



## President's Message

Ellen Schneider



Now that we have both feet firmly planted in the new year, the Symphony Society's calendar is chock full of fundraising and FUN activities. It's also the busiest time of the concert season, so we can be energized by the wonderful music of our Orchestra! Alas, we are still faced with the dreaded "cone of uncertainty" – no, not a hurricane, but the return of another COVID strain!

As I write this, we are going forward with most of our scheduled events, including luncheons and treats, relying on our members and all attendees to use personal responsibility to determine their attendance and whether to mask or not. Of course, we are also depending on the venues' decisions to remain open!

One major change is taking place:

**Our biggest fundraiser of the year, "The Year of the Tiger" gala has been moved from Wednesday, February 9 to Tuesday, March 22!**

All sponsors and ticket holders have been notified, but we hope that this change will encourage MORE members to feel easier about attending! Many volunteer hours have gone into planning this really fun fundraiser. Co-chairs Liz Marnul and Verena Schneider-Christians have a great evening planned for us so please, come, and bring your friends. ***Important note: complimentary valet parking will be provided at the door!*** (You don't have to worry about the tight parking at Cape Coral Yacht Club!) Read about the event change on pages 2 and 8!

The Marilyn Van Sickle Vocal Music Competition on February 5, and the Jillian Prescott Music Awards Competition on April 16, are going forward. If you would

like to help out with the many important but relatively easy tasks that go into these events, and have not been contacted personally as yet, PLEASE give me a call or email! No musical training is needed to help in these efforts that encourage young musicians!

After almost two years of staying close to home, aren't you ready to "**Spring into Fashion**" with our lively fundraising show from Razzle Dazzle? Always a colorful and lively showcase of glamorous apparel for all occasions, you will certainly not want to miss this Society fundraiser on Friday, March 4 (our regular meeting date). Bring your friends to fill a table! Purchase tickets at the February 4<sup>th</sup> Society luncheon or contact chairpersons Stacia Featherston or Sandy Magyar. (See information on page 3.)

It may seem our year is just getting started, but the Nominating Committee is at work lining up volunteers to fill the Executive and Board positions for the 2022-2023 Program Year! Our organization runs on the best power available: VOLUNTEER POWER! We need members to step up to help keep it running smoothly. Even if you are a snowbird, you can be an effective leader! Please consider how you can contribute to the continuing success of the Symphony Society. Contact our Nominating Committee: Anne Wardlow, Kim Wittstadt or Elle Clifford.

Don't forget to make space on your calendar to "Meet & Greet" the final two music director candidates prior to the Masterworks concerts in February and April. It's interesting to talk with these maestros and learn about their experiences!

Hope to see you at a Society event soon!

*Ellen*


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# YEAR OF THE *Tiger*

DISCOVER WHERE THEY ROAM THROUGH  
FOOD, DANCE, AND MUSIC. IN TURN  
SUPPORT THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BY  
ATTENDING THIS FABULOUS EVENT.





**TUE, MARCH 22, 2022**  
**5:30 PM DOORS OPEN**  
**CAPE CORAL YACHT CLUB**

*Sponsorship Levels* 

**SIBERIAN TIGER**  
**HOST & EVENT SPONSOR - \$1500**  
COMPLIMENTARY TABLE FOR SIX PEOPLE, A BOTTLE OF RAYMOND GENERATIONS WINE, FOR THE TABLE OR TO TAKE HOME, PREFERRED TABLE PLACEMENT, NAME IN PROGRAM, NAME MENTIONED FROM THE STAGE, NAME IN THE SWFLSS YEARBOOK AND WEBSITE IN THE 2022/23 SEASON, NAME ON SIGNAGE AT THE EVENT, 6 SETS OF RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE BASKET DRAWING, VALET PARKING.

**BENGAL TIGER**  
**VENUE & ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR - \$1000**  
TWO COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS TO EVENT, PREFERRED TABLE SEATING, ONE BOTTLE OF RAYMOND CABERNET SAUVIGNON FOR THE TABLE OR TO TAKE HOME, NAME IN PROGRAM, NAME MENTIONED FROM THE STAGE, NAME IN THE SWFLSS YEARBOOK AND WEBSITE IN THE 2022/23 SEASON, NAME ON SIGNAGE AT THE EVENT, 3 SETS OF RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE BASKET DRAWING, VALET PARKING.

