



Sounds of the new Season

September 2018

A Musician's Heart of Golden Gifts Launches New Symphony Season
...A Conversation with Michelle Merrill



When did it become clear that conducting classical music was the career path for you?

In high school, I became Drum Major for the marching band, which was my first introduction to “conducting,” but there were also a few times when the teachers would be out of town, and they would let me run the class and rehearse. I’m not sure how all of my classmates felt about that – but I loved it! These experiences also gave me a taste of what it was really like to stand in front of an ensemble and make musical decisions for people other than myself. I knew I wanted to make music every day for the rest of my life. Fast forward to now, and I feel incredibly fortunate that I have gotten to conduct some of the world’s finest musicians.

What is your vision for the Coastal Symphony of Georgia as the 2018-19 season commences?

I want people to not only have fun, but to feel moved and impacted by the music they are hearing and to want to share that experience with all those around them. We are an orchestra of superior talent; we are a community of music lovers; and we are an epicenter of artistic expression where established and emerging partners can feel at home.

What does it really mean to be a conductor?

I view conducting as a collaboration – between myself and the composer (living or dead) and especially between myself and the musicians. As a conductor, I am there to guide the ensemble in the interpretation and flow of the piece. But music is living and breathing, and the players come with ideas of their own as well, so it’s my job to put all of those ideas into a cohesive whole to create the best performance possible with that ensemble. My favorite thing is taking a piece and making it a new experience each and every time. That is what makes live music as an art form so wonderful – it is always a new experience each time you return to it.

Upcoming Events

September 20, 4:00 p.m.
Symphony Society Fall Meeting
Offices of Hall Booth Smith, P.C.

October 1, 8:00 p.m.
Concert: Bernstein & Beethoven
Brunswick High School

October 15, 5:30 p.m.
Sounds on the Harbor
Golden Isles Marina

November 2 – 4
Golden Elephant
Offices of Hall Booth Smith, P.C.

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CONCERT NOTES

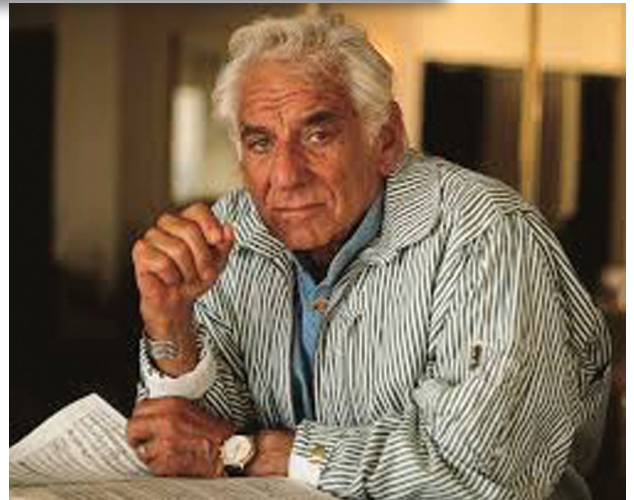
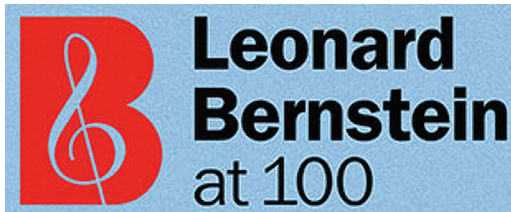
Opening Night of the 2018-2019 Season, October 1, 8:00 p.m., features the timeless, unforgettable music of two composers from very different eras who embraced building bridges between old and new ideas of composing symphonic music.

Leonard Bernstein's *Overture to Candide* is taken from his 1956 operetta about the misadventures of Candide and his sweetheart, Cunegonde. The music is lyrical, playful, and vivid, featuring fast-paced woodwinds, a lush section led by violas, and showy horns. Opening on Broadway in December 1956, *Candide* was successful as classical music performance but not for Broadway; the show closed after only 73 performances.

However, *West Side Story*, written in 1957, was an instant Broadway success and marked a turning point in American musical theater with its sophisticated music, extended dance scenes, and focus on social themes. Grounded in classical music, Bernstein was able to translate those skills into what would become a truly "American" sound, reflecting influences of classical, jazz, and popular styles of music. The *Symphonic Dances* focus on dance scenes, love songs, and constant echoes of gang tensions, making full use of the orchestra with clever scoring for various sections and instruments.

