

Presents

SOUTH FLORIDA'S GOT TALENT CONCERT



Showcasing the winners of our

20TH ANNUAL CONCERTO COMPETITION



Gabe Rodríguez, cello Haydn's Cello Concerto no. 1



Michael Li, violin Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto



Noa Michaels, harp Debussy's Sacred and Profane Dances

Sunday, January 21, 2024

FIU Wertheim Performing Arts Center

7:30 pm

AlhambraOrchestra.org



SOUTH FLORIDA'S GOT TALENT CELEBRATION



Greetings From The Alhambra Orchestra Board, Officers And Musicians,

Welcome to the acoustically excellent Wertheim Performing Arts Center for another free community concert. We hope you and your family had an enjoyable holiday season. We are delighted to start 2024 with one of our favorite events, the presentation of the young winners of our annual concerto competition. The Alhambra Orchestra's unique role as a community resource includes an imperative to encourage and foster the talents of our South Florida youth. We do side-by-side performances with students, include young musicians in our annual

chamber music workshop, and run this competition, now in its twentieth year. Many of our prior winners have gone on to prestigious colleges and conservatories, and then to careers in music.

Top students from Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties are invited to submit recordings of solo pieces that can be performed with orchestral accompaniment. Eminent musicians and music educators judge the recordings. The highest-rated students perform live with their piano accompanists at a final round with a new set of judges. We are very grateful to Richard Yaklich, Pamela McConnell, Angelica Sganga, Marina Berberian, Karen Lord-Powell, and Aaron Merritt for undertaking the difficult task of judging these excellent young performers. After they are chosen, the winners have the experience of rehearsing as soloists with the Alhambra Orchestra under the baton of maestro Andai. And then you will get to hear the results of this collaboration. The orchestra will also perform two overtures as interludes between the soloists.

We invite you to the remaining concerts of this season, listed in detail on page 13 of this program. Our next event will feature our in-house string quartet with pianist Mia Vassilev in a Valentines' Day event at the Sanctuary of the Arts in Coral Gables. This event, called "A Valentine with Strings," is on Sunday, February 11th, 3 pm (you can easily get home in time for the Super Bowl). Tickets are on the Sanctuary of the Arts website. The following Sunday, February 18th, larger chamber groups from the orchestra will perform "A Visit to Italy" featuring lovely chamber works by Italian composers from Baroque to modern. The concert will be free, 7:30 pm in the Coral Gables Congregational Church.

Alhambra Orchestra Board, Officers, and Musicians



AlhambraOrchestra.org | 2829 Bird Avenue, Suite 5 PMB 290 Coconut Grove, FI, 33133 | (305) 668-9260



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

We are committed to the belief that music and live performances in particular, are essential to the growth of our community. Made possible by the support of our generous sponsors, the Alhambra Orchestra is pleased to present tonight's program. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we wish to thank all of the individuals that believed in our commitment to bring live music to our community and invested their personal time and effort to make this possible.



The Alhambra Orchestra's season is made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners. It is also sponsored by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, with the National Endowment for the Arts.



With Special Guests



Gabe Rodríguez, Cello Soloist



Michael Li, Violin Soloist



Noa Michaels, Harp soloist

ALHAMBRA ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL Conductor

Daniel Andai

Guest Soloists Gabe Rodríguez, cello Noa Michaels, harp Michael Li, violin

Violin 1

Steffen Zeichner (concertmaster), Jacolyn Alvarez, Maria Consuelo Armas, Roda Buenconsejo, Joy Castro, Mariangely Diaz, Luz Maria Lugue, Roraima Omana, Silvina Parra, Michelle Pelletier, Xiomara Sepulveda, Peter Vertes

Violin 2

Katie Peña, Faye Albert, Kelvin Clavelo, Janet Copeland, Orlando Correa, Ilene Herscher, Joy Hyams, Maxine Ismael, Derek Mercer, Wendy Ocando, Marianna Pineda, Barabara Roy

Viola

Michelle Sanchez, William Burrows, Helen Hauser, Gabi Huget, April Queen, Paul Strassburg, Leo Walz

