



**Celebrate
Sarasota**

Art. Culture. Entertainment.

Welcome to Sarasota

It has been described as the capital of Florida's Cultural Coast™, the Circus Capital of the World, a community where art and nature meet. Welcome to Sarasota County, the coastal jewel perched on the Gulf of Mexico, about 50 miles south of Tampa.

BY NANCY OAKLEY

O

ne of the key attractions of Sarasota County has been, well, its keys — six barrier islands that lie between the Sarasota Bay and the Gulf. With 35 miles of wide, white beaches, it's little wonder they attract visitors from around the world. Perhaps the most popular among them is Siesta Key, whose powdery beaches of ground quartz were ranked No. 1 in the United States by coastal scientist Stephen Leatherman, a.k.a. "Dr. Beach." Siesta is arguably *the* place to watch the sun set into an impressionist palette of gold, orange, and pink. Not to be forgotten, Longboat Key offers a cosmopolitan atmosphere, where beachfront communities, resorts, and top-notch dining abound, while Casey Key is a quiet enclave of multi-

million-dollar homes. Nature lovers appreciate the trails and pine forest on Lido Key and the remoteness of Manasota Key, and divers delight in the abundance of shark's tooth fossils off the stretch of Venice Beach.

Venice is one of many areas in Sarasota County that has some of the world's best saltwater fishing. Of course, the inland areas offer large populations of trout and other freshwater fish. The Myakka River provides a front seat to observing wildlife, such as alligators and ospreys, from an airboat. The Oscar Scherer State Park is a favorite of hikers and campers, and Mote Marine Laboratory's aquarium tours give up-close glimpses of dolphins, manatees, and more.



Sunset over Siesta Key Beach, named #1 beach in the nation; below, from left: Players Theatre performers KJ Hatfield and Chris Caswell, biking at Siesta Beach, and Fuzion Dance Artists.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARASOTA CVB, PLAYERS THEATRE PHOTO BY TED WASE





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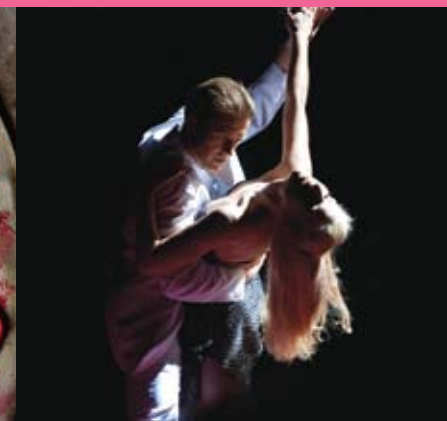
Design. And the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, whose namesakes first transformed the sleepy town into a mecca for the arts, adds to that creative spirit.

John Ringling of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and his wife Mable built a permanent home in Sarasota in 1926 — Ca’ d’Zan, a Venetian-inspired villa. A year later, Ringling moved the winter headquarters of his circus to Sarasota, bringing an influx of artists and performers. After his death in 1936, Ringling willed his mansion and staggering collection of baroque paintings and other artworks to the state of Florida. Today, residents and visitors are the beneficiaries of his generosity, whether admiring the interiors of Ca’ d’Zan, the scores of Rubens and Van Dycks in the art museum, or the memorabilia at the Tibbals Learning Center and Circus Museum. But the legacy of the big top doesn’t stop there: In 1997 husband and wife Pedro Reis and Dolly Jacobs, both veteran performers, created Circus Sarasota, a nonprofit that offers dazzling performances in a one-ring European-style circus as well as numerous education and outreach initiatives.

Outreach lies at the heart of the city’s arts community. Sarasota Orchestra and Sarasota Opera include a Youth Orchestra and a Youth Opera respectively, while the Asolo, Venice, and Players theaters also have educational programs to inspire budding playwrights and actors. And the Sarasota Ballet has Dance — The Next Generation, an arts-oriented at-risk youth retention program now in its 16th year. So pervasive is the arts community’s commitment to education that the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts recently chose Sarasota as its partner for Any Given Child, a program that establishes long-range arts curriculum for public schools. No doubt, the community will remain the capital of Florida’s Cultural Coast™ for years to come.



THE FINEST ARTS IN LIVING COLOR.



