



President's Message

Jan Hladik



Didn't you think it was great to be "normal" and enjoy a luncheon? Trying to be normal is the best thing we can do. The storm has touched each of us in some manner with a variety of concerns and sometimes it is hard to plan beyond tomorrow because we don't know what tomorrow will bring. There is a lot of strength in our

organization with commitment to the Symphony and we will persevere in our activities. Planning has continued such as the preparation for the "For the Love of Music" dinner February 16. Verena and Christina have done a great job, so join in on the planning and participation at any level that you can.

The storm has left us with vacancies as Barb Coons is relocating to Maryland. She has committed to continuing the News of Note until the end of this season. Barb Blaharski will take over mailing the NON to those who have requested a printed copy. But someone is needed to do the NON beginning in August 2023. Either someone who has experience developing a newsletter or someone who is willing to work with Barb to learn how it is done.

The second thing that Barb did was to interact with luncheon venues to select menus, advise on color of napkins and table setup. Someone is needed for this task beginning in January 2023.

The third thing that Barb did was to assist Madeline Seefeld at luncheon registration to collect payments. You can see how many things that Barb handled, and how we need others to step up and take over doing these things.

Pat Obermiller provided the table decorations for the November luncheon and she needs a committee to help on this project. The centerpieces add a festive air to the table settings and can be used as a fundraiser. But without volunteers to work on this, there will be bare tables.

The biggest project that needs a coordinator is the Prescott Competitions. I have said repeatedly that this will not be happening if no member is willing to step up and the time is getting very short to do the necessary planning. What a shame to let a longstanding tradition cease.

Our mission is to support the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra through volunteerism, fundraising, community engagement and education. This season's theme says "like an orchestra everyone has a part to play". If you are not on a committee or actively participating in an activity, then look around and find out where your participation supports the Society's mission, be it financially or actively.

If you are able to take on any of the above listed projects, please contact me. 239-466-5557 or hladikj03@gmail.com.

Jan

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Executive Director's Message

Amy Ginsburg



At the risk of stating the obvious, it's been a pretty rough month for most of us. I hope everyone reading this has sustained minimal damage and things are settling down for you. I'm still feeling pretty disoriented from the storm and the loss of my dad, but I took great comfort in the company of many of you at our November luncheon. Thank you for

making that happen and for your kindness while we were gathered. We all needed that kindness, didn't we? As we near the end of 2022, I'm choosing to look optimistically at the coming year. Our orchestra will feature fresh new talent, exceptional programming and we've made wonderful friendships through music that we'll carry into the future.

During the board meeting that preceded our Annual Meeting, Tom Uhler led us in an exercise that was somewhat unconventional for our board. In lieu of a traditional meeting, he asked us to go around the table and share things for which we are thankful, which is something we all needed to remind ourselves of in light of recent events. As the holidays descend on us, this is the perfect time for me to express my gratitude again. Here's what I'm thankful for:

The Symphony Society – This group made me feel like an instant part of the Symphony family when I joined the staff more than nine years ago. I'll never forget that first luncheon at Palmetto Pines Country Club. Everyone in attendance offered the warmest welcome and John Hudson, my predecessor, may his memory be a blessing, made me feel like the most important person in attendance. Like biological family, we have our "moments," but I don't know what we'd do without you.

The orchestra – Again, like biological family, there are certainly times of tension, but this ensemble has been a remarkable teacher. Even though I came to this organization already a classical music enthusiast, I've learned to listen to live orchestral music, watch a conductor, understand the rehearsal process, feel the energy radiating from the stage, from an entirely different, elevated place. I've also made lifelong, invaluable friends with many who grace our stage. The mutual love and support have enriched my life (and my daughter's life) immeasurably.

The board – Through our board, I have grown as a professional. The friendships and mentorships that have grown within this group have been such a gift. My great grandmother, who I had the honor of knowing (she lived

until I was a teenager), used to tell us kids to "be brave, but be careful." That's exactly what the board of trustees has empowered me to do; be brave, but careful.

The staff – We have truly achieved the perfect dynamic among us in the office and backstage. Through natural disaster and a variety of personal crises, there has been so much collective support within our tiny group. Everyone has rolled up sleeves to get work done when someone has needed to attend to challenges outside of the office. This team has never been better or stronger.

My children – I joke with people by saying that God is keenly aware that I have no patience, which is how I got two perfect kids. Fortunately, they were bestowed with the patience I lack which has given them the fortitude to be supportive of my passion for my work here. As we rebuild our homes and community, I encourage all of you to reflect on what you're thankful for, too. It's been another pretty intense year, but we do have a lot to be grateful for; perpetual sunshine, an abundance of friendship and love, and such great music – the perfect place for that reflection to start. Wishing you all the happiest of holidays and a bright year ahead.

