

EVENTS

THE ARTS

5 reasons not to miss Boca's fine arts festival

Event begins today with live score to 'West Side Story.'

By **Staci Sturrock**
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Festival of the Arts BOCA returns with its eighth annual round-up of authors, classical and jazz musicians, dancers and filmmakers starting today and continuing through March 15 in Mizner Park.

The festival is presented by the Schmidt Family Centre for the Arts at Mizner Park, a nonprofit organization, and over the years the group has booked an all-star team of artists and big thinkers: violinist Itzhak Perlman (three times), soprano Renee Fleming (twice), historian Doris Kearns Goodwin (multiple times), the Russian National Orchestra, Sir Salman Rushdie and Sir James Galway, who will perform again this year on March 13.

Here are five ways to enjoy this year's festival:

1 Take in a movie and a concert — at the same time.

Festival Orchestra Boca will perform Leonard



Festival Orchestra Boca will perform Leonard Bernstein's score to "West Side Story" while the 1961 film is screened in the Mizner Park amphitheater at 7:30 p.m. today. ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

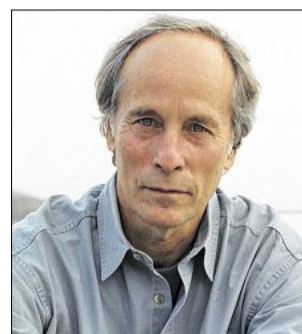
Bernstein's score to "West Side Story" while the 1961 film is screened in the Mizner Park amphitheater at 7:30 p.m. today. Tickets start at \$25.

2 Consider some big ideas.

The festival's "Authors and Ideas" calendar is its busiest, with appearances by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Ford (4 p.m. Sunday), "The Cancer Puzzle" author Siddhartha Mukherjee (7 p.m. Monday), Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Thomas

Friedman (7 p.m. Wednesday) and more. All authors will speak at the Cultural Arts Center. Ticket prices vary by event but start at \$20.

3 See some of the world's finest dancers share a stage.



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Ford will appear as part of the Festival of the Arts BOCA's "Authors and Ideas" program. ROBERT YAGER/RANDOM HOUSE

Principal dancers from American Ballet Theater, Boston Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Washington Ballet and more will perform as the International Stars of Ballet at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Mizner Park amphitheater. Tickets start at \$25.

4 Hear Beethoven's 9th as if for the first time.

The Young People's Chorus of New York City, the Master Chorale of South Florida and Festival Orchestra Boca collaborate for a performance of

IF YOU GO

Festival of the Arts BOCA: Today through March 15, Mizner Park, Boca Raton, 561-368-8445, FestivalOfTheArtsBoca.org

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at 7:30 p.m. March 14 at the amphitheater. Tickets start at \$25.

5 Get inspired by brave girls from around the globe.

"Girl Rising," directed by Academy Award-nominated Richard E. Robbins, spotlights the stories of nine girls born into unforgiving circumstances. The documentary will be screened at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Cultural Arts Center, and a panel discussion will follow. Tickets are \$20.

For the complete festival schedule, go to FestivalOfTheArtsBoca.org.

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Two new blues CDs spotlight South Florida scene



Bill Meredith

Boynton Beach bassist/vocalist Mark Telesca (marktelesca.com) led the band Blues Dragon through two CDs between 2006 and 2011, but when several members (keyboardist Tony Monaco; drummer/percussionists Fred Weng and Rick Geragi) couldn't commit to touring after recording the new "Heavy Breathing," he released it under his own name.

And while that simpatico quartet brings an energy similar to Blues Dragon's, it's the additional personnel that differentiates it.

Backing vocalists Josh Rowand and Bridget Ad-derley add attitude to the



Musicians performing on the Mark Telesca Band CD "Heavy Breathing" include, from left, Anthony Livoti, Mark Telesca and Robert Allen Gibbs. CONTRIBUTED

Telesca/Monaco stomper "Pain It Blue" (featuring Monaco's barrelhouse piano), and the bassist's funky arrangement of Willie Dixon's "Evil" is fresh and creative, with jazzy nuances by guitarists Robert Allen Gibbs and Steve Laudicina.

The guitar tandem also stands out on the Latin-tinged original "Tell

Me;" shuffling "Stand My Ground" (written with Blues Dragon guitarist Mike Hundley) and Telesca's evocative bass showcase "Living in the Past."

See Mark Telesca tonight (8 p.m.) and Tuesday (7 p.m.) at South Shores Tavern, 502 Lucerne Ave., Lake Worth (561-547-7656) and on Thursday (8 p.m.) at the

Vintage Tap, 524 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach (561-808-7702).

Dark Horse Flyer

The veteran South Florida members of Dark Horse Flyer (darkhorseflyer.com) spared no expense on their new "Breakaway" CD, also

available as a double-LP.

Guitarists Don Mularz, Scott Lane and John Tillman, keyboardist Bob Taylor, bassist Richard Taylor and drummer Raul Hernandez seem intent on filling the void of the recently-disbanded Allman Brothers Band, and in cases like the opening instrumental "Hurricane," they approach such heights.

Yet Mularz's lead vocals, and Lane's harmonies, are more clean-toned and less soulful than Gregg Allman's, and Mularz's lyrics come up cliched on otherwise strong blends of rock, pop and blues like the Steely Dan-influenced "You've Got Your Reasons" and Eagles-like "Evil Woman." With only occasional showcase performances through South Florida, this talented, guitar-armed sextet is likely to stretch out and improve these perfor-

mances live.

See Dark Horse Flyer at 9 p.m. on March 28 at the Sunset Tavern, 7232 SW 59th Ave., Miami (305-665-0606).

Now hear this

In addition to his busy solo schedule, area singer, songwriter and 12-string guitarist Bill Hartmann (billhartmannmusic.com) hosts a popular Musicians Showcase every other Tuesday at Brewhouse Gallery, an intriguing new venue mixing music, visual art, coffees and craft beers.

From 7-10 p.m. on Tuesday, see Paul Allen Christopher, Serendipity (Steve Strum and Dee Scully) and Mandy Moon in set one, and James Welton, Kat and Ginny, and Hartmann in set two at 720 Park Ave., Lake Park (561-469-8930).

billmrdth@gmail.com

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