As if its natural beauty weren’t enough, Sarasota County claims a cultural life parallel to any major community. Rich in history, the area has 90-some sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including its vibrant downtowns, bustling with shops and restaurants — all within a stone’s throw of the waterfront. As for the arts, the city of Sarasota is home to Florida’s oldest continuing orchestra (Sarasota Orchestra), the oldest theater company (Asolo

Repertory Theatre), and the Gulf Coast of Florida’s first professional ballet company (Sarasota Ballet) and opera company (Sarasota Opera). Plus, Sarasota boasts dozens of theater companies, including the revered Florida Studio Theatre, as well as festivals for film and chamber music. The North Port area boasts an impressive Ukrainian population and Performing Arts Center. Then there’s Art Center Sarasota, where visitors can take classes or attend exhibitions, and numerous galleries, which thrive thanks to the creative spirit from the Ringling College of Art &

Clockwise from top left: kayaking in Sarasota Bay, Sarasota Bay Front sign, and Ca’ d’Zan, John and Mable Ringling’s Venetian-inspired villa

Nowhere will you find art and culture more colorful than in Sarasota. From the red velvet curtains of the famed Sarasota Opera House to the gold baroque frames of The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, we’re home to a one-of-a-kind cultural scene. Visit the artists’ colony at Towles Court, or Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall with its legendary seashell design. Dine at one of our many Zagat-rated restaurants, or explore the culinary, art and cultural festivals taking place nearly every week of the year. You’ll see why we’re known as Florida’s Cultural Coast®.

Go Beyond the Beaches®

Visit sarasotafl.org/fine-arts or call 1.888.510.9591

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SARASOTA
FLORIDA’S GULF COAST



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Building on a Legacy

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art gives an inside look at circus history, life, and more.

Nearly 100 years ago, John Ringling, the legendary circus king, pledged, “I am going to make Sarasota one of the sights of the South ... [it] will become one of the most beautiful cities in Florida.”



When you visit Sarasota, you'll see it wasn't just the talk of a showman. Make the grandiose Ringling Estate that John created with his wife Mable your first stop and you'll see that he fulfilled his promise.

Governed by The Florida State University, The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art is The State Art Museum of Florida and arguably one of America's

finest properties — a picturesque 66-acre estate on Sarasota Bay and a captivating showplace of arts, culture, and nature.

Featuring a Venetian-inspired palatial mansion, art museum, circus museum, and a jewel-box-of-a-theater brought over from Italy and restored to its 18th-century luster, the Ringling Museum also is home to stunning grounds, a waterfront promenade, and an expansive rose garden.

Completed in 1925 at a cost of \$1.5 million, *Ca' d'Zan* is the Ringling's 56-room Venetian palace. Filled with art and original furnishings, it is a tribute to the American dream. Described as “the last of the Gilded Age mansions” to be built in America, the palace reflects the splendor and romance of Italy with its Venetian Gothic architecture. *Ca' d'Zan* is a combination of the grandeur of Venice's Doge's Palace, combined with the gothic grace of *Ca' d'Oro*, with Sarasota Bay



serving as its Grand Canal.

The Museum of Art opened in 1931, emulating the footprint of Florence, Italy's Uffizi Gallery and echoing its elegance and magnificence. John's personal collection of masterpieces fills the 21 original galleries, including paintings and sculptures by Rubens, van Dyck, Velázquez, Veronese, El Greco, and Gainsborough, among many others. The Courtyard of the Museum of Art features one of the most iconic images of Sarasota: a 16-foot bronze-cast replica of the statue of *David* by Michelangelo. Bathed in Florida sunlight and surrounded by palm trees, *David* towers high above the Museum of Art Courtyard. Expanded in 2002, the Museum of Art now showcases the Ulla R. and Arthur F. Searing Wing, built for popular traveling exhibitions, as well as highlights of Cypriot, Asian, modern, and contemporary art from the Museum's collection. The latest addition to the Searing Wing will be unveiled on the Winter Solstice — December 22, 2011. At more than 3,000 square feet, the Skyspace, created by James Turrell, is one of the largest and most technologically advanced of the artist's works. It is the foundation for the Museum's newest initiative, *Art of Our Time*, which introduces audiences to the established and emerging talent within the international arts community who are defining current trends in contemporary art.

