

The Cultural Engine That Could

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS BOCA, ENTERING ITS EIGHTH YEAR, CONTINUES TO CHUG ALONG, TRYING TO OFFER SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

In March 2008, Festival of the Arts Boca had just launched its second annual event, and Charlie Siemon and Wendy Larsen, its co-executive producers, were in crisis mode. The award-winning Greek composer Teodor Currentzis was scheduled to conduct three programs with the Russian National Orchestra, including one with opera powerhouse Renée Fleming.

Days before Currentzis' first appearance, Siemon and Larsen were told that he didn't yet have a visa, but no worries—he would get it in time. He didn't, and the Festival faced its first serious crisis. The substitute proposed by IMG Artists, the international booking organization that works with Siemon and Larsen, was \$50,000 more than the budget allowed.

In a pinch, the Festival ended up booking Mexican conductor Alondra de la Para, who flew in from Switzerland and made history by becoming the first woman to conduct the Russian National Orchestra. "I think she read the music all night on the plane coming over," Larsen recalls. "That was a lesson; we shouldn't go into the festival thinking it'll be fine. Assume that something's going to happen and be prepared to deal with it."

By now, Siemon and Larsen have the festival protocol down to a science, juggling classical, jazz and dance performances with lectures from provocative thinkers and esteemed novelists during a 10-day cultural bonanza. Launched in 2007, the event has become Mizner Park's biggest cultural draw; Larsen says visitors now schedule their Florida vacations around it.

Of course, the founders also hear plenty of criticism—for picking obscure names, for not picking enough obscure names, for event delays and even for the weather. As the 2014 Festival of the Arts approaches its eighth event next month (March 6-15)—promising a rare klezmer/classical music hybrid from Itzhak Perlman and

a performance from the legendary Bill T. Jones Dance Company (go to page 131 for a complete rundown)—Siemon and Larsen reflect on some of the challenges, joys and frustrations of trying to please everyone, all the time.

IN THE BEGINNING

Siemon: Those first three years we spent a lot of money to get art here at a very high level, and we thought we had to do that to establish a reputation. Today, we have bargaining power, because young artists want to be here, and older artists want to come back.

Larsen: There are lots of reasons why we don't go into the real pop music end, and one of them is financial. It's not because of our personal choice of music. Those acts are half a million, a million bucks apiece. If you can only sell 2,600 seats, you won't be able to afford it.

Siemon: Our smallest festival cost \$750,000, and our biggest festival cost \$2.1 million. 2009 was the biggest. We had Itzhak Perlman; Salman Rushdie, who was our most expensive author ever; the Russian National Orchestra, which included four artists, all of whom sang at the Met, and a 125-person chorus.

Larsen: I don't regret booking anybody for controversial reasons. We'll have a donor who wants us to bring so-and-so, and somebody will say, "He's so conservative," or "He's so liberal." What we want to know is, have we had that kind of person before, and will it promote some discussion and thought in the community? That's what we focus on.

ONLY IN BOCA

Siemon: We have a curse and a blessing. The blessing is an early March festival in South Florida; it's about the best time to attract artists from London and New York and

Moscow. The bad news is it's peak season, so you go to the hotel on bended knee and say, we thought we needed 85 rooms, and now we need 99. ... But they've been generous in accommodating us.

Larsen: In 2011, a terrible windstorm came through when Milos Karadaglic, the classical guitarist, was playing very quietly. People think that there is something you can do about it ... that if something [like that] goes wrong, it's all our fault.

Siemon: They pay \$50 for a ticket that would cost \$150 at Kravis, and then they can't believe that you can't control the wind. We write them back these nice little notes that we've learned to manage a number of things, but one of them is that it's somebody else's job to do the weather.

REALITY CHECKS

Siemon: Last year, Peter Oundjian, who conducted the New World Symphony for us, came up afterward and said, of the 20- [plus] festivals he had conducted at in his career, with major orchestras, that this was the best festival venue he had ever performed in. That made us feel really good, because that's a part of what we try to do.

Larsen: Last year, a lot of people praised us because we got cutting-edge people [such as performance artist Amadeus Leopold and organist Cameron Carpenter]. A lot of people said, I hope you won't go back to household names. This year, Perlman is a household name, but he's of a stature where it's not like we're repeating Jackie Evancho.

Siemon: "Three weeks before the festival, you don't want to go out with us for drinks at night, because the sky is falling."

From left: Pianist Marika Bournaki, Charlie Siemon and Wendy Larsen



FESTIVAL FAB 5

Picking favorite moments from the Festival's first seven years must be like picking favorite children—most of them, at least, are pretty great. Nonetheless, Charlie Siemon and Wendy Larsen narrowed down their respective lists.