**SUMATRAN TIGER**  
**BENEFACTOR - \$500**  
ONE COMPLIMENTARY TICKET TO EVENT, NAME IN PROGRAM, NAME IN THE SWFLSS YEARBOOK AND WEBSITE IN 2022/2023 SEASON, 1 SET OF RAFFLE TICKETS FOR BASKET DRAWING, NAME ON SIGNAGE AT THE EVENT, VALET PARKING.

**CASPIAN TIGER**  
**PARTNER - \$80 PER PERSON**  
COST FOR DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT AND VALET PARKING.

 **MALAYAN TIGER**  
**SUPPORTER**  
A GIFT FROM YOUR HEART, UNABLE TO ATTEND.

**TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:**  
☐ MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:  
THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SYMPHONY SOCIETY 7500 COLLEGE PARKWAY, SUITE 200, FT. MYERS, FL 33907.  
☐ CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AVAILABLE ON THE SWFL SYMPHONY SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE, CLICK EVENTS TAB TO REGISTER AND PAY.  
☐ WE CAN ALSO ACCEPT YOUR PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION VIA TELEPHONE BY CALLING (239) 333-4041.

Year of the Tiger event is only \$80 per person. That includes Dinner, Entertainment and Valet Parking!



## SPRING INTO FASHION

*A fashion show by Razzle Dazzle  
of Cape Coral*

**March 4, 2022**

*The Landings, Fort Myers, FL*

**Cost: \$50.00 per person—Eight people per table**

### Reservation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Type of payment: Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

*Please provide the names of the individual(s) with whom you wish to sit below.  
We will try to accommodate your table request.*

Reservations can be made by sending the reservation form with credit card information or your check to the SWFL Symphony office at 7500 College Parkway, Suite 200, Fort Myers FL 33907, Attention Society Fashion Show or at the February 4 Society Luncheon.

**Reservations must be received no later than February 25, 2022**

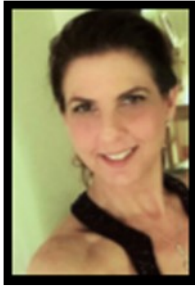
***All proceeds benefit the Southwest Florida Symphony***





## Executive Director's Message

Amy Ginsburg



As I write for this month's News of Note, we seem to face COVID uncertainty again, but we've gotten pretty good at bobbing and weaving through all of this, haven't we?

As it stands today, we are still marching forward with Masterworks 3 and all of its associated fanfare. Performances happen on February 18<sup>th</sup> at BIG ARTS on Sanibel and February 19<sup>th</sup> at Barbara B. Mann Hall, preceded by Maestro Stephen Mulligan's Society hosted meet & greet reception on Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

We're also still on track to hold our first Young People's Concert in more than two years at Cypress Lake High School's Center for Performing Arts on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the generosity of Dick Prescott and dj Arnold many years ago, we were able to procure a children's program called Compose Yourself, written by former Naples Philharmonic trumpet player, Jim Stephenson. We'll deliver a wonderful interactive orchestral experience to more than 1,200 5<sup>th</sup> graders thanks to Dick and dj and the support of our Sustaining Partners. To learn more about how you can become a Sustaining Partner, you're welcome to contact me any time. It's a

rewarding way to support every facet of the Southwest Florida Symphony while enjoying perks associated with your gift.

In March, we celebrate the return of the Symphony Society's fashion show! I was honored to be asked to model in this year's event, so I look forward to "shopping" for my ensembles at Razzle Dazzle this month, too! When I told my daughter I'd be modeling in this year's fashion show, she enthusiastically said she would join me at the luncheon. This will likely be the last one she attends before flying the nest for college. I know many of you have had the great pleasure of watching her grow up along with me and I've reminded her about how much sparkle and joy she's added to the Society when she's attended luncheons and events – especially when she sang at the Holiday House Gala in 2019. I always express my gratitude for your generosity of time, talent and treasure in my News of Note articles, but please know how grateful I am to all of you for being part of the village that helped raise my beautiful Julianna. She is a lucky girl to have grown up in your midst.