Serving as the Ringling Museum's performance gallery, the Historic Asolo Theater presents museum-quality performances that explore and exemplify the rich



diversity of ideas and forms at play in the world today. Built in 1798 as the first public theater in the Castle of Caterina Cornaro in the Italian town of Asolo near Venice, the U-shaped theater was purchased in 1950 by Arthur Everett “Chick” Austin, Jr., the first Director of the Museum, and reinstalled in the Visitor Pavilion in 2006. One of three performance arts theaters at the Ringling Center for the Arts, the Historic Asolo Theater is the heart of performances for Ringling International Arts Festival. A partnership with the Baryshnikov Arts Center of New York, the festival showcases established and emerging international artists from the world of dance, music, and theater and marks the beginning of the arts and cultural season in Sarasota each October.



Clockwise from top left: Museum of Art Rubens Gallery, *Ca' d'Zan*, Museum of Art Courtyard, Historic Asolo Theater, Mable's Rose Garden

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN AND MABLE RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART



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The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art is open 362 days a year. For more information, visit ringling.org.



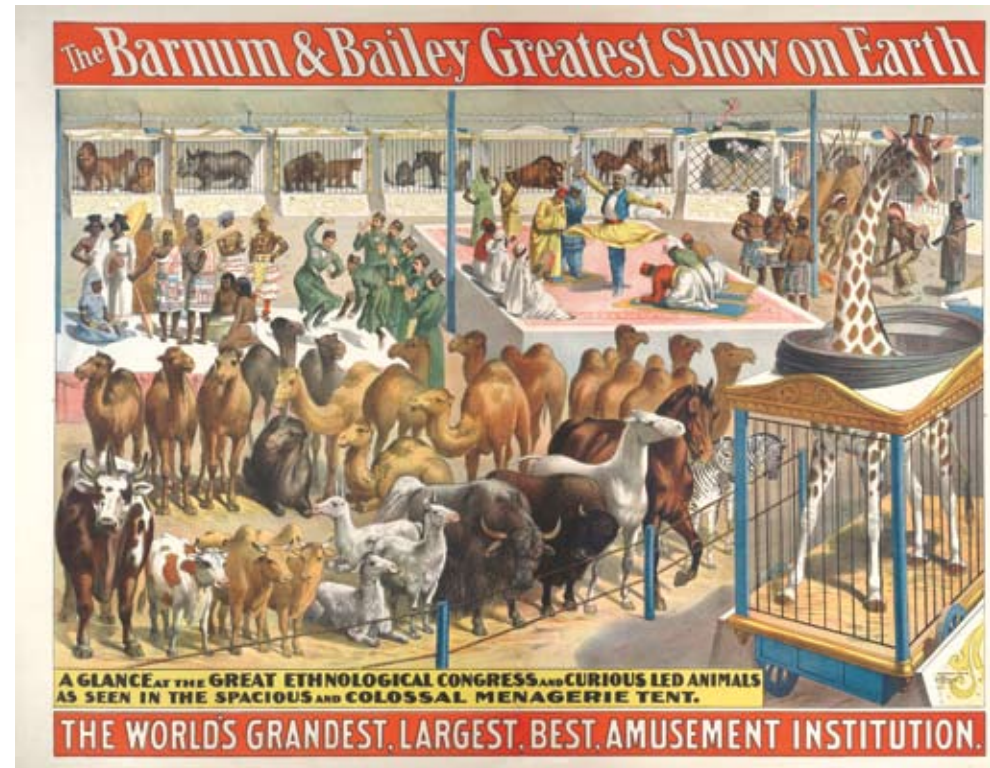
Above: Howard Bros. Circus Model
Below: Tibbals Learning Center interactive galleries



The Ringling Museum shares the legacy of the circus king, John Ringling, and the importance of circus history through year-round special and permanent exhibitions. The Circus Museum is home to the recently restored Wisconsin, John and Mable Ringling's private railroad car, as well as beautifully carved parade wagons, rare handbills and art prints, circus papers, business records, wardrobe, performing props, and circus equipment.

A highlight of the Circus Museum for visitors big and small is the *Howard Bros. Circus Model*, an authentic replica of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Complete with eight main tents, 152 wagons, 1,300 circus performers and workers, more than 800 animals, and a 57-car train, the model is a 1/4-inch-to-the-foot scale replica and occupies 3,800 square feet in the Circus Museum's Tibbals Learning Center. This captivating model is the "largest miniature circus in the world" and was created by master model builder and philanthropist Howard Tibbals of Tennessee.

