

Punta Gorda Symphony announces plans for upcoming season



Executive Director Craig Badinger waves from the stage of the FSW Charlotte Campus natural amphitheater. Photo by Punta Gorda Symphony.

PUNTA GORDA — After months of planning and listening to feedback from the community, Punta Gorda Symphony Executive Director Craig Badinger said the organization is planning for a safe upcoming season.

“We are excited to announce plans to move forward safely with two programs for the 2020/2021 season: two outdoor socially-distanced concerts and an online live-streamed lecture series,” Badinger said in a press release. “We hope to add more performances in the spring if COVID-19 conditions improve and permit us to do so safely.”

Punta Gorda Symphony plans to produce outdoor concerts on Dec. 19 and Feb. 6, 2021, in partnership with Florida SouthWestern State College Charlotte Campus.

“Outdoor amphitheater, concerts will be limited to socially-distanced audiences of 250, and will follow standard COVID-related health and safety guidelines,” Badinger said in the press release. “We’re working to make a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone — audience, musicians, staff, and volunteers alike.”

Punta Gorda Symphony will present “Holiday Pops Outdoors!” which showcases Maestro Raffaele Ponti’s unique programming with a mix of both seasonal favorites and fun new orchestrations.

“There’s no substitute for live performance,” said Maestro Raffaele Ponti, in the release.

Due to the limited audience size, Punta Gorda Symphony staff will be attending to existing subscribers and ticket-holders first. New ticket-buyers may visit the website at pgsymphony.org to be added to the waiting list.

“We know not all of our subscribers will choose to attend an in-person concert,” Badinger said. “And we hope we’ll be able to accommodate every interested patron.”