LARSEN'S 5

- [1] **Renée Fleming:** Simply magic.
- [2] **Kodo:** Their power and dramatic artistry was truly exceptional.
- [3] **Joshua Bell:** At the pinnacle of his career

- [4] **Milos Karadaglic:** In his U.S. premiere, it was one of the best performances ever at the Festival.

- [5] **Time for Three:** Unusual, generation-skipping attraction.

SIEMON'S 5

- [1] **Doris Kearns Goodwin:** Everyone's favorite presidential historian—a wonderful author, speaker and storyteller.

- [2] **Itzhak Perlman and the reprise of PBS' "At the Fiddler's House":** World-class klezmer artists from all over the globe celebrated the legendary violinist.

- [3] **Perlman, the Russian National Orchestra and Beethoven's 9th Symphony:** Great artists performed one of the most beloved symphonies of all time—a Festival "bucket list" item.

- [4] **Stars of the American Ballet Theater:** World-class dancers took the stage at Mizner Park Amphitheater in a dazzling display of artistry.

- [5] **Preservation Hall Jazz Band:** Great music performed by a legendary band with a local touch from Nicole Henry and great interaction with local school jazz bands.



MARCH 6–15, 2014

A 10-DAY CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND LITERATURE

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Festival of the Arts Boca ushers in its eighth season March 6 to 15 at the Schmidt Family Centre for the Arts' Count de Hoernle Amphitheater and Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center in Boca Raton. This 10-day cultural arts spectacular showcases jazz and classical musicians, authors, thinkers and dancers—providing an intimate venue for world-class virtuosi while simultaneously cultivating the stars of tomorrow, in the revered tradition of the Tuscan Sun Festival in Cortona, Italy and the Napa Valley Festival del Sole in California, among others.

"This year's Festival of the Arts Boca promises to be our best ever," says Charlie Siemon, co-founder of the event. "The stellar lineup, compelling programming and international appeal makes this a cultural attraction anyone in the world would want to attend."

Individual tickets range from \$15 to \$125. Packages are available for admission to all events. For more information, call 561/368-8445, and to purchase tickets visit festivaloftheartsboca.org or call 866/571-2787.



Festival of the Arts

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Festival of the Arts Boca**
festivaloftheartsboca.org

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

7:30 p.m.

FREE FESTIVAL "PLUS" EVENT: Jorge Luis Prates, pianist, with Orchestra of the Americas

VENUE: Amphitheater

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

7:30 p.m.

Itzhak Perlman, violinist, with Festival Orchestra Boca conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos

PROGRAM: Mendelssohn violin concerto

VENUE: Amphitheater

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

7:30 p.m.

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company
With live chamber ensemble

VENUE: Amphitheater

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

4 p.m.

AUTHORS & IDEAS: James Fallows, journalist and author: "How Shall We Think About China?"

VENUE: Cultural Arts Center

7:30 p.m.

Arturo Sandoval with the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra with special guest Monica Mancini: "Tribute to Dizzy Gillespie"

VENUE: Amphitheater

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

4 p.m.

AUTHORS & IDEAS: Barbara Schmidt, author and speaker, "Vicktor Frankl's 'Man's Search for Meaning'"

VENUE: Cultural Arts Center

7 p.m.

Itzhak Perlman, violinist, with Yitzhak Meir Helfgot, chief cantor of Park East Synagogue, and members of the Klezmer Conservatory Band; Hankus Netsky, music director and Russell Ger, conductor; traditional Jewish and Yiddish music

VENUE: Amphitheater

MONDAY, MARCH 10

7 p.m.

AUTHORS & IDEAS: Daniel J. Levitin, neuroscientist, musician, author, in conversation with Constantine Kitsopoulos: "Your Brain on Music"

VENUE: Amphitheater

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

7 p.m.

AUTHORS & IDEAS: Anna Deavere Smith, actress, playwright and professor: "Reclaiming Grace in the Face of Adversity"

VENUE: Cultural Arts Center

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

7 p.m.

AUTHORS & IDEAS: Geraldine Brooks, "The Art of the Historical Novel"

VENUE: Cultural Arts Center

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

7 p.m.

AUTHORS & IDEAS: Doris Kearns Goodwin, author: "The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft"

VENUE: Amphitheater

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

7:30 p.m.

Cirque de la Symphonie acrobats, with Festival Orchestra Boca conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos

VENUE: Amphitheater

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

7:30 p.m.