Thank you for your continued support, involvement and friendship. I'm a lucky girl, too.



Member Rachel Abraham celebrates her 100th birthday on February 26.



## DIRECTORY UPDATE

### New Member

Wilson, Deborah A. (Jon Fitzwater)

Birthday	Name
02/01	Susan Jane Fay
02/02	Verena Schneider-Christians
02/06	Jane O. Barnes
02/07	Fay Ebrite
02/10	Gail Blackburn
02/13	June Gibson
02/15	Mary Ann Redman
02/16	Darlynda "dj" Arnold
02/18	Sandy Magyar
02/18	Madeline Seefeld
02/19	Sara Zak
02/20	Linda Gosey
02/24	Linda Knight
02/24	Valerie Lee
02/24	Donna E. Munizzi
02/26	Jane V. King
02/26	Rachel Abraham
02/27	Joanne Hostetter
02/27	Patricia Short

## Southwest Florida Symphony Society Luncheon

### Heritage Palms Golf and Tennis Club

10420 Washingtonian Palm Way  
Fort Myers FL 33912

Doors open at 11:30  
Meeting begins at 12:00

Please pay at Registration Desk  
**\$25.00 Cash or Check**  
**\$26.00 Charge**

**Reservation Deadline**  
**Friday, January 28**

\*\*\*\*\* Call 239-666-1230 \*\*\*\*\*

If you make your reservation after the deadline, you will be put on a wait list and be notified if space becomes available.

Cancellations after the reservation deadline and no shows will be billed. Call Madeline Seefeld to cancel (239-292-9910).

**Menu:** Tomato basil soup, chicken pecan salad with sweet onion vinaigrette, warm rolls & butter, red velvet cake. A Vegetarian option is available if requested when a reservation is made.

**Special Drinks:** Credit Card Only

**COVID 19 Precautions:** Seating will be with 6 people per table. As of early January, masks are optional at Heritage Palms.

**Directions:** From Colonial and Cleveland (US 41), go east on Colonial to the light at Winkler Rd., about 3.5 miles. Right on Winkler Rd., Right on Six Mile Cypress Parkway. Right on Heritage Palms Blvd. Club House is straight ahead at intersection of Washingtonia Palm Way. **From Daniels Rd. and Cleveland (US 41)** go east on Daniels Rd. about 2 miles to Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. Left on Six Mile Cypress Pkwy about 3 miles. Left on Heritage Palms Blvd. to Club House.

**Please have your driver's license ready when you approach the gate house in case you need it.**

### Program:

The musical portion of the luncheon is still to be determined.

Honoring Past Presidents and Nomination of Officers for 2022-2023 will be included.

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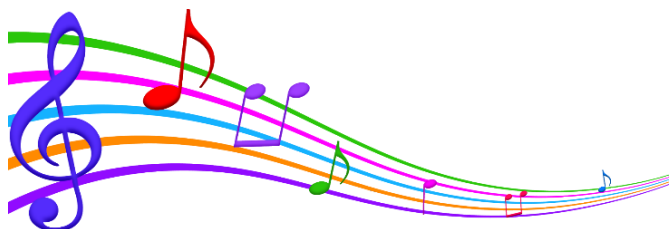
**CASH DRAWING TO BENEFIT  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**  
**Remember to bring your dollars!!!**



Thanks to Ruth Messmer Florist and owner Heather Messmer for providing a floral centerpiece for the President's Table each month. After the luncheon, the flowers are taken to a member who needs support and cheering.

### Luncheon Collections

At every luncheon we collect used computer ink and toner cartridges which are recycled at the office supply stores for credits towards future purchases for the Symphony office or for the Society directly.



# Maestra & Maestros Meet & Greet



The Southwest Florida Symphony's Music Director Search Committee has invited four guest conductors to visit with our orchestra and community as we seek the perfect fit for artistic leadership to guide us into the future. Each visiting conductor will lead a Masterworks Concert during the 2021-2022 season.

