The ninth annual Festival of the Arts Boca will feature its own version of the 3 B’s — Beethoven, bluegrass and Bernstein. — as well as a lineup of authors that includes four Pulitzer Prize winners, festival officials announced last month. The festival, which will take place March 6-15 at Mizner Park in Boca Raton, will begin with a talk by the film West Side Story with live orchestra and close with the Ninth Symphony of Beethoven, featuring the Master Chorale of South Florida. “You can’t beat the excitement of a full symphony orchestra and one of the best films made in America,” said Charles Letourneau, a cultural management consultant for the festival who works for IMG Artists. “And you can’t go wrong with Beethoven’s Ninth. It always works.”

In between are talks by Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Richard Ford, Thomas Friedman and Siddhartha Mukherjee, banjo performances by Bela Fleck, the 10-time Grammy-award winning artist, and a Mozart gala featuring rising star violinist Arnaud Sussmann, a protege of Itzhak Perlman. Legendary flutist Sir James Galway and pianist-protégé Conrad Tao, who was only 13 when he made his debut at the 2008 festival.

Festival of the Arts Boca announces lineup for March culture bash

Bela Fleck and wife Abigail Washburn perform March 7.

The lineup for the festival was announced Nov. 14 with a preview video and a performance by Time For Three, who first performed at the festival two years ago. Described as a classically trained garage band, violinist Zachary De Pue, violinist Nicolas Kendall and bassist Ramaa Meyer wowed the audience with a mix of classical pieces and their own arrangements of songs by Bon Iver and Mumford & Sons.

Tickets for the festival range from $15 to $125 per person and are available at www.festivalboca.com or by calling (866) 571-2787. Festival events are held at the Mizner Park Amphitheater or on the second floor of the Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center.

The lineup for the festival (some events are still to be announced):

**Friday, March 6:**
- The Florida premiere of the newly remastered movie musical West Side Story with live music by Leonard Bernstein.
- The film’s score is performed live by Festival Orchestra Boca alongside the film’s original cast.
- At 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center, the film’s score is performed live by Festival Orchestra Boca alongside the film’s original cast.

**Saturday, March 7:**
- At 4 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center, the film’s score is performed live by Festival Orchestra Boca alongside the film’s original cast.

**Sunday, March 8:**
- Pulitzer-prize winning author Richard Ford (The Sportswriter) speaks at 4 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center about his latest book, Let Me Be Frank With You.
- At 7 p.m. on the mainstage, principal dancer from American Ballet Theater, Boston Ballet, National Ballet of Canada and the Washington Ballet perform.

**Monday, March 9:**
- Physician, researcher and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Siddhartha Mukherjee (The Emperor of All Maladies) will give a talk called “The Cancer Puzzle” at 7 p.m.
- At 4 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center, the film’s score is performed live by Festival Orchestra Boca alongside the film’s original cast.

**Tuesday, March 10:**
- Author Clive Thompson speaks about his book, Smarter Than You Think: How Technology Is Changing Our Minds for the Better. 7 p.m.
- At 7:30 p.m. the Festival Orchestra Boca performs a West Side Story medley and the Symphony No. 9 of Beethoven, with soloists Measha Brueggergosman, Margaret Mezzacappa, Joseph Kaiser, Solomon Howard, the Young People’s Chorus of New York City and the Master Chorale of South Florida, conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos. 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 11:**
- Pulitzer Prize-winning author Thomas Friedman will speak about his new book, That Used to Be Us. 7 p.m.

**Thursday, March 12:**
- Journalist and author Michael Grunwald (The Swamp) will give a talk called “Saving Paradise.” 7 p.m.

**Friday, March 13:**
- Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Lucinda Franks (My Father’s Secret War) will give a talk called “Love and Politics.” 4 p.m.

**Saturday, March 14:**
- At 7:30 p.m. the Festival Orchestra Boca performs a West Side Story medley and the Symphony No. 9 of Beethoven, with soloists Measha Brueggergosman, Margaret Mezzacappa, Joseph Kaiser, Solomon Howard, the Young People’s Chorus of New York City and the Master Chorale of South Florida, conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos. 7:30 p.m.

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