Cello

Sara Wigderson, Volker Anding, August Neal, Ruth Smith, Florencia Stabilini, Sophie Trautschold, Barbara Tria, Richard Woodworth, Pamela Yen

Double Bass

Joe Yeargin, Vladimir Perez Popov

Flute, Piccolo

Carol Naveira-Nicholson, Sophia Camejo, Aldo Fernandez

Oboe

Cesar Rangel, Camber Flick, David Sucik

Clarinet

Evan Eldridge, John Garcia

Bassoon

Gail Harrison. Carlos Garcia

French Horn

Alejandro Retana, Carlos Briceno, Diane Marzen, Seth Patterson Trumpet

Jean-Claude Misset, Miles Lawrence

Trombone

Joe Shearin, Chandler Finley, Steve Saunders

Tuba

Horby Lopez

Percussion

Brian Lewis, Damian Llevada, Michael Vargas



JOHANN STRAUSS, JR. (1825-1899) *Overture to Die Fledermaus*

CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862-1918) Danses Sacree et Profane Noa Michaels, Harp soloist

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847) Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64, Movement 1 "Allegro Molto Appassionato" Michael Li, Violin Soloist

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INTERMISSION

GIUSEPPE VERDI (1813-1901) Overture to Nabucco

JOSEPH HAYDN (1732-1809) Cello Concerto in C major, Movement 1 "Moderato" Jorge Gabriel "Gabe" Rodríguez, Cello Soloist



PROGRAM NOTES

Johann Strauss, Jr. (1825-1899) was named for his father, also a famous composer. Strauss Jr.'s Viennese waltzes and operettas were immensely popular and he toured Europe and America with his compositions. Written in 1874, Die Fledermaus ("The Bat") was a lighthearted operetta built around a practical joke, with lively dance themes and upbeat melodies. The overture is a beloved standard of orchestra programming.

Claude Debussy (1862-1918) scoffed at the traditional rules of harmony, choosing instead exotic scales and unusual harmonies, with which he created pieces of ethereal beauty. Critics called his style "impressionist," though Debussy rejected the label. His Danses Sacre et Profane, a two-movement work, was written to demonstrate the versatility of a new instrument, the chromatic harp.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor of the early Romantic period. Mendelssohn's compositions include symphonies, concertos, piano music, organ music and chamber music. His Violin Concerto in E minor is his last concerto. Well received at its premiere, it has remained among the most prominent and highly-regarded violin concertos and is played frequently.

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) was a hugely successful Italian opera composer. Many of his works are still regularly performed throughout the world. The opera Nabucco is based on Biblical accounts of the conquest of Israel by Nebuchadnezzar, as modified by contemporary playwrights. The dramatic overture, mostly solemn themes from the opera, is often played as a concert piece.

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) had a long career as a composer in Vienna, and later in England. A very prolific writer of symphonies, chamber music, masses, oratorios, and concertos, he helped establish the classical forms and styles for the string quartet and the symphony. His Cello Concerto No. 1 is considered a masterpiece, with the orchestra and bravura soloist conducting a dialog.

DANIEL ANDAI

Alhambra Orchestra Artistic Director & Conductor



Hailed as an "Exemplary Leader" by the New York Times for leading members of New York Philharmonic and Manhattan School of Music in Carnegie Hall, violinist Daniel Andai has shared his versatile artistry as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, concertmaster, conductor and recording artist at major concert venues in over 50 countries. He is a prizewinner of numerous competitions and soloed with orchestras around the world.

Daniel Andai is concertmaster of Miami Symphony Orchestra (MISO) since 2010. Special solo appearances with MISO have included

special induction ceremonies to Genius 100 Visionaries roster for JAXA Astronaut Soichi Noguchi while orbiting Earth aboard the International Space Station, Eduardo Marturet performing on a Holocaust surviving violin (part of the Violins of Hope collection), and actress Goldie Hawn. Previously, he was concertmaster of the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas in New York with whom he recorded multiple Billboard rated SONY Classical CD's and toured as soloist during Mexico's bicentennial celebrations for millions of viewers. He appeared as guest concertmaster with orchestras in Mexico, Brazil, Switzerland, and France, as a section violinist of New York Philharmonic and Miyazaki Festival Orchestra (Japan), and worked closely with members of major string quartets, symphony, opera, and ballet orchestras from around the world.