We invite you to get to know these exceptional artistic leaders offstage in an intimate setting. The Symphony Society will host a reception for each visiting candidate with complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres, providing our patrons and community with an opportunity to get acquainted with each conductor during his or her week with us.

## Reception Dates:

Masterworks 1: Vladimir Kulenovic, Conductor  
Reception, December 8, 2021

Masterworks 2: Laura Jackson, Conductor  
Reception, January 19, 2022

Masterworks 3: Stephen Mulligan, Conductor  
Reception, February 15, 2022

Masterworks 4: Radu Paponiu, Conductor  
Reception, April 20, 2022



## Reception Location:

The Southwest Florida Symphony's  
Artistic & Operations Center at Bell Tower  
13499 S. Cleveland Ave Suite 175,  
Fort Myers, FL 33907

## Time:

5:30 to 7:00 PM

## Reservation Required:

Mail check to: The Symphony Society  
7500 College Pkwy. #200,  
Ft. Myers, FL 33907  
or call 239-887-3314

*Please note the event(s)  
numbers on the memo line of  
the check.*

*Please include the names of  
the attendees.*

## Cost:

\$50 per person/event



## Symphony of Treats

Our New Year, 2022, is finally here and with it comes some new and exciting Treats for our Symphony Society members and guests to enjoy.

Leading off this year's Society Treat season was the one of a kind "Delicious Wine Pairings", on Wednesday, January 12 at the home of Verena and Michael Schneider-Christians. Our hosts outdid themselves again, with the wonderful wines of Spain and the accompanying delicious Paella. The guests truly felt as though they had traveled to Spain for this event. Thank you, Verena and Michael, for a most enjoyable evening.

Jan Hladik is ready to entertain guests this season with "A Taste of the Islands" dinner party. Everyone

rushes to make their reservations for this Treat every year and, as always, it sold out as soon as the booklet was printed. The 12 guests are anxiously looking forward to Jan's party on Saturday, Jan. 29.

February is fast approaching and Society members and guests can look forward to more Society great activities, especially a fun filled evening of frivolity and partying at Kim and Jerry Wittstadts' Mardi Gras extravaganza. Our favorite D.J., "Mr. D.", Andy DeCarlo will be spinning the discs for dancing. There are a few openings yet so make your reservation NOW for February 26 at 6 p.m. for Mardi Gras.

Stay tuned for next month's News of Note for more good-times events!

## TREAT—Holiday Season Party December 15, 2021—Blue Pointe Oyster Bar & Seafood Grill

Forty-six (46) people celebrated the holidays during the Treat at Blue Pointe. They enjoyed the variety of dishes that Chef Andi prepared.



**Interesting note!****WHO WAS MARILYN VAN SICKLE?**

The Symphony Society organizes the Marilyn Van Sickle Vocal Music Scholarship competition being held on February 5. Voice students compete for one of two potential four-year scholarships for music study, one \$3,000 each year, and one \$2,000. But WHO WAS Marilyn Van Sickle?

Our archives reveal that Marilyn Van Sickle was a mezzo-soprano who graduated from Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. A native of Elkhart, Indiana, she taught voice and choir in the school system there. She also taught voice at Ward Belmont Junior College in Nashville, Tennessee, and was a soloist with the Nashville and Indianapolis Symphony Orchestras, where she sang both opera and oratorio work. In Fort Myers, she was a member of the Southwest Florida Symphony Chorus.

Upon her death, Ms. Van Sickle established the Joseph L. and Marilyn R. Van Sickle Vocal Scholarship Fund of \$50,000, for the purpose of this scholarship. The Fund is now part of the SWFL Symphony Endowment Fund and has grown through careful stewardship to now yield these two valuable scholarships.

Students vying for the scholarships will perform for 10 minutes each before three eminent judges. Many Society members are helping to make this a successful day, but all Society members are invited to sit in on the competition at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church between 9:00 and noon, to witness and enjoy the talent of these young vocalists.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We need a few volunteers to work the night of March 22, 2022, at Cape Coral Yacht Club doing the following:

- ◆ 4 volunteers needed for the Registration Desk  
-5:00 PM to 6:30 PM.