Upcoming events:

RESCHECULED FROM NOVEMBER 14

Youth Orchestra Concert

Monday, December 5 at 6:30PM

Bell Tower Artistic & Operations Center

We will stagger the ensemble performances in order to mitigate space constraints. These performances were scheduled to happen at the Heights Center, but the center has been unavailable since the hurricane(s). We expect to return to the Heights Center in January.

Holiday Pops: The SWFLSO Christmas Show

Featuring one of our most favorite guest artists, Andrew Lipke, with a program he curated specifically for our orchestra!

Sunday, December 11 at 4PM

Gulf Theater, Punta Gorda

Tickets cost \$25 per person

Monday, December 12 at 7PM

The Village Church at Shell Point

Tickets cost \$35 per person

Tuesday, December 13 at 7PM

First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs

Tickets cost \$25 per person



Southwest Florida Symphony Society Luncheon

Friday, December 2, 2022



The Magnolia Room at Pelican Preserve

10561 Veneto Drive
Fort Myers FL 33913

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

Please pay at Registration Desk
\$30.00 Cash or Check
\$31.50 Charge

NOTE: After a discussion and vote at the September SWFLSS Board of Directors meeting, the lunch price has been raised to \$30.00 for cash or check, \$31.50 for charges. This is necessary to simply cover the cost of the luncheons.

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

Reservation Deadline Friday, November 25, 2022

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: Fresh fruit cup, rolls & butter, traditional spinach salad with grilled chicken breast tossed with dressing when served. Carrot cake, coffee and tea. A vegetarian option is available if requested when a reservation is made.

Special Drinks: Cash or Credit Card

Directions: From Colonial and Cleveland (US 41), go east on Colonial past I-75 to the light at Treeline Ave., about 6 miles. Right on Treeline Ave. Left on Pelican Preserve Blvd., entering the community. Right at 2nd intersection on to Veneto Dr. (opposite the Club at Pelican Preserve). Magnolia Room is at Pelican Preserve Town Center. **From Daniels Rd. and Cleveland (US 41)** go east on Daniels Rd. past I-75 to the light at Treeline Ave., about 5 miles. Left on Treeline Ave. Follow Treeline Ave. for about 4.3 miles. Right onto Pelican Preserve Blvd., entering the community. Right at 2nd intersection on to Veneto Dr. (opposite the Club at Pelican Preserve). Magnolia Room is at Pelican Preserve Town Center.

Program: Musician and guitarist Mark Aulick is a recent Florida transplant, hailing from Kentucky. With a repertoire of over 500 songs from a multitude of genres, he is generally able to provide musical selections to please virtually any crowd. Mark plays at a variety of venues, but specializes in private and neighborhood engagements. Call him at 859-620-0308 to ensure your next gathering is a success!



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.



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

Symphony of Treats

We were so sorry to have to cancel **AFTERNOON TEA PARTY** that was scheduled for November 19. We knew it would cause disappointment to those guests who had already made reservations. However, it will be rescheduled at a later date.

CHRISTMAS IN THE GARDEN is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14. Linda Knight is the hostess for the day and is looking forward to greeting her guests at 11:30 a.m. at the Berne Davis Gardens in Fort Myers. You will be making some lovely holiday arrangements. Remember to bring your scissors.

SOUP NIGHT on Saturday, January 14 promises to be a fun evening. A number of members have offered to make their favorite family soup recipes. Make your reservations soon so you do not miss out. We will be serving soup and trimmings, playing some games and offering other surprises from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Bell Tower Artistic and Operations Center.

COME HEAR THE MUSIC is back! Check page 6 in your TREAT booklet for dates. The rehearsals are most interesting to watch and hear. It is quite different from a concert. Additionally, you may meet some of our musicians up close and personally.

NOTE! Please send any reservations you may want to make directly to ME. My address is: Kim Wittstadt 20871 Blacksmith Forge, Estero, FL 33928 AFTER January 1st.

Questions??? Please direct them to me at 410-262-8224.

Wishing a Happy Thanksgiving to all. We have so much to be thankful for!

Kim, Sue, and Rosanne

Birthday	Name
11/04	Jan Hladik
11/04	Joe Broughton
11/06	Christina Mehta
11/13	Barbara Yeomans
11/15	Jewel Williams
11/16	Geri McArdle
11/17	Joanne Paulino
11/19	Maria Kernan
11/25	Nancy Campbell
11/27	Gary D. Niethamer
11/30	Richard Prescott
12/01	Joan Wendel
12/04	Mae Jean Nothstine
12/08	Barbara Carne
12/13	Herbert K. Schneider
12/27	Barbra Blaharski
12/27	Jovana Batkovic
12/30	Nancy Kelly

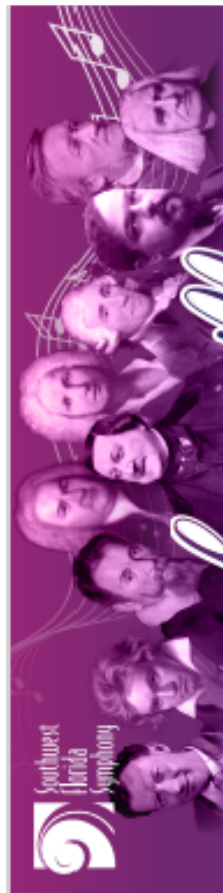


In addition to wishing a happy birthday to those with December birthdays, we wish a belated happy birthday to those with November birthdays.



