

# It's Beethoven versus Yoda

Annual Festival of the Arts Boca returning to Mizner Park

BY PHILLIP VALYS

As superhero show-downs go at this year's Festival of the Arts Boca, you'd be hard-pressed to find a stronger marquee bout than Beethoven versus Yoda.

But believe us, it's a fair fight. In one corner, the soaring John Williams soundtrack of the greatest "Star Wars" sequel, "The Empire Strikes Back" – and the first film to introduce Baby Yoda's maybe-ancestor, Yoda. In the opposite corner, an all-Beethoven suite of joyful classics helmed by the Grammy-nominated chamber powerhouse Eroica Trio.

Both events lead the slate of classical music and movies, authors and ideas returning Feb. 28-March 8 to the 14th annual bash at Boca Raton's Mizner Park Amphitheater and nearby Cultural Arts Center. This year's theme, "A Season of Heroes," salutes performers past and present, throwing spotlights on cultural heavyweights such as Milos, the London-based classical guitarist on a career rebound after a prolonged hand injury; Postmodern Jukebox, the YouTube-born ensemble of musicians who reinterpret modern pop



BRAVERIJAH GREGG

Postmodern Jukebox, an ensemble of singers and pianists who turn current pop songs into jazzy throwback arrangements, will close out the Festival of the Arts Boca on March 8.

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## Calendar

### Museums & Exhibits

#### Feb. 28

**Flights of Fancy – Bird-watching in Porcelain:** 10 a.m. Feb. 28; 10 a.m. March 2; 10 a.m. March 3; 10 a.m. March 4; 10 a.m. March 5; Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts, 481 S. Federal Hwy, Dania Beach. 954-376-6690. wmoda.com. \$0-\$10.

**Love Is In The Air! Art Exhibition:** 10 a.m. Feb. 28; 10 a.m. Feb. 29; Coral Springs Center For The Arts, 2855 Coral Springs Dr.,

Coral Springs. 954-905-7894. coral Springsartistguild.org. Free.

**For America: Paintings from the National Academy of Design exhibition:** 10 a.m. Feb. 28; 10 a.m. Feb. 29; 10 a.m. March 1; 10 a.m. March 2; 10 a.m. March 3; 10 a.m. March 4; 10 a.m. March 5; The Society of the Four Arts, 100 FOUR ARTS PLZ, Palm Beach. 5616557227. fourarts.org. \$10.

**Walk Among the Dinosaurs!:** 10 a.m. Feb. 28; 10 a.m. Feb. 29; 10 a.m. March 1; 10 a.m. March 2; 10 a.m. March 3; 10 a.m. March 4; 10

a.m. March 5; Museum of Discovery and Science, 401 SW 2nd St, Fort Lauderdale. n/a. . \$0-\$19.

**Abigail Varela: Sculptures:** 10 a.m. Feb. 28; 10 a.m. Feb. 29; 10 a.m. March 3; 10 a.m. March 4; 10 a.m. March 5; Rosenbaum Contemporary, 150 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. 561-994-9180. rosenbaumcontemporary.com. Free.

**Augmented Reality Scavenger Hunt at the Museum of Discovery and Science:** 10 a.m. Feb. 28; 10 a.m. Feb. 29; 10 a.m. March 1; 10 a.m. March 2; 10

a.m. March 3; 10 a.m. March 4; 10 a.m. March 5; Museum of Discovery and Science, 401 SW 2nd St, Fort Lauderdale. N/A. . \$0-\$21.

**Walk This Way: Historic Footwear from the Stuart Weitzman Collection:** 10 a.m. Feb. 28; 10 a.m. Feb. 29; 10 a.m. March 1; 10 a.m. March 3; 10 a.m. March 4; 10 a.m. March 5; Flagler Museum, One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 5616552833. flaglermuseum.us. Free.

**Alice Rahon's "Poetic Invocations":** 10 a.m. Feb. 28; 10 a.m.

Feb. 29; 10 a.m. March 1; 10 a.m. March 3; 10 a.m. March 4; 10 a.m. March 5; Museum of Contemporary Art, 770 NE 125th St, North Miami. 305-893-2624. . \$0-\$10.

**Black History Month - Dillard Center for the Arts Student Art Show & Sale** 12 p.m. Feb. 28; History Fort Lauderdale, 231 SW Second Avenue, Fort Lauderdale. 954-463-4431. . \$7-\$15.