The growth of the Museum continues with a recent opening of the Tibbals Center's 11,000-square-foot expansion of interactive exhibition space. Inviting children of all ages to experience the atmosphere, drama, and magic of a day at the circus, the playful new space offers the opportunity to walk a high wire, fit into a model of a 2-foot-by-3-foot car made famous by clown Lou Jacobs, and super-impose your face onto replicas of circus posters.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RINGLING MUSEUM. TOP POSTER: THE BARNUM & BAILEY GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH. SECTIONAL VIEW OF THE GREAT DOUBLE MENAGERIE, A GLANCE AT THE GREAT ETHNOLOGICAL CONGRESS AND CURIOUS LED ANIMALS. 1895. COLOR LITHOGRAPH POSTER, ONE SHEET. CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM, GIFT OF THE STROBRIDGE LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY. 1963.607. TIGER POSTER: RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY COMBINED SHOWS: LEAPING TIGER, 1915. TIBBALS COLLECTION. CHARLES LIVINGSTON BULL, 1874-1932. THE STROBRIDGE LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY.

Left: The Barnum & Bailey Greatest Show on Earth: Sectional View of the Great Double Menagerie, 1895, Cincinnati Art Museum.
Below: The Strobridge Lithographing Company, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows: *Leaping Tiger*, 1915, The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art.

Colorful, exotic animals, amazing performers, delightful clowns, and more are showcased in 80 brilliantly, boldly, bombastic lithographs in the special exhibition *The Amazing American Circus Poster: The Strobridge Lithographing Company*. Celebrating our fascinating circus heritage and showcasing how late nineteenth and early twentieth century circus posters changed the face of American advertising forever, *The Amazing American Circus Poster* draws from the collections of the Ringling Museum, Howard Tibbals, and the Cincinnati Art Museum. Made in America and produced in Cincinnati by the Strobridge Lithographing Company, one of the country's leading printers for the circuses, these historic posters were distributed throughout the country from 1878 to 1939 and are unrivaled in their artistry. The fascinating illustrations and compelling color palettes provide us with a detailed portrait of the American circus in its Golden Age, when it was the premier entertainment institution in the country. With an array of dates and show titles, the posters in the exhibition span from the time of P.T. Barnum's greatest show on earth to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. All of the circus posters are displayed



in the Ulla R. and Arthur F. Searing Wing of the Ringling Museum of Art through January 29, 2012.

The Amazing American Circus Poster exhibition was organized by the Cincinnati Art Museum and The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art and has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: "Because democracy demands wisdom."

Visit the Exhibit

The Amazing American Circus Poster special exhibition at Ringling Museum of Art through January 29, 2012. For more information visit ringling.org.



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Stories on Stage

Asolo Repertory Theatre's stellar performances have put it on the national radar.

Tell great stories. It's what we do." Such is the mission statement of Asolo Repertory Theatre's producing artistic director, Michael Donald Edwards.

The company was, to use his expression, "the lodestone and trigger" for Sarasota's arts community when, 50-odd years ago, the faculty of Florida State University established a summer acting troupe in the Ringling Museum's Asolo Theater (an 18th-century stage shipped from Asolo, Italy). Today, the company's facilities occupy an arts center with two theaters — the better to accommodate the rotation of the near-dozen plays from October through July — as well as the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training season (the original historic

theater is still used for one or two productions). "We're the leading regional theater in Florida, the oldest, biggest theater in the state," says Edwards. "And," he adds, "a significant part of the national American theater scene."

Though the Australian-born director has been with Asolo Rep for just six seasons ("It feels more like six months," he jokes), he feels a strong commitment to maintaining the high standard that FSU initially set, while bringing a fresh perspective to each season's lineup. "There had been no tradition of doing musicals until I came to the theater here," explains Edwards, whose career has been a mix of Shakespeare, contemporary plays, musicals, and opera, including a stint at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Under his aegis, Asolo Rep was the first company to produce Broadway's *A Tale of Two Cities*, and after premiering at La Jolla Playhouse in California, *Bonnie & Clyde* took its next

BY NANCY OAKLEY



Clockwise from top left: The FSU Center for the Performing Arts — Home of Asolo Repertory Theatre, inside the Mertz Theatre, Laura Osnes and Jeremy Jordan in Asolo Rep's production of *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Twelve Angry Men*, Michael Donald Edwards

essential creative step at Asolo Repertory Theatre before heading to Broadway.