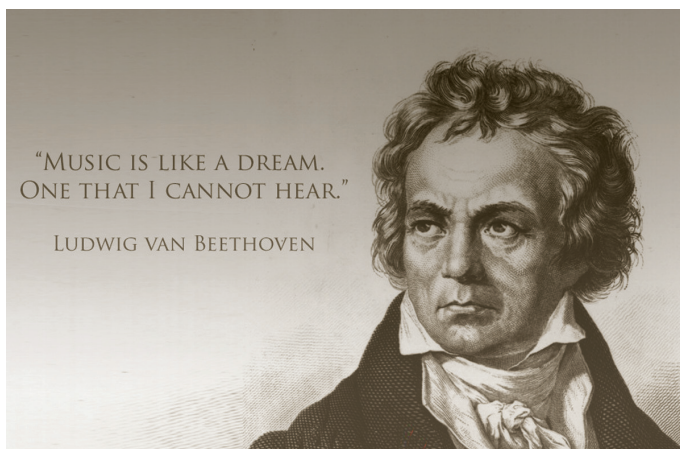
The familiar opening motif of Ludwig von Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5 in C Minor* begins the second half of our concert. It was written during 1804-08, when Beethoven was beginning his move from the Classical to Romantic Period, and it shows influences from both. The 5th has a stormy, heroic mood including a foreboding, yet triumphant sonata form

before moving on to variations on two themes, a lighter scherzo section, and a blazing finale. Flying in the face of tradition, Beethoven wrote the fourth movement in C Major. "Many assert that every minor piece must end in minor," he said. "Nego! Joy follows sorrow, sunshine – rain."



Michelle Merrill talks about Bernstein's 100

#BernsteinAt100 is the world-wide celebration of the 100th birthday of Leonard Bernstein, the composer, conductor, educator, musician, cultural ambassador, and humanitarian. This two-year global celebration of the life and career of this 20th century cultural giant connects our orchestra with more than 2,000 events on six continents. Our opening concert on October 1st, featuring Bernstein's *Overture to Candide* and *Symphonic Dances* from *West Side Story*, will be listed on the #BernsteinAt100 online calendar of events alongside orchestras such as the Vienna Philharmonic, Houston Grand Opera, and Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The significance for me is not only that of being globally connected to all of these other organizations, but of striving to live out the ideals of what Bernstein knew music could do for the world, and in each of our lives.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the 36th Season of the Coastal Symphony of Georgia. I invite each of you to take a moment and reflect on the journey our Symphony has taken during the past 35 years. Of course, your individual recollections will differ, according to the length of time that you have been a part of that trek. My wife, JoAnn, and I embarked on the journey in 2001, and we have enjoyed each Season since that time, making note of the changes and growth exhibited during the last 18 years. As pleasant as it may be to reminisce, it is now incumbent upon us all to look to the future, and make plans to ensure that the road upon which our Symphony has embarked is as smooth as possible, regardless of the number of turns it may encounter.

Our Board of Directors has been working very diligently to ensure not only the financial success of the upcoming Season but to establish markers for future Seasons, pointing toward a new venue of 1200+ seats in the not-too-distant future in the Performing Arts Center, presently planned for the campus of the College of Coastal Georgia. Our first marker has been

met with the introduction of Michelle Merrill as our Music Director and Conductor. Her youthful exuberance and appearance belie her experience, and she has planned a most interesting program for October 1, with tributes to Leonard Bernstein and Ludwig van Beethoven. We certainly look forward to our first concert of the Season!

Other markers will include measures to grow the interest in CSG (and the Music Arts in general) among ALL demographics, from kindergartners through adulthood. We are looking to expand the reach of our Symphony through outreach programs in our schools, and through the performance of extra concerts in multiple community settings. Of course, those plans only come to fruition if the funding is available.

It is primarily through the interest and enthusiasm of our present attendees that word of the fabulous musical resource we have in the Golden Isles will spread. Each attendee is a potential Ambassador for the Coastal Symphony of Georgia, and it is through your enthusiasm and support that we will be able to grow from a capacity of 540 persons per concert to upwards of 1200 at the Performing Arts Center.

So, enjoy your Symphony, and focus on what part you can play in spreading the word about this regional asset that is the Coastal Symphony of Georgia.

Michael Frick,
Symphony Board President

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HARBOR SOUNDS

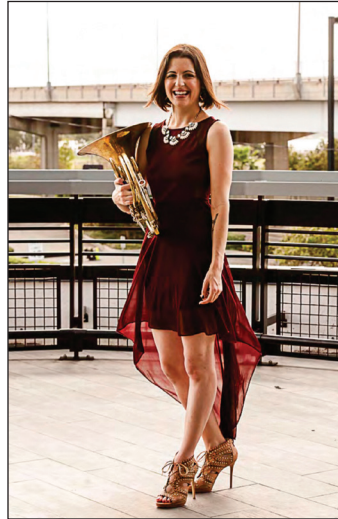
... MUSIC AT SUNSET ON THE RIVER

We are pleased to announce that The Coastal Symphony of Georgia is sponsoring a special performance in an extraordinary setting Monday, October 15, at the Harbor Room at Golden Isles Marina. Two talented musicians will be doing what they do best: sharing their love of all things musical across a wide spectrum of time-honored genres.

