

ENSEMBLE

The Voice of the Choral Art Form in Southwest Florida



Christmas Calendar Issue



See calendar on page 10 for all December events



Volume 2, Issue 55
December 2018

Merry Christmas



Jim George,
Publisher

I believe we can all agree that nothing exemplifies the spirit of Christmas more than music. Whether you're Jew or Gentile, Christian or non-Christian, religious or secular the music of Advent or Hanukkah will be uplifting. And it's at this time of the

year when the choral art form is at its finest. Think about it ...there's very little Christmas music that's new. It's the classics like Messiah, the Christmas Oratorio, the traditional carols... yet year after year they evoke the memories of Christmas past, the warmth of family gatherings, the spirit of giving rather than receiving and the memory of the event two thousand years ago that we still celebrate today.

Southwest Florida is alive with the choral favorites in the month of December. It's the most crowded month of the year in terms of concerts and this year is no exception. Every chorus, whether it be church or independent, will participate. You have only to go to page 10 of this issue to see the concert schedule and plan your Christmas evening out. There are only seven days in the month of Decem-

ber prior to Christmas that a concert is not scheduled. That's an invitation to fill your holidays with music.

From all of us at Ensemble we wish all our readers a joyous Christmas and Hanukkah.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah to all.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Choral Artists of Sarasota	2
Opera Naples	2
Southwest Florida Gay and Lesbian Chorus	3
Musica Sacra of Sarasota	4
Florida Southwestern State Col-	4
Symphonic Chorale	5
Spirit of the Gulf	5
Seraphic Fire	7
Northport Chorale	7
Sarasota Choral Society	8
Key Chorale	9
December Concert Calendar	10

Ensemble is published monthly from September through April by

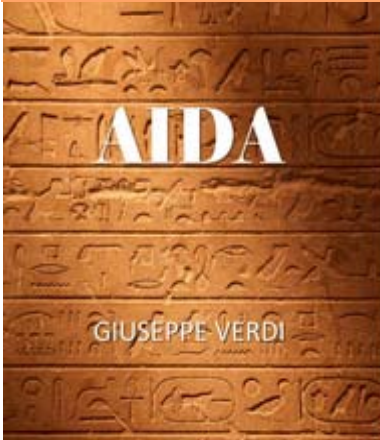
Pelican Wing Publishing LLC, 1577 Sand Castle Road, Sanibel, Florida, a unit of Creative Marketing Associates.

Phone 239-472-0168, FAX: 239-472-2094

Website: www.ensemblemedia.org

E-mail: ensemble@comcast.net

Opera Naples with Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida



OPERA NAPLES PRESENTS VERDI'S EGYPTIAN EPIC, WITH STUNNING COSTUMES AND SETS IN THIS FULLY STAGED PRODUCTION. AN EXPLOSIVE TALE OF FORBIDDEN LOVE, POWER AND LOYALTY AMIDST THE SORROWS OF WAR, AIDA IS KNOWN FOR ITS GRAND PAGEANTRY AND THE FAMOUS TRIUMPHAL MARCH.

(SUNG IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUPERTITLES)

RAMÓN TEBAR, CONDUCTOR
CHUCK HUDSON, STAGE DIRECTOR
SVETLANA ASKENOVA, AIDA*
MARIANNE CORNETTI, AMNERIS
STEVEN HUMES, RAMFIS
MARC HELLER, RADAMÈS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018 @ 7:30 PM
ARTIS, NAPLES, HAYES HALL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018 @ 7:30 PM
ARTIS NAPLES, HAYES HALL

TICKETS: WWW.OPERANAPLES.ORG

Artistic Director Joseph Holt celebrates his 10th anniversary as artistic director conducting Handel's Coronation Anthems, a choral Nutcracker, and favorite Carols.