Please let Liz Marnul or Verena Schneider-Christians know if you can help.

**DATE CHANGE FOR THE****“YEAR OF THE TIGER” FUNDRAISER**

Thanks to all of you that have signed up for  
The Year of the Tiger.

Due to the rise of COVID cases throughout  
the country,  
we felt we should re-book this event in March.

**The new date will be  
Tuesday, March 22, 2022.**

Everything else remains the same.  
Cape Coral Yacht Club – Doors Open at 5:30 PM.....

**Our Scholarship Programs Need More Volunteers!**

*We present several Scholarship Competitions throughout the year as a service to generous funders, as well as our own scholarship fund. Many small tasks go into making these competitions happen, and NO formal musical expertise is needed! The personal reward is knowing you are helping young musicians further their careers in fine music!*

*Please contact Ellen Schneider if you can help in any way!*

**Marilyn Van Sickle Vocal Scholarship**  
Saturday, February 5, 2022

**Jillian Prescott Music Awards**  
Saturday, April 16, 2022

**John Hudson Memorial Scholarship**  
May 2022

**Symphony Society Scholarship Competition**  
December 2022



239-542-9511  239-851-0982

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239-470.1659  
staceygossmann@comcast.net




 **2021-2022 Season**  
Dr. Trent Brown, Artistic Director  
Abigail Allison, Accompanist





November 2021 January 2022 April 2022

Choral Artistry is fka Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida  
**ChoralArtistry.org**

For Audition Information:  
**ChoralArtistry.org/general-auditions**

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1850 Boy Scout Dr Unit 111  
Fort Myers, FL 33907  
**239-936-2131**  
**ruthmessmerflorist.com**  
floristruthmessmer@gmail.com



A Meeting of Symphony Society  
**Board Members and Chairpersons**  
will be held **IN PERSON**  
**Wednesday, February 2 at 10:30 a.m.**  
in the Training Room  
at the Sanibel Captiva Community Bank  
9311 College Parkway, Fort Myers.

Please note: there will be no separate  
Executive Committee Meeting this month.

Please try to attend so we have a quorum to  
transact any business  
that comes before the Board.

Please notify Ellen if you cannot attend.

### Dates to Remember

- Jan. 22 Masterworks 2
- Jan. 28 Deadline for Feb. Luncheon Reservations
- Jan. 29 TREAT: Taste of the Islands
- Feb. 2 Executive Committee and Board Meeting
- Feb. 4 Luncheon—Heritage Palms Golf & Country Club
- Feb. 5 Marilyn Van Sickle Vocal Competition
- Feb. 15 Meet & Greet: Stephen Mulligan
- Feb. 18 & 19 Masterworks 3
- Feb. 25 Deadline for Spring into Fashion Reservations
- Feb. 26 TREAT: Mardi Gras Celebration
- March 4 Spring into Fashion
- March 22 Year of the Tiger Fund Raiser

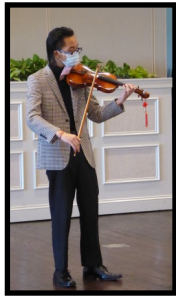
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year — September through May. Contact  
Editor Barb Coons (239-549-8283 or  
kayebarb3344@gmail.com) for more  
information.

## Luncheon—January 7, 2022

### Heritage Palms Golf & Country Club



These members with 20-year standing were present: Thelma Gunter, Barb Coons, Bonnie Gray, Paula Mattras, Sue Matthews, Gloria Selander. Thank you to all our long-time members: Thousands of Volunteer Hours, Hundreds of Events, Tens of Thousands of Dollars raised for the SWFL Symphony !"



*Left:* Youth Orchestra musician, Nicolo Roman, played four pieces. *Top Right:* Our Members of the Year were presented with flowers. L to R: Anne Wardlow, Presenter Verena Schneider-Christians, Presenter Dolly Ross, Kitty Satterfield. *Middle Right:* Verena and Liz Marnul spoke about the big Fundraiser "Year of the Tiger" now postponed till Tuesday, March 22nd. *Bottom Right:* New Member, Yola Downey, was introduced by Ellen Schneider and Pat Obermiller.

