

President's Message

Ellen Schneider



Have you stepped out of your Bubble yet? Here is your invitation to take that big step! Those luncheon outfits hanging in your closet are yearning for some daylight! Our first Society luncheon is Friday, September 10! The place is Palmetto-Pine Country Club in Cape Coral. Please do try to come!

We anticipate getting back to a more "normal" program schedule after the past 18 months of pandemic chaos. Of course, we will be monitoring the post-pandemic health situation. As of now our tables will be for 6 only (usually 8 to 10). *Masks may be required by some of our venues, but otherwise masks are your personal choice.*

Thank you to all the Society members who have been hard at work all summer, planning a vibrant program for us. In this NON you will find announcements for upcoming events, including advance notice of some delightful Treats. Kim Wittstadt has done a wonderful job keeping this program on track after so many necessary cancellations last year. Many thanks to Barb Coons, who had to track down banquet managers and deal with uncertain venues with their "new normal" requirements. We think you will be pleased at the clubs selected. Most importantly, she has arranged with them to keep the luncheon price at \$25.00! Many thanks also to Sue Matthews, who has

kept us connected throughout last year and the summer months. Her compilation of the Yearbook is a Herculean task, trying to assure everyone's data is correct.

Finally, thank you to all who have participated in the Key Signatures Campaign, chaired by Liz Marnul and Sue Matthews. At deadline for this NON edition we did not have the final results, which will be announced at our September luncheon. This is our first major fundraising effort of the year, and you don't even have to leave home to participate!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone again at our luncheons. Most of all, I am looking forward to the coming concert season and the sounds of the great music of our Symphony Orchestra as we are

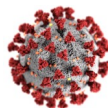
"Inspired by Music."

Ellen

NOTE: Please be aware that the coming year's calendar is quite unusual. Our first luncheon in September is actually on the **SECOND Friday** because of Labor Day weekend. All of our other luncheons on the **FIRST Friday** of each month are in the first few days of each month! Reservation deadlines are one week before the luncheon, often in the previous month!

Inside This Issue

- Page 2 Luncheon Information
- Page 3 Summer Music Camp
- Page 4 Symphony of Treats, Executive Committee & Board Meetings, Help Wanted
- Page 5 Orchestra Schedule, Birthdays, Yearbook Information
- Page 6 Credit Card Use, Dates to Remember
- Page 7 Advertising, Sending Cards
- Page 8 Bravo, Thelma



COVID—19 Precautions

As we move out of our pandemic bubbles, we will be monitoring the post-pandemic health situation. For now, luncheons will be 6 people per table. Masks may be required by some venues, but otherwise they are your personal choice. Members are encouraged to observe all CDC recommendations in effect at the time of the Society event.



Southwest Florida Symphony Society Luncheon

Friday, September 10, 2021

Palmetto-Pine Country Club

1940 S.W. 9th Court
Cape Coral FL 33991

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, September 3

******* 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 noshows will be billed. Call Barb Coons, 239-549-8283 to cancel.

Menu: Palmetto Salad (Grilled chicken served on a bed of greens with tomato, cucumber and carrots). Balsamic and Ranch dressings on the table. Rolls and butter. Plate of cookies. Coffee and Tea.

Special Drinks: Cash or Credit Card

Directions: From Colonial Blvd: cross the Midpoint Bridge. Continue on Veterans Parkway about 3.5 miles. Turn right onto Skyline Blvd., then turn left onto SW 19th Lane which becomes SW 9th Court. From College Parkway: cross the Cape Coral Bridge and continue on Cape Coral Parkway. Turn right onto Skyline Blvd. After about 3.7 miles, turn left onto SW 19th Lane which becomes SW 9th Court.

Special Colors: Red, white and blue in memory of those lost 20 years ago on 9/11/01 and all workers on Labor Day

Seating: Seating will be with 6 people per table

Program: **Kassandra Cooper, Cellist.**



Winner of the John Hudson Scholarship this past spring, Kassie has been a member of the Youth Orchestra for over three years, and its principal cellist for two years. In addition, she has also played with other ensembles in the area. She is attending FGCU as a Music Education major intent on sharing her love of music and its potential to enhance students' lives.



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.



The collection of non-perishable food items for the Harry Chapin Food Bank has ended because of very low participation. You are encouraged to support the Food Bank and other programs to help the hungry through your church or other organizations.

\$\$\$

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.

