

by Sherry Campbell Bechtold  
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## REVIEW: April 18 Harborside Brass



*Several patrons enjoyed the Punta Gorda Symphony brass quintet from the comfort of their boats on Charlotte Harbor. Photo by Sherry Campbell Bechtold.*

Florida weather cooperated nicely for the final outdoor performance produced by our own Punta Gorda Symphony. Once again, impeccably organized, and mindful of health safety precautions, the Symphony attracted a manageable audience for three identical concerts on Sunday afternoon, performed by the Harborside Brass, consisting of Symphony members Richard Stoelzel and Jeff Kaye on trumpet, Jennifer Miller on horn, Karla Rojas on trombone, and Todd Handley on tuba.

The stage and seating area was adjacent to the popular Tiki Bar at Four Points by Sheraton, but the audience extended out onto the water, where we were very comfortably positioned dockside to enjoy the show. The music was nicely amplified and completely audible from the boat, but unfortunately, we were not able to hear the speakers who introduced each segment – and I know, from experience, that there were plenty of educational and entertaining tidbits throughout for those seated on the lawn!

The program opened with a medley of familiar favorite numbers from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story* and continued with a variety of styles and composers, including a March by Prokofiev, contemporary works by Kevin McKee, Michael Kamen, and an arrangement of "Happy" by Pharrell Williams which included an audience participation of syncopated hand clapping. Very fun.

Most notable in the concert were selections from George Gershwin's jazzy *Porgy and Bess*, as well as Clyde McCoy's "Sugar Blues" where the trumpets were given the opportunity to show off music written with the instrument in mind.

This showy concert by Harborside Brass was the icing on the cake for the Symphony's outdoor series. A wonderful reminder of how lucky we are to be the home of this exceptional organization, its talented musicians, creative, committed management team, sponsors, volunteers and, of course, the one and only Maestro Raffaele Ponti, who welcomed the audience with his characteristic charm and sense of humor, reminding us that a full season of symphonic concerts lies ahead. What a joy that will be!

*To see the Harborside Brass Tempo Magazine, and for additional information about this concert, the 2021-2022 season, and tickets please visit [PGSymphony.org](http://PGSymphony.org)*



*Punta Gorda Symphony performed its season-closing Harborside Brass concerts to a total of 490 attendees plus passers-by on April 18. Photo by Elise Sherron.*