Dr. Daniel Andai is an educator and Chief Academic Officer as Dean of the Music Division at New World School of the Arts (Miami, Florida) where facilitates the partnership between Miami Dade College, University of Florida, and Miami Dade County Public Schools. He is Artistic Director of Killington Music Festival (Killington, Vermont), and Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Alhambra Orchestra in Miami. Previously, he served as violin professor and Marialice Shivers Endowed Chair in Fine Arts at University of Texas in Edinburg and served on faculties at Miami-Dade College and New World School of the Arts. He has participated in over 30 summer music festivals, where he worked with countless world class pop and classical artists and toured extensively with the Verbier Festival Orchestra and Verbier Chamber Orchestra, where he served as a concertmaster.

Daniel Andai serves on boards and advisory boards, is a panelist for Jeb and Columba Bush's Arts4Life scholarship organization, and performed for numerous world dignitaries, including Hilary Clinton, Donald Trump, Lech Walesa, Al Gore, Benjamin Netanyahu, among others.

Daniel Andai is an alumnus of University of Miami, Manhattan School of Music, Lynn University, New World School of the Arts, Miami Dade College and Killington Music Festival.





JORGE "GABE" RODRÍGUEZ, CELLO

FIRST-PLACE WINNER Jorge Gabriel ("Gabe") Rodriguez is a 16 year old cellist from Boca Raton, FL. He is a 10th grader at the North Broward Preparatory School where he attends on academic and Fine Arts scholarships. His musical journey began at the age of 5. He currently

studies cello with Mr. Jason Calloway. Gabe has been a member of the Florida Youth Orchestra since age 7 and has been the principal cellist of FYO's Principal Orchestra the past 3 years. Gabe is also a member of FYO's Encore chamber ensemble. He won second place in the 2021 Festival of the Arts Boca strings music competition. He was principal cellist of the 2022 Florida All-State 7th/8th grade middle school orchestra and the 2023 Florida All-State 9th/10th grade orchestra. He was a winner at the 2022 Florida Federation of Music Clubs Junior Convention in the categories of Cello Solo Difficult Class I and Cello Concerto Junior Class I. He received the Outstanding Cellist award at the same convention. Gabe was selected to be the principal student cellist of the New World Symphony Side-by-Side Ensemble in April 2023.



MICHAEL LI, VIOLIN

SECOND-PLACE WINNER Michael Li, a 15-year-old violinist from West Palm Beach, is a sophomore at Dreyfoos School of the Arts. He has been playing violin since the age of 5, and is currently studying with Ms. Hui-Feng Chen. In the past, Michael has studied with Mr. Li-Yuan Sun; Ms. Jin Zhang, a member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra;

and with Mr. Patrick Clifford at PBA University from 2020 to 2023. Additionally, Michael has participated in competitions such as the Hilton Head and PBAU Concerto Competition, as well as peforming in various recitals in the PBAU music program. In the future, Michael plans to pursue music and/or medicine.

COMPETITION WINNERS 2023-24



NOA MICHAELS, HARP

THIRD-PLACE WINNER Noa Michaels, harpist, is a homeschooled student from Fort Lauderdale where she is in the Dual Enrollment program with Broward College. She is currently studying harp under Dickie Fleisher and Kayo Ishimaru-Fleisher, principal harpists of Naples Philharmonic

and Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. Noa is principal harpist of the

Broward Symphony Orchestra and was previously principal harp with the Florida Youth Orchestra. She has performed with the Naples Harp Ensemble, Arts Planet, Greater Miami Youth Symphony, Lynn Philharmonia, Ocala Symphony Orchestra, PBA University Oratorio and Concert Choirs, and the Coral Ridge Concert Orchestra. She won the gold prize and the "Characteristic Performance Special Prize" at the 2023 London Young Musician Concerto Competition, and was a finalist in the 2022 Alhambra Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Noa was an orchestral fellow in Miami Music Festival 2022 where she was was mentored by Deborah Fleisher. She participated in the New World Symphony Side-by-Side, and most recently studied with harpist Sivan Magen in the Musica Mundi School Course and Festival 2023 in Waterloo, Belgium. Other acceptances include the summer orchestral programs of Eastern Music Festival 2022 and 2023, and Brevard Music Center 2022 with a merit scholarship. Noa is a frequent soloist with the Camerata of Naples, and has been a soloist with the Florida Youth Orchestra beside Grammy award-winning flautist Nestor Torres, playing Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto in C major.