2021 Summer Orchestra Camp



The Southwest Florida Symphony's Education Director, Kara Griffith, was pleased to offer an intensive, week-long summer orchestra camp for the first time in mid-July for intermediate and advanced-level string and wind players. To keep it fresh and fun, students were divided into different groups each day- by age, last name, instrument played, and gender, with an opportunity to also join regularly throughout the day for full rehearsals. Kara's goal was to provide quality symphonic training and performance experience for young musicians in the Lee County area in a fast-paced, fun and safe environment. Ideally located at our Bell Tower center, with generous space-sharing from our neighbor and partner, Artsemble Underground, the results exceeded all expectations!

Kara invited daily guest clinicians in to keep the students interested and engaged, and was delighted to host favorite local conductors including Christi Witte, Roland Forti, Rochelle Maybrich, and Kayla Lisa. They all brought a sense of fun, high energy, and love of music to their sessions. Daily dress-up themes like Tie-Dye and Career Day kept them laughing, and a masterclass every morning allowed every interested student the chance to perform a solo for our conductors, Katrina Rozmus and Nathan Fish, for instructional feedback with our student audience observing. And the final concert on Friday afternoon, after only five days of working together, was memorable and amazing!



Students brought their own bag lunches each day (thanks to partner, The United Way, for the refrigerator donation!), or pre-purchased a boxed lunch delivered daily from another of our Bell Tower partners, Burntwood Tavern. Our new Grants & Communications Manager, Emer Olivarez,



visited each day, and did a wonderful job capturing and sharing the energy and enthusiasm in pictures and videos shared on our social media, <https://www.facebook.com/swflsyo>, if you are on Facebook and haven't followed us yet! The tuition cost of \$350, while fair, was prohibitive to several attendees, who benefitted greatly from the Symphony Society's kind contribution of \$1000. Your generous assistance was greatly appreciated, and put to very good use by some of our area's finest young musicians. They and their parents said it best, in the days following our first camp. Keep an ear out for opportunities to be a part of our 2022 Summer Orchestra Camp!



Comments from parents included:

"Thank you so much Kara! Please share with the instructors that this has been amazing for Ava, I have not seen her this happy in a long time. She's come home every day nonstop talking about how much fun she had and everything she's learning. I think she's officially hooked!"

"Thank you for spending the week with our girl. She has had THE BEST time. We appreciate all you and everyone else has done to make this camp happen!"

"After almost a week, we still are celebrating the outcome of the Camp Concert. It is for us a privilege to have participated in the Camp. For Niccolo it was an amazing experience, and for me as a single parent was a relief, a proud and joyful step in my parenting journey. We are so blessed to find people like you along our way. Thank you for putting your heart and soul into what you do, it was very visible how much love and care is in you, towards the campers. For that reason we want to say: Thank you so very much! We are excited and so looking forward to what comes next."



Symphony of Treats

Another season of "SYMPHONY OF TREATS" is about to begin. So be sure to peruse your copy of the TREATS booklet carefully. There is something for everyone's enjoyment as well as their pocketbook.

Meanwhile, here is a 'sneak peek' into what is forthcoming:

- October 18 Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium in Fort Myers
- November 10 Garden Tea Party at Shangri La Springs
- December 2 **A very exciting day trip to the Naples Botanical Garden with TRANSPORTATION and lunch provided
- December 15 Our usual opening Holiday Party at Blue Pointe
- January 12 Verena and Michael's "Delicious Wine Pairings"
- January 29 Jan's delicious "Taste of the Islands"
- February 26 "Mardi Gras Time" at the Wittstadts'
- March 26 Liz's "Elegant Poolside Picnic"
- April 24 Closing the season with our Brunch/Lunch.

We are happy to have Sue Wells back with us to take your reservations for these Treats. And wait until you see the very interesting presentations of Treats in the booklet that Rosanne Taylor has prepared.

We are SO HAPPY to be back with our events this season and hope that you will find them to be as much fun attending as we have had in preparing them for your enjoyment. As always, we thank you for your support as ALL THE PROFIT benefits our very own Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, of which we are VERY proud.

We are grateful to this season's sponsors for our Treats: MARTIN LAW FIRM (Steven E. Martin, Attorney & Counselor at Law) in Cape Coral; BLUE POINTE OYSTER BAR AND SEAFOOD GRILL in Bell Tower, and ROZ LESSER. We also thank our hostesses for their work in seeing that you, our guests, have a most enjoyable day, afternoon, or evening event.

HAPPY TREATING!!