Plan to attend a relaxing evening as the sun goes down in the Golden Isles; enjoy complimentary culinary delicacies and a cash bar; and listen to the incomparable Kate Caliendo (French horn) and Patrick Graham (clarinet) perform especially for you in this intimate riverfront setting.

Kate Caliendo, Second Horn of The Jacksonville Symphony, has been performing with the Coastal Symphony of Georgia for the past two seasons. Before moving to Florida, Ms. Caliendo held Fourth Horn positions with the Houston Symphony and San Antonio Symphony, as well as being Principal Horn of the Mid-Texas Symphony.

Clarinetist Patrick Graham joined the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra in September 2017, after serving as a member of the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra. He has been heard on Canada's national CBC Radio as well as Chicago's WFMT Radio and Jacksonville's WJCT Radio. As a recitalist Patrick has appeared in both the United States and Canada.



Harbor Sounds

Monday, October 15, 2018, 5:30 pm
Harbor Room - Golden Isles Marina
102 Marina Drive, St. Simons Island, GA

\$50 per person

Reception following performance

Reservations: Janice Lamattina

lamattina2@comcast.net

Phone: 912-222-7541



SHARE YOUR TICKET

If you cannot use your ticket(s), please contact the Symphony office at 912.634.2006 to let us offer your ticket(s) to others.

WE HAVE A WAITING LIST FOR CONCERT TICKETS.



Come One, Come All to the Fall Meeting!

The Symphony Society
 An affiliate of the
 Coastal Symphony of Georgia, Inc.

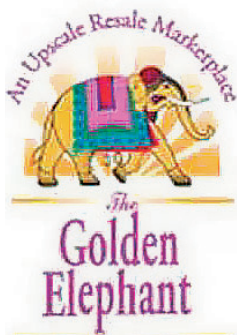
On behalf of The Symphony Society, I welcome you to another exciting season. This fall marks the beginning of our 11th year as an organization of volunteers working in support of the purpose and mission of The Coastal Symphony of Georgia, primarily in conducting fundraising events to assure the future health of our valuable community asset. This newsletter reaches hundreds of households of music lovers. If you are not already a member, this new season is a perfect time for you to join us, not only as an affirmation of your interest in symphonic music but also as a small financial commitment to helping underwrite the significant contribution the Society makes each year to the continuing programs of CSG. Whether you choose to actively volunteer or simply make your support visible via annual membership, we need you.

We invite you to attend our fall membership meeting on September 20 (see invitation on this page) to learn of our projects and to hear our new conductor, Michelle Merrell, preview the upcoming season. You don't have to be a member to attend. However, this event will also be an opportunity to join the Society and to sign up to assist or perhaps lead events. For additional membership information visit our website www.coastalsymphonyofgeorgia.org or call our chairperson, Jan Carriker, at 770-412-2694.

This is a great time to be involved with the Symphony Society. I will see you at the concerts and at our upcoming events.



*John Harper,
Society President*



**Friday, November 2
and Saturday, November 3**
 At Hall Booth Smith, P.C.
 3528 Darien Highway
 in Brunswick

The Golden Elephant, our annual upscale resale market, will be held the first weekend of November. This year the Elephant is moving to Brunswick, to allow for more space to display our fabulous inventory. Please support this important fundraiser and donate furniture or other gently used household items such as

Linens	Toys	Objets d'arts
China	Holiday décor	Jewelry
Lamps	Sports equipment	Handbags
Framed art	Gardening tools	NO clothing or books

Patrons Preview Party: Thursday, November 1st;
 \$25 per person.

Drop off dates at Hall Booth Smith: Saturday -
 October 13, 20, 27.

Check website for information about pick up
 service for large items.

You are invited!
The Symphony Society Fall Meeting
 at the offices of Hall Booth Smith, P.C.
 3528 Darien Highway in Brunswick
 4:00 p.m. on September 20
*Michelle Merrill will be previewing the
 upcoming season.*
 For reservations call JoAnn Frick at 912-996-6776.