#### March 1

**Transcontinental: American Railroads and the Visionaries Who Built Them:** 3 p.m. March

1; Flagler Museum, One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 5616552833. flaglermuseum.us. \$10-\$100.

#### March 3

**Spring Fundraising Luncheon - Fantasy In The Garden - Friends of the NSU Art Museum:** 11:30 a.m. March 3; Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club, 20 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale. 954-525-5500. nsuartmuseum.org. \$100.

#### Pamphleteers of the

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DAVID BEAN/BRAVERIJAH GREGG/DISNEY

The festival will feature the all-female chamber music supergroup Eroica Trio, a screening of "The Empire Strikes Back" with live orchestra, and acrobatics from Troupe Vertigo.

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songs as jazzy throwback arrangements; and novelist Jesmyn Ward ("Salvage the Bones," "Sing, Unburied, Sing"), the first woman of color to collect two National Book Awards for fiction.

The festival will kick off at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, with a screening of the documentary "Forte" at the Cultural Arts Center (201 W. Plaza Real, Boca Raton), about a trio of women who carve out careers as classical soloists in adulthood. Members of the Eroica Trio will take part in a post-film discussion.

Admission to each event will range from \$15 to \$150. Call 561-300-4138 or go to FestivalBoca.org.

## Day-by-day schedule

**7:30 p.m. Feb. 28 (Amphitheater):** With its "Cirque du Cinema" program, Troupe Vertigo, a group of high-flying acrobats, will pirouette, swing and perform physical feats to the symphonic music of hero movies including the James Bond franchise, "Batman" and "Mission: Impossible."

**3 p.m. Feb. 29 (Cultural Arts Center):** "Achilles Heel," an evening of stories exposing weaknesses and soft spots, is the theme of the Moth StorySLAM. The popular radio broadcast and storytelling gathering is best described as a pressure

cooker, where Moth producers pick 10 speakers from a hat to regale audiences with stories no longer than five minutes.

**7:30 p.m. Feb. 29 (Amphitheater):** In this salute to Beethoven's 250th birthday, Grammy-nominated soloists the Eroica Trio (pianist Erika Nickrenz, violinist Sara Parkins and cellist Sara Sant'Ambrogio) will perform the German's pianist's "Triple" Concerto.

**7 p.m. March 1 (Amphitheater):** Milos Forman, returning from a hand injury in 2016 that severely stunted his playing ability, will perform "Voices of the Guitar," cycling through the music of the Caribbean, Catalonia and the catalogs of Leonard Cohen, Radiohead and the Beatles.

**7 p.m. March 2 (Mizner Park East Tent, near Amphitheater):** The winner of a pair of National Book Awards for fiction (for novels "Salvage the Bones" and "Sing, Unburied, Sing," author Jesmyn Ward will share how growing up black and poor in the South influences her work.

**7 p.m. March 3 (East Tent):** New Yorker cartoonist and National Book Award finalist Roz Chast will set aside her pencil and drafting table to discuss "Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?" a talk about her art, family and work.

**7 p.m. March 4 (East Tent):** TED talk speaker Dr. Laurie Santos will deliver an abbreviated version of

her current Yale University class ("Psychology and the Good Life"), offering tips on living one's best life.

**7 p.m. March 5 (East Tent):** Political analyst Amy Walter ("The Cook Political Report" newsletter) will weigh in on Super Tuesday (March 3) election results with her talk, "Where Are We Now?"

**7:30 p.m. March 6 (Amphitheater):** Luke Skywalker's deadbeat father cuts off his son's hand and Darth Vader entombs his daughter's boyfriend in carbonite in "The Empire Strikes Back," the Greek tragedy-est of the "Star Wars" sequels. The film will be screened onstage and its John Williams score will be performed live by the Symphonia under the baton of conductor Constantine Kit-sopoulos.

**7:30 p.m. March 7 (Amphitheater):** Prone to mixing electronica beats with the velvety strains of Beethoven, the Miami-based Nu Deco Ensemble heads back to the festival for a second time with a genre-bending program of classical meets Bill Withers and Fleetwood Mac.

**7 p.m. March 8 (Amphitheater):** Imagine Lizzo's "Good As Hell" reinterpreted as a Roaring '20s-style jazz standard, or Michael Jackson's "Thriller" as a '50s doo-wop cover, and you have some sense of Postmodern Jukebox's style. Their YouTube channel now boasts some 400 million views.

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