

The  
Coastal  
Symphony  
of Georgia



41<sup>ST</sup> SEASON

FEBRUARY 2024



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**Friday, February 23, 2024**

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*For 19 years, Cabaret has been the signature fundraiser for The Coastal Symphony of Georgia. Music plays a vital role in defining a community's robust cultural arts scene. Your support of Cabaret 2024 will help ensure our ability to continue to enrich the Golden Isles and **Keep the Music Playing.***

# CONCERT NOTES

## TIMELESS TREASURES

*Monday, February 5, 2024*

*7:30 pm*

*Wesley Church at Frederica, St. Simons Island*

Our winter concert uncovers timeless treasures of music. The program opens with **Beethoven's** *Coriolan* Overture written for Henrich Joseph von Collins' tragedy, *Coriolan*. The overture has long been a favorite with symphony orchestras, with its sense of urgency followed by a more calming theme as the music follows the story of the play.



Trombonist, Christopher Bassett joins the orchestra on a less well-known treasure from German composer **Ernst Sachse**. The Concertino in F major is at first merry and fast-paced, followed by a lovely legato section, before returning to the original temp. Fingering for the soloist can be particularly challenging as the

soloist explores the amazing sounds of this “low brass” instrument.

An almost forgotten treasure closes the program. 19<sup>th</sup> Century French composer **Louise Farrenc's** first symphony shows an individual voice of considerable originality along with influences of Beethoven and Schuman. Her music is full of melody and expressive use of each section. Farrenc's music was well respected during her career, but her works were largely forgotten following her death. They are now being revisited by symphonic orchestras.



*This concert will intrigue us!*

Christopher Bassett is an old friend of the Coastal Symphony of Georgia. He was a member of the Jacksonville Symphony from 2017-2022, played with the CSG during that time, and many of us remember him as part of the entertaining *Three Trombones and a Tuba* SoundBite played at Vitality Living Frederica.

On February 5, Christopher will make his debut as an orchestral soloist performing the Sachse Concertino for Brass Trombone with our orchestra. “It’s quite an opportunity for a trombonist to step up front and perform a concerto,” he says, noting the brass section usually resides in the back of the orchestra. He adds that while prominent composers are “writing truly wonderful works for the instrument, it rarely gets the same chance to shine like other instruments do.” Christopher says preparing for a trombone concerto performance requires building up endurance. “Although our concerti might not be as long as a violin concerto, they are every bit as demanding for us,” adding that the Sachse concertino “shows the trombone in its most pristine classical hat.”

Christopher is currently Acting Bass Trombone with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra; he also gives Master Classes and Recitals coast to coast and is a founding member of the Santa Fe Trombone Summit, a college level week-long trombone seminar, hosted by the trombones of the Santa Fe Opera. He holds a Bachelor of Music from the New England Conservatory of Music, spends his summers in New Mexico as a member of the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra, and has played with large orchestras nationwide.




**GUEST ARTIST**  
**CHRISTOPHER BASSETT**

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## Tom Heagy Honors His Musical Family



Classical music has been a part of Tom Heagy's life for as long as he can remember. Children of two professional musicians, Tom and his siblings were "strongly encouraged" to learn to play a musical instrument and make music an integral part of their lives. "My parents met while playing in the Fresno State Symphony Orchestra," Tom says. "Mother played first flute, and my father first oboe. Those two instruments were located next to each other in the orchestra set-up," he explains.

Tom's father, Clarence would go on to found the Fresno Philharmonic where he played as did his wife, Ruth. The Philharmonic is in its 69<sup>th</sup> Season as a professional orchestra today. After trying out the violin, Tom chose to study flute. "My mother and I often played duets," he says. His brother James was given private instruction in the cello and met his wife at Fresno State while playing in the orchestra. Richard chose the bassoon but did not show the same interest as his siblings. "All the Heagy musicians honored with Coastal Symphony Named Chairs

married musicians," adds Tom who is looking forward to getting them together for his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday. "We will play the London Trios by Haydn which is an old favorite of ours."

Tom's business career took him to Chicago where he became what he unabashedly calls a Muti Groupie. Riccardo Muti was the Music Director of the Chicago Symphony for 13 Seasons where he continues as Director Emeritus for life. Tom is a Life Trustee of the Chicago Symphony and still travels from his Sea Island home to attend concerts there. However, another symphony and its conductor have also caught his attention.

Last year, Tom heard some of Jessie Montgomery's music in Chicago and was very impressed. There was some difference of opinion about the contemporary composer's music, but when he met Michelle Merrill soon thereafter and learned she was a fan of Montgomery, he was impressed again. "A conductor has an enormous impact on an orchestra," he says. "In addition to conducting skills, there is a skill to good program planning, the ability to teach as well as entertain. Michelle has both." He adds, "This is something she has in common with Riccardo Muti."

Tom looks forward to more brilliant seasons under Merrill's baton with our exceptional musicians. And he hopes the CSG and the Golden Isles Youth Orchestra can merge. "Bringing music to young children is critically important to their academic and professional careers," explains Tom. "Music students are better students in every field including STEM and generally display the discipline needed for a successful life." He believes it would be much more efficient for the GIYO and CSG to achieve their goals of reaching young people if they operated under the same umbrella.

We are deeply grateful to Tom and his wife Linda for their support of our symphony. And we can imagine the joy and laughter as the family gathers to play Haydn for Tom's birthday!

## The Christmas Concert at Vitality Living Frederica with the Coastal Symphony Woodwind Quintet was enjoyed by a capacity audience!



Leslie Graitcer, CSG Vice President; Les Roettges, Flute;  
Daniel Rios, Oboe; Patrick Graham, Clarinet



Barbara Sullivan; Kate Caliendo, French Horn



Dean and Amy Starr; Carol Blackmon



Anthony Anurca, Bassoon



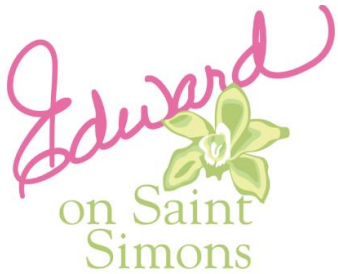
Caroline Howser; Bob Gibbs



Susan Myers; Sue Cansler; Don Myers



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The Coastal Symphony celebrates a longstanding Gold Sponsor, the Fairfield Inn & Suites, the Holiday Inn and Suites, and the Holiday Inn Express in Brunswick. All hotels are located at Exit 38/I-95, midway between Savannah and Jacksonville alongside Harris’ Steak and Seafood, the house restaurant for the full-service Holiday Inn & Suites. Rated as three of the area’s top hotels, they provide excellent lodging and customer service with true southern hospitality. Known for great customer service, these are the only locally owned and operated hotels in our area. Whether in the Golden Isles for business or pleasure, they can offer the perfect hotel for your stay.



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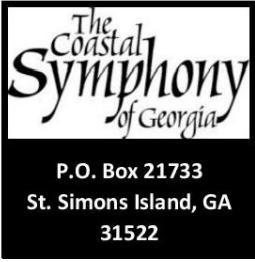
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