And these are only two of the "great stories," that Asolo Rep strives to tell. This season will kick off with the classic *My Fair Lady*, a revised version of *Yentl* with new music, as well as a new review, *Pulse*, choreographed and starring Noah Racey, inspired by Tommy Tune. There are other surprises, such as the newly rediscovered Noël Coward comedy *Fallen Angels*, representing one of the first productions in the U.S. and *Red*, the Tony Award-winning drama about abstract expressionist Mark Rothko, produced in partnership with the John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art and presented in the Historic Asolo Theater as a co-production with Maltz Jupiter Theatre. Perhaps most surprising is *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba*, Edwards's own adaptation of Shakespeare's classic drama, which will see three performances staged in Spanish. Not only is it a sort of love letter from the artistic director to his adopted home of Florida, it is a way of keeping the tried-and-true works fresh.

All of the productions speak to Asolo Rep's ability to take risks and try new things — a luxury afforded by the openness of the city's audiences. "In Sarasota," observes Edwards, "people come here for a week, then they'll come for two weeks, then a month, and then they move here. You have the ability to



enjoy the arts as if you were living in Manhattan." In fact, many of the theater's audiences are New Yorkers who are familiar not only with Broadway, but with seasons in London and Stratford, Canada. "They expect us to do things on that level," Edwards says. "I feel there's a conversation between me and our audience, between our theater and the community."

It's all a part of a national conversation, he observes, to introduce new ideas to audiences. "We have a big job," he asserts. And so far, a job well done.

Catch a Performance

Asolo Repertory Theatre
5555 North Tamiami Trail
For tickets call the box office at
800.361.8388 or 941.351.8000,
or log on to asolorep.org.

ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): COURTESY OF ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE; DAVID MATHESON; FRANK ATURA; CLIFF ROLES





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Art is Made in Sarasota

For more than 50 years, the town has been a creative tour de force. And that hasn't changed.

After World War II, aspiring artists and teachers came to Sarasota to attend the Ringling School of Art and Design, and many stayed in the area and achieved worldwide acclaim. From the 1950s to '80s, Sarasota was an avant-garde artist colony with internationally recognized artists including Hilton Leech, Jimmy Ernst, David Budd, Conrad Marca-Relli, Everett Shinn, Syd Solomon, and Helen Sawyer. The visual arts scene in this Florida Gulf Coast city is as dynamic as ever — and the artwork created here continues to draw worldwide attention.



ELIZABETH VAN RIPER
Lauren's Cache Pot, 30" x 30"
mixed media on canvas

Fourth-generation Sarasota artist Elizabeth Van Riper is continuously inspired by nature's exuberance. Her work appears in both corporate and private collec-

tions and has been licensed and offered by prestigious national retailers in the U.S. and abroad. Van Riper has recently launched a retail/wholesale Web site (elizabethvanriper.com) offering her fine art images as fashion and home accessories for artful living.



RUBADOUX PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF ELISABETH AND GIL WATERS

CRAIG RUBADOUX
Greenhill Tango, 30" x 29"
mixed media on canvas

Craig Rubadoux settled in Sarasota in 1945 and studied with Ben Stahl and at the Ringling School of Art and Design. His art is included in many public and private collections including New York's Guggenheim Museum; Atlanta's High Museum of Art; Sarasota's Ringling Museum of Art; Fort Lauderdale's Museum of Art; and St. Petersburg's Museum of Fine Arts. Rubadoux works primarily on paper and canvas.



Robert Rauschenberg

BRONZART FOUNDRY
The Ancient Incident (Kabal American Zephyr), 1982-2006, 7'2.5" x 7'7" x 1'9"

For more than 30 years, the staff of Bronzart, a full-service, lost wax foundry, has worked closely with artists and their clients in the creation of high-quality, large and small bronze sculpture. The foundry's work is found in private collections and major public installations. For more information and images, visit bronzartfoundry.com.



VICKY RANDALL
Clockwork: Six Weeks in July, 4' x 2' x 1'
fabricated stainless steel

Vicky Randall has been creating artwork in fabricated metals for more than 25 years. She is best known for her

monumental public art installations, a wide range of which can be found in corporate and private collections in the U.S. and abroad. Learn more at vickyrandall.com.



KATHLEEN MCDONALD
Lido Beach, Sarasota, FL
acrylic, 24 x 24

Kathleen McDonald is a landscape and seascape painter, a potter,

printmaker, and photographer. She is best known for her fearless use of pure color, much of it informed by her travels to exotic locals and Sarasota County beaches and waterways. More work can be seen online at KathleenMcDonald.artspan.com.