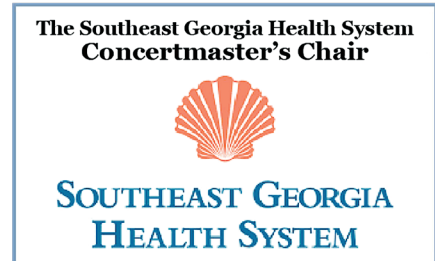
Corporate Sponsors ★ Named Chairs



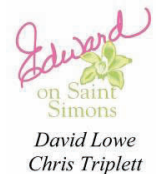
Platinum



Platinum



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<p>The Planters Exchange Principal Flute Chair</p>	<p>The Joe Durant Principal Second Violin Chair</p>	<p>The Ann Leggett Perse Principal Clarinet Chair</p>	<p>The Elizabeth and John H. Starr Principal Cello Chair</p>
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SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Two years ago, Hall Booth Smith, P.C. Attorneys at Law stepped forward to become the inaugural sponsor of the Music Director and Conductor's Chair for The Coastal Symphony of Georgia. This \$30,000 signature commitment — \$10,000 a year for three years — makes it possible for the Symphony to bring the highest quality of classical music performances to the Golden Isles. Now in its third year, this generous sponsorship from HBS is especially meaningful as our new Music Director and Conductor, Michelle Merrill, plans an outstanding season of symphonic music presented in four enchanting concerts (October, December, February, and April.)

HBS is known as a strong community supporter and a longtime sponsor of The Coastal Symphony of Georgia, among other local nonprofits. HBS Partner Michael Frick, our Symphony Board President, says community support is at the core of the HBS business philosophy. "When we support worthy causes, not only do we enable our communities to thrive and prosper, but in the process, we create enriching life experiences for our employees," he says. "The Coastal Symphony of

Georgia adds great value to our area by presenting world-class artists and outstanding musical performances not often available outside of large cities."

A full-service law firm serving the Southeast since 1989, HBS has 14 offices in six states, including a new office in Jacksonville and a regional office of 15 attorneys right here in Brunswick on U.S. Highway 17. With over 30 practice areas, ranging from wills and trusts to government affairs and business litigation, HBS offers expertise across legal disciplines with a focus on the unique needs of its clients. The firm has been named one of the Best Law Firms by U.S. News & World Report and is regularly cited as one of the Best Places to Work by journalists and business organizations. HBS attorneys are consistently listed among the top lawyers in America.

The firm's motto, "Serving to Achieve Excellence," certainly describes its community spirit. In taking the lead in the Symphony's Named Chairs Campaign, HBS exemplifies the very best in Golden Isles corporate citizenship. We are grateful for their continuing generosity.

Name a Chair Sponsorships Continue to Grow

Membership in the Named Chair Program gives you an opportunity to celebrate your favorite instrument and make a significant contribution to our symphonic endeavor. To date, we have received funding for the Music Director/Conductor, Hall Booth Smith, P.C.; Concertmaster, Southeast Georgia Health System, and four Principal Chairs (listed below). Our goal this year is to attract sponsorships for the remaining 11 Principal Chairs. The cost of each Principal Sponsorship is \$9000, which may be paid over a period of three years, with one third paid each year."

Current Principal Chairs:

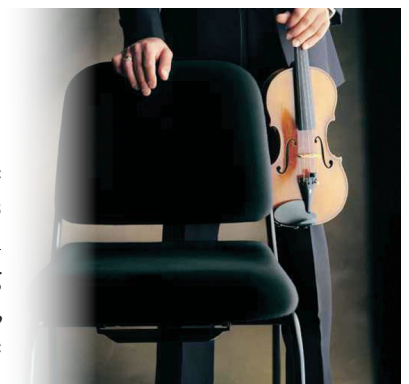
- The Elizabeth and John H. Starr Principal Cello Chair
- The Joe Durant Principal Violin II Chair
- The Ann Leggett Perse Principal Clarinet Chair
- The Planters Exchange Principal Flute Chair

Sponsors will receive

- ♫ Four Season Tickets each of the four years with priority reserved seating selection by the donor,
- ♫ Recognition for three seasons in all newsletters, programs, and website,
- ♫ Signage displayed outside the auditorium,
- ♫ Priority seating and sales for special concerts and events, and
- ♫ An opportunity to dedicate a concert in honor of or in memory of someone special.

Remaining Chairs available for sponsorship: Viola, Bass, Harp, Oboe, Bassoon, Horn, Trombone, Trumpet, Tuba, Timpani, and Percussion

For information on naming a Principal Chair: Sharon Flores, 912-223-6755 or sharon.flores@comcast.net



The Coastal
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