Sunday, December 9, 2018 – 4 pm

First United Methodist Church, Sarasota

Tickets: www.choralartistsof Sarasota.org

CHORAL ARTISTS OF SARASOTA

**Southwest Florida Gay and Lesbian Chorus
Proudly Presents**

**“The Songs of Christmas Around the World”
“Welcome Home”**



Friday, December 7th, 2018
The Unitarian Universalist Church
13411 Shire Lane
Fort Myers, Florida 33912
6:30pm (Dinner/Concert)
7:30 (Concert Only)

Sunday, December 9th, 2018
The Edison Country Club
583 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
2:00pm (with light appetizers)

**We are an All-Inclusive
Chorus. We accept all the
diversity in our
community. We invite all
to be part of our great
family.**

For online tickets, prices, and information
please visit our website:

www.gaychorus.org

Paper Tickets Contact :

swflgaychorus@gmail.com

Southwest Florida Gay & Lesbian Chorus Inc. is a 501 (C)3 Non-Profit Organization

Naples Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra



Experience the power of the 100-voice Naples Philharmonic Chorus as they present Handel's masterful oratorio. A commentary on the life of Jesus Christ, *Messiah* remains Handel's best-known work.

Radu Paponiu, conductor

James Cochran – Chorus Director

November 30, 7:00pm, First Presbyterian Church, Naples December 2, 7:00pm, Artis Naples
Philharmonic Center for the Arts Tickets: www.artisnaples.org

Holiday Pops , Conductor, Stefan Sanders

Thursday, December 13 and Friday , December 14, 8pm
Saturday, December 15, 2pm and 8pm - Sunday December 16, 7 pm

Musica Sacra of Sarasota



Going Baroque at Christmas - AGAIN!

December 10, 2018

Heinrich Schütz
The Christmas Story

J. S. Bach
Cantata 140
Wachet Auf

With additional holiday treats.
All with Chorus and Orchestra

Florida SouthWestern State College

presents

A Holiday Concert

featuring

The FSW Symphony and FSW Choirs

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 - 7:30 pm

on the FSW Main Campus in the
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall



Dr Ron Doiron
Conductor

The Concert is FREE and Open to the Public.

Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida—Holiday Pops



The **Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra** and its resident chorus, the **Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida**, will present three Holiday Pops concerts. Holiday Pops will have your whole family ready to celebrate the most festive time of the year. Climb into your imaginary sleigh, and ride along with Lee County's professional orchestra as we celebrate the sounds of Christmas in Paradise. Our musical journey includes music from *The Nutcracker*, *Home Alone*, and for anyone who ever lived "up north", we even have a song or two about falling snow.



Thursday, December 6, 7:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs.

Friday, Dec. 7, 7:30 PM
Shell Point Village Church, Fort Myers

Saturday, December 8, 7:30 PM
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall

Conductor **Dr. Trent Brown**
Artistic Director, Symphonic Chorale

Tickets: www.symphonicchorale.org... 239-560-5695
or
www.bbmanna.org 239-418-1500

Spirit of the Season

Presented by



Spirit of the Gulf Chorus

Sweet Adelines International Award-Winning a Cappella Chorus



International Quartet Champions!

9609-700x0.jpg

Featuring
the BUZZ!

in their final Florida
appearance!

Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018 2:00 - 4:00 pm

\$40 Loge - \$30 Orchestra & Mezzanine - \$20 Balcony

For tickets call

Spirit of the Gulf at 844-704-SING

or

Barbara B. Mann at 239-481-4849



FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE
BARBARA B. MANN PERFORMING ARTS HALL
Where Broadway Comes To You!
13350 FSW Parkway • Fort Myers, FL

Spirit of the Gulf
Spirit of the Gulf
Changing lives through music



Deck the Halls with Music



“Christmas Celebration” with Venetian Harmony Chorus

Saturday, December 8, at 3:00pm

Christ Lutheran Church, Englewood



THE VENICE CHORALE

Dec 2, 2018



BIG Arts Community Chorus Holiday Concert

Enjoy the music of the holidays with the wonderful BIG ARTS Community Chorus — an annual holiday tradition and a great way to celebrate the songs of the season.