Forte, multicultural operatic tenor trio from "America's Got Talent," with the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra

VENUE: Amphitheater

* Showtimes, performers and programs subject to change

Festival of the Arts Boca 2014, presented by The Schmidt Family Centre for the Arts at the Count de Hoernle Amphitheater (Mizner Park), 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, 561/368-8445; and Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, (second floor)

For information, please call 561/368-8445

Tickets: 866/571-2787



performing ARTISTS



ITZHAK PERLMAN

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Born in Israel in 1945, Perlman was propelled into national recognition with an appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1958. He won the prestigious Leventritt Competition in 1964, which led to a burgeoning worldwide career. Since then, Perlman has appeared as violin soloist with every major orchestra, and in recitals and festivals around the world.

Perlman has further delighted audiences through his frequent appearances on the conductor's podium, and his 2013-14 season has taken him throughout North America and the world. In 2003, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts granted Perlman a Kennedy Center Honor celebrating his distinguished achievements and contributions to the cultural and educational life of the United States. He has performed multiple times at the White House and was honored to take part in the inauguration of President Obama in 2009, premiering a piece written for the occasion by John Williams alongside cellist Yo-Yo Ma, clarinetist Anthony McGill and pianist Gabriela Montero.

He proudly possesses four Emmys and 15 Grammy Awards. One of Perlman's proudest achievements is his collaboration with Williams in Steven Spielberg's Academy Award-winning film "Schindler's List," in which he performed the violin solos.



LOIS GREENFIELD

THE BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY

The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company was born out of an 11-year collaboration between Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane (1948-1988). Since then, the 10-member company has performed worldwide in more than 200 cities in 30 countries on every major continent and is recognized as one of the most innovative and powerful forces in the modern dance world.

Last year, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company celebrated its 30th anniversary with performances in Germany, Italy, France and the Netherlands; a 24-city U.S. tour; a New York City season at the Joyce Theater with the Orion String Quartet; and the much-anticipated premiere of a new dance-theater work, "A Rite," commemorating the 100th anniversary of the premiere of Igor Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring."

The company has received numerous awards, including New York Dance and Performance Awards ("Bessies") for "Chapel/Chapter at Harlem Stage" (2006), "The Table Project" (2001), "D-Man in the Waters" (1989 and 2001), musical scoring and costume design for "Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin/The Promised Land" (1990) and for the groundbreaking Joyce Theater season (1986). The company was nominated for the 1999 Laurence Olivier Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Dance and Best New Dance Production" for "We Set Out Early ... Visibility was Poor."



ARTURO SANDOVAL

A protégé of the legendary jazz master Dizzy Gillespie, Arturo Sandoval is one of the world's most acknowledged guardians of jazz trumpet and flugelhorn, as well as a renowned classical artist, pianist and composer. He is one of the most dynamic and vivacious live performers of our time, and has been seen by millions at the Oscars performing with Celine Dion, at the Grammy Awards as a bandleader and at the Billboard Awards.

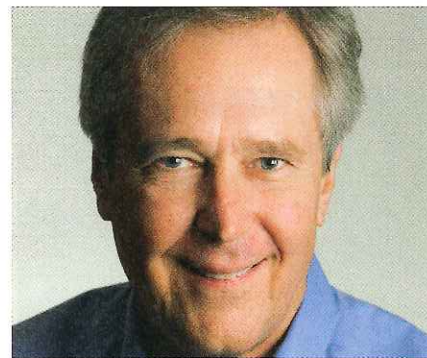
Sandoval has been awarded nine Grammy Awards and been nominated 19 times; he has also received six Billboard Awards and an Emmy Award, the latter for his composing work on the entire underscore of the HBO movie based on his life, "For Love or Country," starring Andy Garcia. Soon to be released is a new book chronicling his relationship with Dizzy Gillespie entitled *The Man That Changed My Life*, whose explosive mixture of jazz, classical, rock and traditional Cuban music caused a sensation throughout the entertainment world.

Sandoval's versatility can be heard on recordings with everyone from Gillespie, Woody Herman, Woody Shaw, Michel Legrand, Bill Conti and Stan Getz to Johnny Mathis, Frank Sinatra, Paul Anka, Rod Stewart and Alicia Keys. He has performed with John Williams with the Boston Pops, and in the Super Bowl with Tony Bennett and Patti LaBelle.

featured AUTHORS



DAVID ROSE



LIZ LYNCH

ANNA DEAVERE SMITH

Hailed by *Newsweek* as "the most exciting individual in American theater," Anna Deavere Smith uses solo performance as a public medium to explore issues of race, identity and community in America. Deavere Smith began interviewing people (more than 2,000 now) across the country some 20 years ago. Without props, sets or costumes, she translates those encounters into profound performances, each drawing verbatim from the original recorded interview. She has an uncanny ability to inhabit the characters—or rather the people—she's representing onstage, regardless of their race, gender or age. While her approach to cultural commentary is now widely imitated, she remains the master of the form. She has created more than 15 one-person shows based on hundreds of interviews, most of which deal with social issues. Her most recent one-person show, "Let Me Down Easy," focused on health care in the U.S. Three of her plays have been broadcast on "American Playhouse" and "Great Performances" (PBS).