Kim Wittstadt, Chair
Sue Wells, Reservations
Rosanne Taylor, Booklet

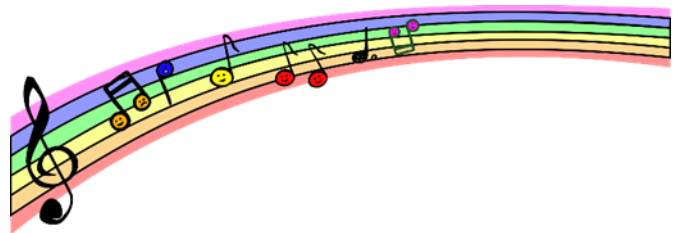
Symphony Society Executive Committee

10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, September 8

**Board Members, Committee
Chairs Join the Meeting**
11:00 a.m.

The meeting will be held at the
Symphony Administrative Office
7500 College Parkway, Suite 200
Fort Myers

A Zoom option will also be available.



▷▷▷▷ Help Wanted ◁◁◁◁

Are you looking for a way you can become more active and help the Symphony Society? Consider being a **Luncheon Hostess/Host**. This group of friendly people work at the monthly luncheons, greeting attendees at the door, directing them to the luncheon location, welcoming members to tables, passing out materials and generally helping the luncheons run smoothly. To join this group contact Luncheon Arrangements Chair Barb Coons (H: 239-549-8283, C: 239-218-1555 or kayebarb3344@gmail.com)



MASTERWORKS

Masterworks: Conductor Vladimir Kulenovic

December 11: Barbara B Mann PAH, 7:30 pm

Masterworks: Conductor Laura Jackson

January 22: Barbara B Mann PAH, 7:30 pm

Masterworks: Conductor Stephen Mulligan

February 18: BIG ARTS, Sanibel, 7:00 pm

February 19: Barbara B Mann PAH, 7:30 pm

Masterworks: Conductor Radu Paponiu

April 23: Barbara B Mann PAH, 7:30 pm

POPS

Pops 1: The New York Bee Gees

October 23: Barbara B Mann PAH, 7:30 pm

Pops 2: Music of Elton John

April 30: Barbara B Mann PAH, 7:30 pm

Holiday String Quartet

December 1: Mercato, Naples, 7:00 pm

December 3: Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Fort Myers, 5:30 pm

December 4: Bell Tower Shops Courtyard, Fort Myers

Holiday Tiny Pops

December 12: Gulf Theater at the Military Heritage Museum, Punta Gorda, 4:00 pm

December 13: The Village Church at Shell Point, 7:00 pm

December 14: First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs, 7:00 pm

MiniMasterworks—The Goldberg Variations

November 11: Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Fort Myers, 7:30 pm

November 12: Bell Tower Courtyard, Fort Myers, 5:00 pm

November 13: Gulf Theater at the Military Heritage Museum, Punta Gorda, 7:00 pm

MiniMasterworks—V.I.Piano

March 12: Bell Tower AOC, Fort Myers (private gala), 4:30 pm

March 13: Gulf Theater at the Military Heritage Museum, Punta Gorda, 4 pm

Hello Naples

March 10: Mercato, Naples, 6:00 pm

Rock & Rock and the String Quartet

May 11: Mercato, Naples, 6 pm

May 12: Tribby Arts Center at Shell Point, Fort Myers, 7:00 pm

May 13: Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Fort Myers, 7:30 pm

May 14: Gulf Theater at the Military Heritage Museum, Punta Gorda, 7:00 pm

May 15: Bell Tower AOC, Fort Myers, 5:00 pm



Birthday	Name
09/05	Judy Richards
09/08	Joanne Claassen
09/09	Mary McKenzie
09/13	M. Helen McDonald
09/15	Ann Miller
09/16	Christine LeMere
09/17	Sue Wells
09/19	Stacia M. Featherston
09/20	Katherine Caldwell
09/23	Karen Evenson
09/25	Yvonne Breska
09/25	Elizabeth L. Bakoss
09/26	Mary Sandt
09/28	Scott Conesky

Yearbook

*Patience is a virtue
Virtue is a Grace
Grace is a little girl who has a dirty
face!*

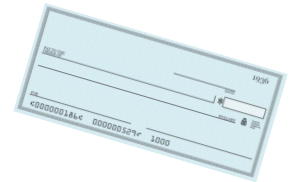
Well, I certainly have mud on my face for not getting the Yearbook published at the normal time this year. When you read this, it should be well on its way to completion. So please exercise those patience genes for a little while more.