Dates to Remember

- Nov. 25 Deadline for Dec. Luncheon Reservations
- Nov. 30 Board Meeting
- Dec. 2 Luncheon—Magnolia Room at Pelican Preserve
- Dec. 10 Deadline for January News of Note
- Dec. 11—13 SWFLSO Christmas Show
- Dec. 14 TREAT—Christmas in the Garden
- Dec. 30 Deadline for Jan. Luncheon Reservations
- Jan. 4 Board Meeting
- Jan. 6 Luncheon at The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club
- Jan. 14 TREAT—Soup Night
- Jan. 28 TREAT—Come Hear the Music #1
- Jan. 28 Masterworks 1—Gil Shaham, Violin



FOR THE *Love of Music*

— Sponsorships —

RENAISSANCE

Host and Event sponsor - \$1500

Complimentary table for 6 people, one specialty wine bottle for dinner table, preferred table placement, name in program, name mentioned from the stage, name in the SWFLSS yearbook and website in the 2023/24 season, name on signage at event 6 sets of raffle tickets for the basket drawing.

BAROQUE

Venue and Entertainment sponsor - \$1000

2 complimentary tickets to the event, preferred table seating, one bottle of specialty wine for the table, name in program, name mentioned from the stage, name in the SWFLSS yearbook and website in the 2023/24 season, name on signage at event, 3 sets of raffle tickets for the basket drawing.

CLASSIC

Benefactor - \$500

One complimentary ticket to event, Name in program, name mentioned from the stage, name in the SWFLSS yearbook and website in the 2023/24 season name on signage at the event.

ROMANTIC

Partner - \$150

Cost for dinner, entertainment, and open bar.

20TH CENTURY

Supporter

A gift from your heart, unable to attend.

— TO MAKE RESERVATIONS —

Mail check to SWFL Symphony Society, 7500 College Pkwy, # 200, Ft Myers FL 33907
Call for Credit Card reservations Joanne at (317) 409-0845




FOR THE *Love of Music*

A Gala evening with friends who support the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16TH 2023, 6PM | LA VENEZIA BALLROOM, CAPE CORAL



THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SYMPHONY SOCIETY
PRESENTS

SPRING INTO FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON

SAVE THE DATE !!
MARCH 3, 2023



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YOU
SO MUCH**

**To All Who Contributed to the
2022 Key Signatures
Fundraising Campaign...**

This year, you set a new record for Key Signatures
with contributions totaling

\$19,800!!

Your contributions will enable the Southwest Florida
Symphony Orchestra to share the joy
of beautiful music with our community.

Your generosity demonstrates to our new Music Director
and Concertmaster that The Symphony Society is a
strong, loyal supporter of our beloved orchestra.



**Symphony Society
Board of Directors Meeting
10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, November 30, 2022**

**All members are welcome
To attend**

**Sanibel Captiva Community Bank
9311 College Parkway
(corner of McGregor Blvd.)**

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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.

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Abigail Allison, Accompanist

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239-560-5695

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Congratulations!



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)

Thinking of you

Luncheon—November 4, 2022

At the November luncheon at the Magnolia Room at Pelican Preserve, the SWFLSO's new Community Outreach Ambassador, retired NBC-2 Chief Meteorologist Robert Van Winkle, entertained and educated us with his presentation! This is the slide show and information that he will use to introduce groups in the community to facts about the Symphony, adapting the program to each group. He presented tidbits about the Symphony and classical music that you never knew before.



Robert Van Winkle sharing his presentation about the symphony and music in general.



Vice-President Pat Obermiller taking over the President's podium.



Dolly Ross talking about the Ambassadors.

Looking for some GOLD!!! (Fabric, that is!)

At our wonderful "Tiger" fundraising event in March, our gift basket tables were adorned in luxurious gold lamé.

This fabric was Ellen Schneider's personal stock and if possible she would like to have it back (for the next glam use)!

If it has been stowed in the Society's storage area at Bell Tower, or the Administration Office, please let her know and she will retrieve it. Or, if it is in a box under your bed, and you are wondering what to do with it, she will arrange to pick it up! Call 239-839-6664, or email ellenschneiderfl@gmail.com.

Thank you!



Christina Mehta introducing the For the Love of Music Gala.