In popular culture, you have seen her in "Nurse Jackie," "The West Wing," "The American President," "Rachel Getting Married," "Philadelphia" and others. Books include *Letters to A Young Artist* and *Talk to Me: Listening Between the Lines*. She serves on the boards of the Museum of Modern Art, The Aspen Institute and Grace Cathedral of San Francisco. She received the Dean's Medal from Stanford Medical School and is a Professor at NYU. Prizes include the National Humanities Medal, a MacArthur fellowship, the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Award, two Tony nominations, two Obies and others.

DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN

Returning to Boca Raton is Doris Kearns Goodwin, Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian and the Festival's Distinguished Writer in Residence. Goodwin has been writing and speaking around the world about politics and baseball for more than two decades. Author of several best-selling biographies and a memoir of her childhood love for the Brooklyn Dodgers, she currently serves as an NBC-TV news analyst as well as a consultant and on-air person for PBS documentaries on Lyndon B. Johnson, the Kennedy Family, Franklin Roosevelt and Ken Burns' "The History of Baseball."

Goodwin received her B.A. from Colby College and her Ph.D. in government from Harvard University, where she later taught. She served as an assistant to President Johnson in his last year in the White House and later assisted Johnson in the preparation of his memoirs. Goodwin's books include *Lyndon Johnson & The American Dream*, *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*, *No Ordinary Time—Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt*, *The Home Front In World War II*, *Wait Till Next Year: A Memoir*, and *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. Her newest book, *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*, was released in October 2013.

JAMES FALLOWS

James Fallows is a national correspondent for *The Atlantic* and has written for the magazine since the late 1970s. He has reported extensively from outside the United States and once worked as President Carter's chief speechwriter. His latest book is *China Airborne*.

He was reared in Redlands, Calif., received his undergraduate degree in American history and literature from Harvard, and received a graduate degree in economics from Oxford as a Rhodes scholar. In addition to working for *The Atlantic*, he spent two years as chief White House speechwriter for Jimmy Carter, two years as the editor of *US News & World Report*, and six months as a program designer at Microsoft. He is an instrument-rated private pilot. He is also now the chair in U.S. media at the U.S. Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, in Australia.

Fallows has been a finalist for the National Magazine Award five times and has won once; he has also won the American Book Award for nonfiction and a N.Y. Emmy award for the documentary series "Doing Business in China." He was the founding chairman of the New America Foundation. His recent books, *Blind Into Baghdad* (2006) and *Postcards From Tomorrow Square* (2009), are based on his writings for *The Atlantic*.

performing ARTISTS



CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE

Cirque de la Symphonie is a new production formed to bring the magic of cirque to the music hall. It is an exciting adaptation of artistic performances widely seen in theaters and arenas everywhere. Artists include the most amazing veterans of exceptional cirque programs throughout the world—aerial flyers, acrobats, contortionists, dancers, jugglers, balancers and strongmen. Each artist's performance is professionally choreographed to classical masterpieces and popular contemporary music in collaboration with the maestro.



ROBERT STOLPE

CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS

Constantine Kitsopoulos' musical experience spans the worlds of opera and symphony, where he conducts in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall and Royal Albert Hall, as well as musical theater, where he leads orchestras on Broadway. This is his fourth season with the Festival of the Arts Boca. Kitsopoulos is in his sixth year as music director of the Queens Symphony Orchestra and continues as general director of Chatham Opera, which he founded in 2005.

Of Kitsopoulos' conducting, the *New York Times* wrote "Constantine Kitsopoulos makes the supple, sensitive orchestra sound like an extension of thought." Highlights of a recent season include a Philadelphia Orchestra debut at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and a summer tour of "Dream with Me" with singing sensation Jackie Evancho at the Ravinia and Sun Valley festivals, Atlanta Symphony, Dallas Symphony and at the Omaha Holland Performing Arts Center.

His first recording—Baz Luhrmann's production of "La Bohème"—was released by Dreamworks in 2002. His recording of Kurt Weill's "Happy End" was released in 2007 by Ghostlight Records. The cast album of "A Catered Affair" was released in 2008 by PS Classics.



