From Broadway to Banjos

Love film, music and dance? Then beat a path to Boca Raton, Fla., March 6–15 and the ninth annual Festival of the Arts BOCA. The Mizner Park Amphitheater is the hot spot for such events as the film West Side Story, accompanied live by Festival Orchestra Boca; Grammy Award-winning banjo duo Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn; Stars of International Ballet with the National Ballet of Canada & Friends; and a Mozart Gala showcasing flautist Sir James Galway, pianist Conrad Tao and violinist Arnaud Sussmann. The Young People’s Chorus of New York closes the festival with a bang performing Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. Learn more at (561) 368-8445 and www.festivalboca.org.

Rewriting History

Things aren’t always what they seem. When archaeologists uncovered two “sacrificial pits” at Sanxingdui near Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, the objects inside were dated to 1800 B.C., when China’s civilization was previously thought to center on the Yellow River 745 miles to the northeast. The artifacts from this 3,500-year-old culture, which existed for only 500 years before vanishing, are on view from April 11 to Sept. 7 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in the exhibition “China’s Lost Civilization: The Mystery of Sanxingdui.”

The monumental find includes weapons, pottery, more than 200 ancient jades, more than 60 elephant tusks and some of the largest, strangest-appearing bronzes ever uncovered. Twenty-four objects are considered national treasures. The exhibition also includes objects subsequently uncovered in Jinsha that provide possible clues to the civilization’s disappearance. Call (713) 639-4629 or log on to www.hmns.org to learn more.