Sue Matthews



CREDIT CARD, CASH OR CHECK?

DID YOU REALIZE?



The Society has been happy to accommodate members who wish to use charge cards to pay for luncheons, events and contributions to our fundraising campaigns for the Symphony. They are more convenient than having cash or checks on hand, and those small personal rewards for use can add up.

BUT the Society, like every other business that accepts credit cards, pays a processing fee of 3.5% plus a 15 cent fee per transaction for each and every charge it processes? That amounts to \$1.03 every time a \$25 amount is charged, such as for our luncheons. Although that seems like a very small amount, it does add to the cost of each lunch served. We have tried to keep our cost to members at \$25.00, but the gracious clubs that we enjoy so much are now charging us as much as \$25.00 per person for our meal and service. This is realistic when their food and labor costs have skyrocketed in the past two years. The Society has other costs for each luncheon that it continues to underwrite without passing them through to luncheon attendees. Reluctantly, the Society Board of Directors has decided to add a small service charge to all charged amounts.

Effective at our April 2021 luncheon meeting, any charge amount for the luncheon will have a \$1.00 Service Charge added. The luncheon price remains \$25.00, and payment by cash or check will remain \$25.00. When a charge card is used, the cost will be \$26.00.

We ask for your understanding about this necessary step.

Dates to Remember

- Sept. 3 Deadline for Sept. Luncheon Reservations
- Sept. 8 Executive Committee and Board Meeting
- Sept. 10 Luncheon—Palmetto-Pine Country Club
- Sept. 10 Deadline for October News of Note
- Sept. 24 Deadline for Oct. Luncheon Reservations
- Sept. 29 Executive Committee and Board Meeting
- Oct. 1 Luncheon—Heritage Palms Golf & Country Club
- Oct. 10 Deadline for November News of Note
- Oct. 23 Pops 1—Bee Gees Tribute
- Oct. 29 Deadline for Nov. Luncheon Reservations
- Nov. 3 Executive Committee and Board Meeting
- Nov. 5 Luncheon—Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club
- Nov. 10 Deadline for December News of Note



The
Symphony
Society

Supporting the Southwest Florida Symphony

239-542-9511  239-851-0982

Clifford Law Firm, LLC.
Trusts, Estates, Probate, Divorce
Cape Coral, FL
Ellen W. Clifford
Attorney-At-Law
ellenwclifford@embarqmail.com

 **Stacey's Dog Care**
Walking and/or staying at our home
Stacey Gossmann
Dog lover!
4464 W. Mainmast Ct.
Fort Myers, FL 33919
 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

Ruth Messmer Florist
65 years of Floral Excellence
Jessica Gnagey
Floral Designer
1850 Boy Scout Dr Unit 111
Fort Myers, FL 33907
239-936-2131
ruthmessmerflorist.com
floristruthmessmer@gmail.com 

Additional advertisements are welcome.
The rate is \$10 per month or \$80 a year
for a business card size ad. Contact
Editor Barb Coons (239-549-8283 or
kayebarb3344@gmail.com) to place an
ad or with questions.

"News of Note" is published 9 times a
year — September through May. Contact
Editor Barb Coons (239-549-8283 or
kayebarb3344@gmail.com) for more
information.

If you know of a Society member who
should receive a card of support or
happiness, please notify the
Corresponding Secretary:
June Gibson
junemgibson@gmail.com
239-936-7792 (home)
617-759-0085 (cell)



Bravo, Thelma



This year marks Thelma Gunter's 37th Anniversary as a member of the Symphony Society! Bravo, Thelma, for all you have done for the Society over the years! Most of us "newer" members are not as familiar with Thelma, who at the age of 97 has decided it is time to retire! A dynamic presence in

all aspects of the Society's programs and projects in past decades, in recent years, Thelma has been the stalwart chairman of the Society's

Ambassadors.

During many, many concert seasons, the Concert Hostesses

were the first persons who patrons met at concerts, ushering and assisting at Barbara B. Mann Hall. When the hall management took over that responsibility,

Thelma ensured a team of volunteer Ambassadors has always been present at concerts to promote the Symphony Orchestra and the Society with smiles and information. The group also assists with the Conductor's Circle hospitality at concerts.

Thelma's commitment to her role and to the Society has been an example for all of us.

Thank you, Thelma, for your years of dedication to the success of the Symphony Society and the Symphony Orchestra!



Thelma was one of three chosen Queen Bees who were honored in April 2015. Left to Right: Thelma, Bev Treichel and Dorothy Munsch.