

NOTES ON THE ARTS

Get tickets for Punta Gorda Symphony's 2020-21 season

Punta Gorda Symphony is in better shape than most performing arts organizations, since it was fortunate enough to finish its performance season in early March, right as social distancing was beginning to be recommended.

The symphony is continuing to be optimistic, and is now accepting new subscribers and single-ticket buyers for the 2020-21 season, which opens Nov.

22. The organization is still processing current subscriber renewals and will begin seating new subscribers and single ticket buyers after July 31. Buy now and get yourself into the queue for the best seats available.

In the midst of such uncertainty, remember the arts need your support now as much as ever. Don't delay your performance selections for next season – and, if you can, please consider adding a charitable gift.

For more information: info@PGSymphony.org or 941-205-5996 and leave a voice message (staff are all now working remotely, so all calls will be returned within two business days).

VAC aims to add virtual offerings

Currently, the Visual Arts Center's virtual tour allows you to walk through the building and enjoy the art right from your comfy chair. Find it via the link on the website home page banner (www.VisualArtCenter.org) or directly at www.buff.ly/2JJ9yge. Related to that is the plan for virtual exhibits that will allow visitors to not only view artwork in the gallery up close, but also to purchase art right off the gallery walls online – from anywhere.

The VAC is also exploring ways to offer live online classes for distance learning. Students would be able to take art lessons in a virtual classroom from their favorite VAC instructor.

In addition, the gift gallery and art supply store will soon be available on the website, so you can purchase items made by artists online.

For updates: www.VisualArtCenter.org.



Maestro Raffaele Ponti and the Punta Gorda Symphony.
COURTESY PHOTO

Venice Symphony extends conductor's contract

The Venice Symphony has announced that the contract of music director/conductor Troy Quinn has been extended from 2022-23 through the 2027-28 season. Maestro Quinn was named music director in 2018 after an extensive conductor search. The Venice Symphony's 2019-20 season, the first programmed by the maestro, sold out 16 of 17 concerts at the 1,100-seat Venice Performing Arts Center.

"Since becoming our music director two years ago, Troy Quinn has both elevated the reputation of the Venice Symphony Orchestra as a world-class orchestra and inspired our musicians and audiences with his challenging and innovative programming," said Paul McCullough, president of the board of the Venice Symphony. "This past season, Maestro Quinn's concerts thrilled our returning patrons and brought many new audience members to the Venice Performing Arts Center. Troy Quinn's virtuosity, enthusiasm and stage presence have invigorated our musicians, concertgoers and organization. We look forward with great anticipation to the many future seasons with Troy as our visionary leader."

Maestro Quinn, 36, also leads the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra in Owensboro, Kentucky, and serves on the conducting faculty at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. He has performed with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and others. An accomplished vocalist, Maestro Quinn has recorded with The Rolling Stones, Barry Manilow, Josh Groban and Jennifer Hudson, and on the films "The Call of the Wild," "Storks" and "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull." He is the former music director of the Juneau Symphony.

"Having this type of long-term relationship in the orchestra world is rare, and I am grateful to the board, our staff and our musicians for the opportunity to continue our great work together," said Maestro Quinn. "I am thrilled to continue to build on our success with the Venice Symphony, and am looking forward to many years of exciting music making together."

The Venice Symphony recently announced its 2020-21 season programmed by Maestro Quinn, mixing masterworks, modern classics and music from film, theater, ballet and opera. Highlights include "A Night at the Oscars" featuring piper Eric Rigler, reprising his performance on "My Heart Will Go On," from "Titanic," and "Superheroes and Schumann," pairing Schumann's Symphony No. 4 with music from the Marvel and DC Universe.

"Never have I been more excited to get back to the concert hall and make music for our audiences," Maestro Quinn said. "Next season we renew our commitment to high quality music-making and bringing in world class artists right here in Venice."