ABOUT THE ALHAMBRA ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1990, the Alhambra Orchestra has as its purpose the promotion of live classical performances and of music education in Miami-Dade County. Its corporate entity, Alhambra Music, Inc., is a tax-exempt nonprofit operated and managed by volunteers who are also musicians. Thus, the orchestra has nominal administrative expenses and nearly all of its funding goes directly into programming. The orchestra has chosen to provide free concerts as much as possible, so that everyone in the community can experience its concerts without any barriers. The Alhambra Orchestra is wholly independent and not affiliated with any educational or civic institutions, although it often partners with other groups in our community. Funding comes from state and county grants, foundations, generous audience members, and the member musicians themselves, who are largely volunteers. Our highly trained musicians are diverse members of the community who earn their livings in many different occupations, but they all believe in the need for, and the power of, great music.

Tax-deductible donations are gratefully accepted through our website (alhambraorchestra.org), Venmo@Alhambra-Orchestra or by mail. Be sure to join our mailing list while on our website.

Checks can be sent to: 2829 Bird Avenue, Suite 5, PMB 290, Miami, Fl 33133.

Alhambra Orchestra Officers And Board 2023-24

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KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE ORCHESTRA

For our schedule and general information about the orchestra, please visit our website, AlhambraOrchestra.org. You can also contact us via email, music@alhambraorchestra.org, Facebook messages, and our voice-mail, (305) 668-9260.

Please be sure to visit our social media channels and subscribe to them facebook.com/Alhambra-Orchestra-137334336296762



youtube.com/c/AlhambraOrchestraMiami

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ALHAMBRA ORCHESTRA CONCERTMASTER



STEFFEN ZEICHNER, VIOLIN

Dr. Steffen Zeichner is a creative violinist who actively performs within jazz, classical, klezmer, and a variety of other musical genres.

A native of Gainesville, Florida, Steffen plays with several ensembles and orchestras throughout the South Florida area. He is the leader of 5 String

Swing, a lively jazz violin driven band that regularly presents shows of Jazz, Swing, and American Standards.

Steffen is a passionate educator with a focus on developing the creative potential of string players, particularly through exposing them to musical genres outside of the classical world and through helping students to develop improvisational and real-world performance skills. He has an international studio of private violin students learning various styles of music with him both in-person and virtually, and is the adjunct Lecturer of Jazz Violin at Florida International University.

Throughout his career Steffen has shared the stage with many top artists including Chick Corea, Gloria Estefan, Cyrille Aimee, Nestor Torres, Kenny Loggins, Ben Folds, Maria Schneider, Terence Blanchard, and George Benson, with whom he was featured as the violin soloist and concertmaster for Benson's 2013 album, "Inspiration". Steffen is also an experienced studio musician, credited on a Grammy winning CD, multiple Downbeat awarded recordings, and many other albums and commercial releases within a myriad of genres.

He holds a BM in Violin Performance from Indiana University (studying with Henryk Kowalski, Federico Agostini, Jorja Fleezanis, David Baker) and a Masters and Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Miami (Glenn Basham, Charles Castleman, Gary Lindsay, Stephen Guerra Jr). Steffen has also studied jazz violin with acclaimed jazz violinists John Blake Jr, Mark O'Connor, and Jeremy Cohen.

A VALENTINE WITH STRINGS

Adults \$10 Children \$5 Seniors \$5 ci.ovationtix.com/36755

> THE BEST IN CHAMBER MUSIC

Sun 2/11/24 3:00pm

Sanctuary of the Arts 410 Andalusia Avenue, Coral Gables, FL

Violinist Steffen Zeichner and pianist Mia Vassilev, with the Alhambra String Quartet, present a delightful mix of classical, jazz, Latin, and pop music for your pre-Valentines' Day enjoyment. Bring your significant others, friends, and family to this eclectic,

inexpensive, and enjoyable event in a lovely Coral Gables setting.





