Le Clercq may have been the most transcendent. She mesmerized viewers and choreographers alike, becoming a muse to two of the greatest choreographers in dance, George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. At the age of 27, she was struck down by polio and paralyzed. She never danced again.

For information, visit [www.SarasotaBallet.org](http://www.SarasotaBallet.org).

## Hurry – This One's on November 11

★ **The Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus & Orchestra** (AMICCO) has its **Symphony on the Sand**, a musical and gourmet event featuring the Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus & Orchestra

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### The Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus & Orchestra's Symphony on the Sand



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on **Nov. 11 from 4:30-7:30 p.m.** on the beach at Coquina Gulfside Park, 2650 Gulf Drive South, Anna Maria Island.

Jeanie Pickwick, Executive Director of AMICCO and Chair of the Symphony on the Sand Steering Committee: "We return in 2017 to a one-night only concert, featuring our signature event Symphony on the Sand. Join us in honoring our courageous Veterans on Saturday, Nov. 11, and enjoy a great visit to Anna Maria Island to experience what we have in abundance – extraordinary music, delicious food, spectacular beaches, art walks, live theatre and a great sense of community."

The Arts will be celebrated as the season kicks off with the 11th Annual artsHOP this second weekend in November on Anna Maria Island. Events include a Friday evening gallery walk with more than a dozen art galleries and retail locations participating, including Island Gallery West, The Artists' Guild Gallery, and Anna Maria Island Art League. The Island Players of Anna Maria will present performances of special play.

Attendees at Saturday Nov. 11 Symphony on the Sand concert will enjoy small plates created by local restaurants. Dining offerings include a salad course, several entrée selections, and a delicious dessert with complimentary fine wine and select beers at \$125. Other ticket options: \$50 tickets (without food, with vouchers for 2 drinks coupons per ticket) for individual Chairs and a \$20 option to bring your own chair or blanket to sit inside a roped-off area, closer to the stage. A cash bar and concessionaire food are available for \$50 and \$20 ticket purchasers. Purchasing tickets early is advised. *Note: bringing alcoholic beverages onto the beach is prohibited.*

This concert is a ticketed event and is held rain or shine. Tickets: [www.SymphonyOnTheSand.com](http://www.SymphonyOnTheSand.com) and [www.amicco.org](http://www.amicco.org).

## Woody Allen Set to Music?

★ **Bullets Over Broadway** is at The Players Centre February 22 – March 11, 2018. Loaded with big laughs, colorful characters and the songs that made the '20s roar, this show brings musical comedy back with a bang. Based on the screenplay of the 1994 film by Woody Allen, this musical is a love letter to the Golden Age of Broadway. A straight-arrow playwright plans



to stand firm against compromising his work, but quickly abandons that stance when his producer finds a backer to mount his show on Broadway.

The Players Centre For Performing Arts is at 838 N. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota. Tickets: [www.theplayers.org](http://www.theplayers.org).

## Voices of Sarasota Contemporary Dance

★ "Our annual spectacle, 'Voices' is a hallmark of the company's approach to dance," says Bolaños Wilmott, Artistic Director of Sarasota Contemporary Dance. "It is full of physicality, thought, and delight." Original and adventurous, the works presented are choreographed by



Voices of Sarasota Contemporary Dance

company members and emerging choreographers from around the country.

In this performance, four Emerging Choreographers, selected by adjudication from SCD's Summer Intensive Program, will have the opportunity to expand and set their work for the main stage. "This idea of fostering emerging choreographic voices is beginning to attract more and more attention to our performances. Our local audiences also want to see the future choreographers of contemporary dance as they are just blossoming" says Bolaños Wilmott.

**Voices of Sarasota Contemporary Dance** runs November 30–December 3. All performances will be held at the Jane B. Cook Theater at the FSU Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets: 941.359.0099 or [www.sarasotacontemporarydance.org](http://www.sarasotacontemporarydance.org).