Tuesday, December 12, 7PM
Schein Hall, BIG ARTS, Sanibel
Tickets: 239-395-0900



Ellen Whitten
Artistic director

Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra

An Island Christmas

December 9, 2 PM

Crosse Point Fellowship
Church, Anna Maria Is-
land,

December 16, 7pm

First United Methodist
Church, Sarasota

Tickets:www/amicco.org



Seraphic Fire



Angelic voices sing your favorite English carols and transcendent chant in Florida's own GRAMMY® nominated holiday experience.

Thursday, December 13, 7PM, Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples, Tickets:www.seraphicfire.com

The North Port Chorale
Presents


CHRISTMAS TALE

Saturday December 8, 2018
7:00pm



2018 Handel's Messiah Performance

October 9, 2018 by VC

The Sarasota Choral Society proudly presents
its 74th consecutive annual production of
The Christmas portion of
George Frederic Handel's "Messiah"

Saturday, December 1st, 2018
at

Church of the Palms Presbyterian Church
3224 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL 34231
941-924-1323

Doors open at 3:00 pm
Performance at 4:00 pm



General admission: \$25.00
Children & Students (Student ID required): \$10.00

The Charlotte Chorale presents

A Season of Hope

Sunday, December 9, 2018 4:00 PM

Charlotte Performing Arts Center
701 Carmalita Street, Punta Gorda

\$25 Adults - \$10 Students

For tickets call 941-204-0033 - All seats reserved

Key Chorale



Craig Williams



Betsy Traba



James Whitbourn

World-renowned organist Craig Williams, brass sextet, flute and percussion join Key Chorale in a holiday program of carols and seasonal music. James Whitbourn's *Missa Carolae*, commissioned for the 1400th anniversary of England's Rochester Cathedral, incorporates Christmas classics from France, Germany and Poland. Impressive brass, timpani, and the 100 voices of Key Chorale combine for an unforgettable holiday program featuring choral works by Dale Warland, Mack Wilberg, Ola Gjeilo & Stephen Schwartz.

Missa Carolae – James Whitbourn

Glow – Eric Whitacre

Ecce Novum – Ola Gjeilo

Carols of the Season from the Mormon Tabernacle Choir by Mack Wilberg

DECEMBER 8, 2018

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2018 Concert Schedule

Merry Christmas!



Check our on-line calendar,

www.ensemblemedia.org for information on concert location, time and tickets

Merry Christmas!



						<p>1</p> <p>Sarasota Choral Society Messiah</p> <p>Venetian Harmony Chorus Christmas Show</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Spirit of the Gulf Annual Christmas Show Naples Philharmonic Chorus Messiah Venice Chorale Tis the Season Mastersingers Readings and Carols Voices of Naples Messiah</p>	3	<p>4</p> <p>Voices of Naples Home for the Holidays</p> <p>FSW Choir and Orchestra A Holiday Concert</p>	5	<p>6</p> <p>Symphonic Chorale Holiday Pops</p> <p>Voices of Naples, Home for the Holidays</p>	7 <p>Symphonic Chorale Holiday Pops</p> <p>Sarasota Jewish Chorus Chanukah Concert</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Symphonic Chorale Holiday Pops</p> <p>Key Chorale Christmas in Venice</p> <p>Northport Chorale A Christmas Tale</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Choral Artists of Sarasota Rejoice</p> <p>Anna Maria Island Chorus - An Island Christmas</p> <p>Charlotte Chorale A Season of Hope</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Musica Sacra of Sarasota Going Baroque at Christmas-Again</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Galloway Christmas Hymn Sing</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Belle Canto Sounds of the Season</p> <p>BIG ARTS Chorus Holiday Concert</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Naples Philharmonic Chorus Holiday Pops</p> <p>Seraphic Fire Seraphic Fire Christmas</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Naples Phil Chorus w/ Naples Philharmonic Orchestra Holiday Pops</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Naples Phil Chorus w/ Naples Philharmonic Orchestra Holiday Pops</p> <p>Symphonic Chorale w/ Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops</p> <p>Northport Chorale Holiday Harmonies</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Naples Phil Chorus w/ Naples Philharmonic Orchestra Holiday Pops</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>Voices of Naples Messiah</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Opera Naples Aida</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>Opera Naples Aida</p>	22
23	24	<p>25</p>			28	29