ABOUT THE YOUNG ARTIST CONCERTO COMPETITION

PRESENTING THE 20th Annual Ray Millette YOUNG ARTIST CONCERTO COMPETITION

LET THE MUSIC PLAY ON

The Alhambra Orchestra has established a **Young Artists Concerto Competition** in memory of Ray Millette, one of the founders of the admired and renowned Miami-based orchestra. This annual contest, for middle and high-school students, has been proudly instituted and administered by Alhambra Music Inc. for over twenty years.



The Concerto Competition serves to recognize the emerging talent in South Florida, allow them to play with a full orchestra, and reward them with scholarship money. The finalists are invited to compete in front of a panel of eminent judges. The competition, open to young musicians from South Florida, accepts contestants from

middle school through senior year of high school, including graduating seniors. We welcome any young musician trained on any orchestral instrument including: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone; french horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba; percussion, harp, piano; violin, viola, cello guitar or double bass. This is an opportunity to learn and connect with other musicians. A place to discover. A place that nurtures and inspires. A place that captures your musical imagination.



And that's just the beginning.

Supporting The Endeavors of Our Best Young Talent

A concerto is written so that the entire piece features one soloist out in front of the orchestra. A concerto is intended to show off all aspects of the soloist's technical and expressive mastery of his or her instrument, from fast pyrotechnics (referred to as "virtuosity") to slow, sweet, and lyrically sensitive musicianship.

Now, imagine this... you as a soloist accompanied by a full symphonic orchestra. That is an opportunity of a life time. Don't hesitate. Put in your application TODAY!

ENJOY OUR 34TH CONCERT SEASON

DISCOVER · LEARN · PARTICIPATE

Maestro Andai has masterminded an energetic season full of powerful music ranging from beloved classics to modern gems.

• Sunday, February 11, 2024 | 3:00 PM

A VALENTINE WITH STRINGS

Violinist Steffen Zeichner and pianist Mia Vassilev, with the Alhambra String Quartet, present a delightful mix of classical, jazz, Latin, and pop music for your pre-Valentines' Day enjoyment. Bring your significant others, friends, and family to this eclectic, inexpensive, and enjoyable event in a lovely Coral Gables setting.

VENUE: Sanctuary of the Arts

410 Andalusia Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida **TICKETS:** Reserve your tickets at ci.ovationtix.com/36755 Adults \$10, Children \$5, Seniors \$5.

Sunday, February 18, 2024 | 7:30 PM

A VISIT TO ITALY

For our annual chamber concert, experience a chamber music program curated by Alhambra Orchestra and presenting incredible pieces performed by a variety of mellifluous strings and winds in petite ensembles. The program will consist of music by Italian composers including Boccherini, Vivaldi, Puccini, Rossini, Morricone, and Respighi.

VENUE: Coral Gables Congregational Church

3010 Desoto Boulevard, Coral Gables 33134 FREE No tickets required.

• Sunday, April 7, 2024 | 4:00 PM

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Inspired by a total solar eclipse, the orchestra will partner with the Moss Center to produce a space-oriented family concert with astronomical images projected behind the orchestra. Highlights include music from Holst's Planets and from movie/TV franchises Apollo 13, Star Wars, and Star Trek, and orchestral arrangements of other space-themed works.

VENUE: Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center

10950 SW 211 St, Cutler Bay, FL

FREE Reserve your free admission tickets at mosscenter.org or 786-573-5300.

Sunday, June 2, 2024 | 7:30 PM

34th SEASON FINALE

Join us for a stellar conclusion to the orchestra's 34th season with a thrilling all-American program including Rhapsody in Blue (100 years since its debut), Lincoln Portrait, and more pieces by Leonard Bernstein, Ferde Grofe, Aaron Copland and John Williams. It is a season finale of gigantic proportions and an apt culmination to the orchestra's phenomenal year!

VENUE: FIU Wertheim Performing Arts Center

10910 SW 17th Street, Miami 33199

FREE No tickets required.



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