## New Speaker Series at Manatee Village Historical Park

★ There's a new Florida Humanities Speaker Series at **Manatee Village Historical Park**. Here's the schedule: • "Making Chief Osceola: The Abolitionists and the Rise of an American



Brendan Burke will present "Lighthouses of the Sunshine State" on February 8, 2018

**Myth**" presented by Dr. Andrew Frank on **Thursday, November 16, 5:30 p.m.**

• "Florida Transportation History: Planes, Trains & Automobiles (& Steamboats too!)" presented by Dr. Steven Noll on **Thursday, January 18, 2017, 5:30 p.m.**

• "Florida in the Civil War? Believe it!" presented by Eliot Kleinberg on **Saturday, January 27, 2 p.m.**

• "Lighthouses of the Sunshine State" presented by Brendan Burke on **Thursday, February 8, 2018, 5:30 p.m.**

• "Doc Anna: Swamp Doctor of Florida" presented by Carrie Sue Ayvar on **Thursday, March 22, 5:30 p.m.**

Lectures will be held at Manatee Village Historical Park, 1404 Manatee Avenue East (State Road 64) in Bradenton. Admission is FREE and open to the public. For more information, call 941-749-7165 or visit: [www.manateevillage.org](http://www.manateevillage.org).

## Launch of Patricia Gussin's New Book

★ On **Thursday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m. Bookstore1** will host the Launch of **Patricia Gussin's** new book. Gussin's newest novel is **Come Home**. Here's what it's about: Torn between two cultures—allegiance to two families—a child in the middle. Nicole Nelson and Ahmed Masud are a dynamic, highly successful Philadelphia couple. They are partners in a thriving plastic surgery practice, are very much in love, and they adore their young son, Alex. But cracks are beginning to appear in their fairy-tale life: lingering post-9/11 prejudice against Arab men, accumulating malpractice lawsuits for Ahmed, and most recently, pressure from Ahmed's wealthy family in Cairo for him to return to Egypt—permanently—with his son. The Masud family pressure becomes

a demand as the Hosni Mubarak regime is seriously threatened by protestors in Egypt. Ahmed's family owes their control of the Egyptian cotton empire directly to Mubarak cronyism. If Mubarak goes down, the Masuds will surely lose their wealth, maybe even their lives. They need Ahmed back in Egypt to implement their plan to move their fortune and family out of Egypt and into South America. Ahmed must make a decision—stay with Nicole in America or obey his father. And what about their son? Tragic consequences, which Ahmed could have never foreseen, propel both the Masud family and the Nelson family on a path toward unspeakable tragedy.



Patricia Gussin

New York Times and USA Today best-selling author Patricia Gussin has practiced medicine and has worked in medical research as worldwide vice president for a leading healthcare products company. Gussin's first novel, *Shadow of Death*, was a finalist for Best First Novel by International Thriller Writers. *Twisted Justice*, *The Test*, and *Then There Was One*, winner of the Florida State Book Award, followed. *Come Home* is Gussin's seventh novel.

She lives in Longboat Key, Florida, and in Amagansett, New York with her husband, Dr. Robert Gussin, and together they co-authored *What's Next... For You?*

More event info at [www.sarasota-books.com](http://www.sarasota-books.com) or 941-365-7900.

## Expect More Blues in 2018

★ **The 4th annual Suncoast Blues Festival** is on **March 3, 2018** at the Sarasota Fairgrounds. The six headlining artists for this year's festival are: **James Armstrong, Andrew Jr. Boy Jones, Doug Macleod, Thornetta Davis, Lurrie Bell** and **Monster Mike Welch & Mike Ledbetter Band**.

The event is held rain or shine. Free parking. **Gates will open at 10 a.m.** on Saturday. Showtimes: **11 a.m. to 7 p.m.** Info: [suncoastbluesfestival.com](http://suncoastbluesfestival.com) or call 941-758-7585. 📞