JOSEPH MELANCON
Sunbath, 48" x 72", acrylic on canvas

Joseph Melancon is a nationally recognized award-winning artist whose workshops are highly sought after. His work is in academic, corporate, and private collections throughout the country. For more visuals, visit josephmelancon.com.



JORGE BLANCO
Polo, 2009, 169" x 96" x 82", aluminum and paint, from Caracas, Venezuela

A native of Venezuela, Jorge Blanco has lived and worked in Sarasota since 1999. With more than 35 years of exhibited work, his art can be found in private collections, galleries, and museums in Europe, the

Caribbean, South America, and the U.S. His public art creations appear throughout the world, and over the last decade he has been awarded 13 public-art commissions in the U.S. To see more of his work, go to jorgeblancosculpture.com.



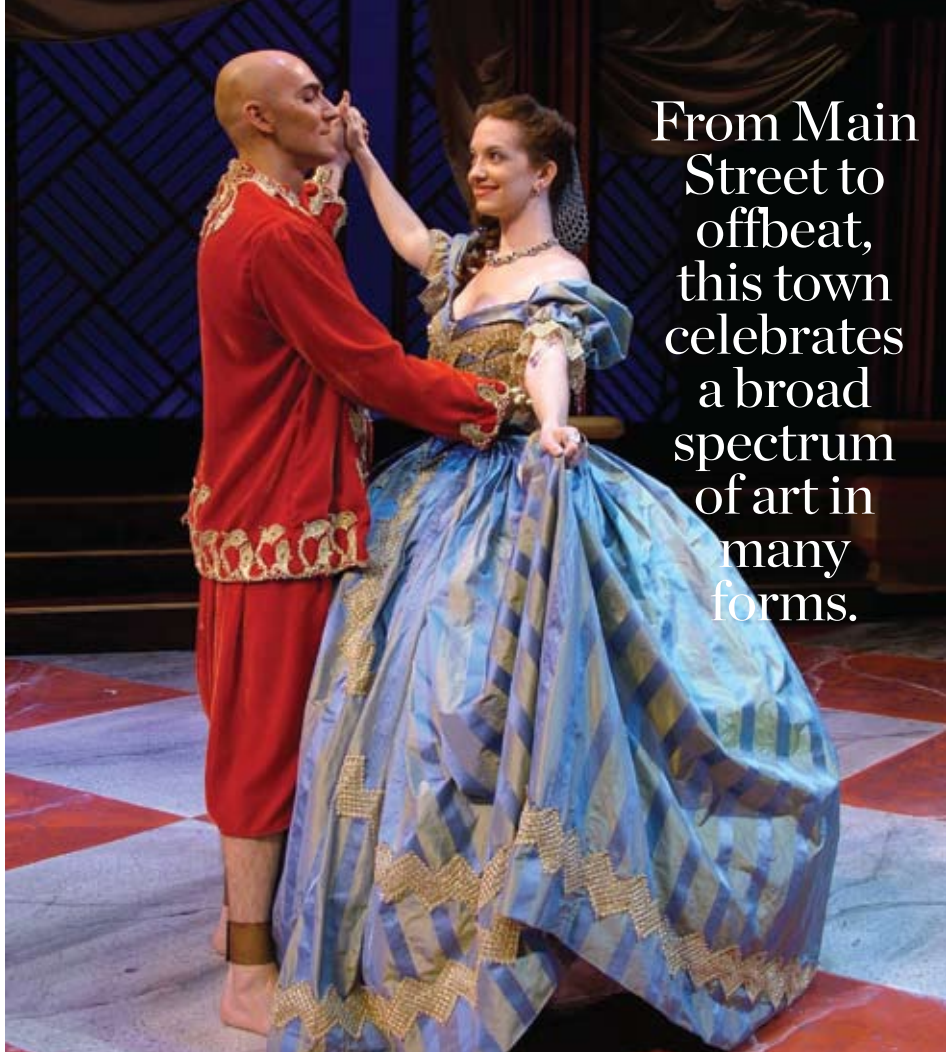
FLORENCE PUTTERMAN
Crossroads, 65" x 58", acrylic on canvas

A National Endowment Grant awardee and recipient of numerous other national awards, Putterman's work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in the U.S. and Europe. Her paintings are in private, corporate, and museum collections throughout the U.S., including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Chicago Art Institute. For more on her art, visit florenceputterman.com.