DANIEL AZOULAY

THE HENRY MANCINI INSTITUTE AT THE FROST SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Originally founded as a summer institute in Los Angeles and relocated to Miami, the Henry Mancini Institute at the Frost School of Music (HMI) has evolved into a comprehensive graduate training institute for aspiring professional musicians. Its new artistic director is multiple Grammy-winning composer and iconic trumpeter, Terence Blanchard.

At the core of the Henry Mancini Institute is a multi-genre "crossover" orchestra featuring outstanding student musicians who recognize that the professional world they will enter after graduation is vastly different than the traditional music world of the past. Many have noted that such classical concert artists as Yo-Yo Ma and Joshua Bell are stretching their musical explorations to incorporate a broader spectrum of styles into their recordings and live performances; future artists know they must do the same.

The school assembles the best classical and jazz student musicians from around the world and trains them to play a full range of musical genres. By doing so, they are introducing new musical works that are attracting younger, larger and more diverse audiences to the performing arts scene. Recent Henry Mancini Institute events have featured such marquee guest artists as violinist Mark O'Connor, rock musicians Bruce Hornsby and Steve Miller, bluegrass star Ricky Skaggs, film composers Dave Grusin and Jorge Calandrelli, vocalists Patti Austin, Jon Secada and Monica Mancini, and instrumental greats Arturo Sandoval, John Clayton, Gary Burton, Dave Koz and Nestor Torres.

featured AUTHORS



DR. DANIEL LEVITIN

Dr. Daniel Levitin is the author of the No. 1 best-seller *This Is Your Brain On Music* (Dutton/Penguin, 2006), which was published in 19 languages and spent more than one year on the *New York Times* best-seller list. His second book, *The World in Six Songs* (Dutton/Penguin, 2008), hit the best-seller lists in its first week of release.

Levitin earned his B.A. in cognitive psychology and cognitive science at Stanford University, and went on to earn his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Oregon, researching complex auditory patterns and pattern processing in expert and non-expert populations. He completed postdoctoral training at Stanford University Medical School (in Neuroimaging) and at UC Berkeley (in Cognitive Psychology).

He has consulted on audio sound source separation for the U.S. Navy and on audio quality for several rock bands and record labels (including the Grateful Dead and Steely Dan). He's also served as one of the "Golden Ears" expert listeners in the original Dolby AC3 compression tests. He worked for two years at the Silicon Valley think tank Interval Research Corporation. Currently, he is a James McGill Professor of Psychology, Behavioural Neuroscience and Music at McGill University (Montreal, Quebec).



RANDI BAIRD

GERALDINE BROOKS

Australian-born Geraldine Brooks is an author and journalist who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in fiction in 2006 for her novel *March*. Her most recent novel, *Caleb's Crossing*, was a *New York Times* best-seller. Other novels, *Year of Wonders* and *People of the Book*, are international best-sellers, translated into more than 25 languages. She is also the author of the nonfiction works *Nine Parts of Desire* and *Foreign Correspondence*. Brooks grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney, and attended Bethlehem College Ashfield and the University of Sydney. She worked as a reporter for *The Sydney Morning Herald* for three years as a feature writer with a special interest in environmental issues.

In 1982, she won the Greg Shackleton Australian News Correspondents scholarship to the Journalism master's program at Columbia University in New York City. Later she worked for the *Wall Street Journal*, where she covered crises in the Middle East, Africa and the Balkans. In 2006 she was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies at Harvard University.



BARBARA SCHMIDT

Barbara Schmidt is a businesswoman, philanthropist and spiritual teacher with more than 30 years devoted to spiritual development and research. She has studied with Thich Nhat Hanh, Deepak Chopra, Scott Peck and Marianne Williamson, among many other notable teachers. As founder of Spirit of Giving Network and cofounder and past president of Ronald McDonald Children Charities of South Florida, Schmidt has raised millions of dollars for children and families in need. In 2001, Schmidt partnered with Florida Atlantic University's Peace Studies Program to promote dialogue in the greater community on the topic of inner peace. Additionally, she taught a class on meditation and spiritual practices as part of the Lifelong Learning program at Nova Southeastern University for five years. For the past 10 years, Schmidt has produced quarterly workshops and weekly classes on spiritual practices and has facilitated lectures by many notable speakers, including the Dalai Lama, Dr. Jane Goodall, Caroline Myss, James Finley, Dan Millman, Dr. Mona Lisa Schultz and Gabrielle Bernstein.

In 2011, Schmidt founded Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life, through which she teaches The Practice, a three-part guide to practical spirituality in today's modern world. A well-respected not-for-profit, Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life has quickly expanded to include an online community via Facebook and through the daily blog at peacefulmindpeacefullife.org.