**Celebrate
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From Main Street to offbeat, this town celebrates a broad spectrum of art in many forms.

BY NANCY OAKLEY

Venice: The Art of Living

Drive just 30 miles south of Sarasota to the Gulf of Mexico, and you might think you've arrived at the Adriatic Sea. For there lies the City of Venice.

Like its Italian counterpart, this island-city is one of bridges and canals. A small, historic beach town with big city amenities, Venice was designed by famous city planner John Nolen in 1926. Its Northern Italian Renais-

sance architectural style, dotted with beautiful fountains, is a feast for the eyes as you walk among giant oaks and banyan trees between the beach and the inviting downtown. Stop at any of the 100-plus independent shops on Venice Avenue for the latest beach fashions and antiques, or sate your appetite at any of the sidewalk cafes and waterfront restaurants offering a global smorgasbord, from French and Italian fare to Japanese and New American cuisine. And don't forget the many outdoor events such as the festival celebrating the city's moniker, "Shark's Tooth

Capital of the World," or the Downtown Venice Art Classic, held every spring.

Artists say they are drawn to Venice for the light. Whether you paint, photograph, or merely appreciate the works of others, you too will see the light at the Venice Art Center, which offers a variety of classes in practically every medium. Go ahead, get in touch with your inner Picasso with a course in abstract art or drawing, or take in one of the numerous exhibitions showcasing local talent.

Venice's cultural life features art in its many forms. Under the guiding hand of Conductor and Musical Director Kenneth Bowermeister, the Venice Symphony, composed of musicians from across the U.S., Canada, United Kingdom, France, Germany, and a host of other countries, presents six sets of concerts a year. Start off the 2011-12 season with a holiday concert, or hear Young-Ah Tak play Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 5* in February. Spring brings outdoor pops concerts and a local food drive. It's one of several examples of community outreach (which also include concerts at area schools), an essential component of the Venice Symphony's mission.

There is art, there is music — and there is theater. For the last decade, Venice Theatre has been distinguished as the third-largest and most-awarded community theater in the U.S. Two stages in a beautifully renovated historic building host a dazzling array of programming. The theater's 62nd season includes Broadway-style musicals and



comedies, intimate cabarets, contemporary cutting-edge productions, and classic family fare. Add nationally renowned concert and stand-up comedy acts, and it's easy to see why Venice Theatre is the destination for live entertainment. Mark your calendars for June 18-26, 2014, when Venice Theatre will once again host the International Community Theatre Festival in Paradise, a gathering of troupes that stage all genres of theater — comedy, drama, opera, and circus acts — in the native languages of each country represented.

This global gathering is an apt metaphor for Venice. The beauty of its beaches, its Italian-inspired downtown, and myriad cultural offerings are nothing short of Edenic, but it's the city's sense of community that truly gives meaning to the word "paradise."

Clockwise from far left: *The King and I* at the Venice Theatre, the Downtown Venice Art Classic, and the Venice Symphony

For more information, visit venicegov.com, venicemainstreet.com, veniceartcenter.com, venicestage.com, and thevenicesymphony.org.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF VENICE





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Stage Left, Right, and Center

BY NANCY OAKLEY

Florida Studio
Theatre puts on
more than a
performance.

The words “studio theater” conjure images of small stages, one-act plays, and solo performances. But six programs? National and regional premieres? A playwriting program?



A festival? And some 200,000 attendees per year? Florida Studio Theatre is a testament to the power of dreaming big.

Established in 1973 by Jon Spelman, FST started out as a small alternative troupe that toured prisons, migrant camps, community centers, and nursing homes. By 1977, its supporters found the company a permanent

home in Sarasota’s Historic Women’s Club Building. From there, FST expanded year after year but never lost touch with its roots.

Billing itself as a company where “the street meets the elite,” FST offers the best in contemporary theater at an affordable price and encourages everyone in the community to be a part of it. The company now boasts three theaters that host performances year-round, thanks to its six theatrical programs.

Of these programs, the Mainstage season plays are at the helm. Winter and summers are filled with dynamic plays and musicals of Broadway and off-Broadway fare. The program has seen 89 national premieres and 33 regional premieres across its historic Keating and Gompertz stages. From the

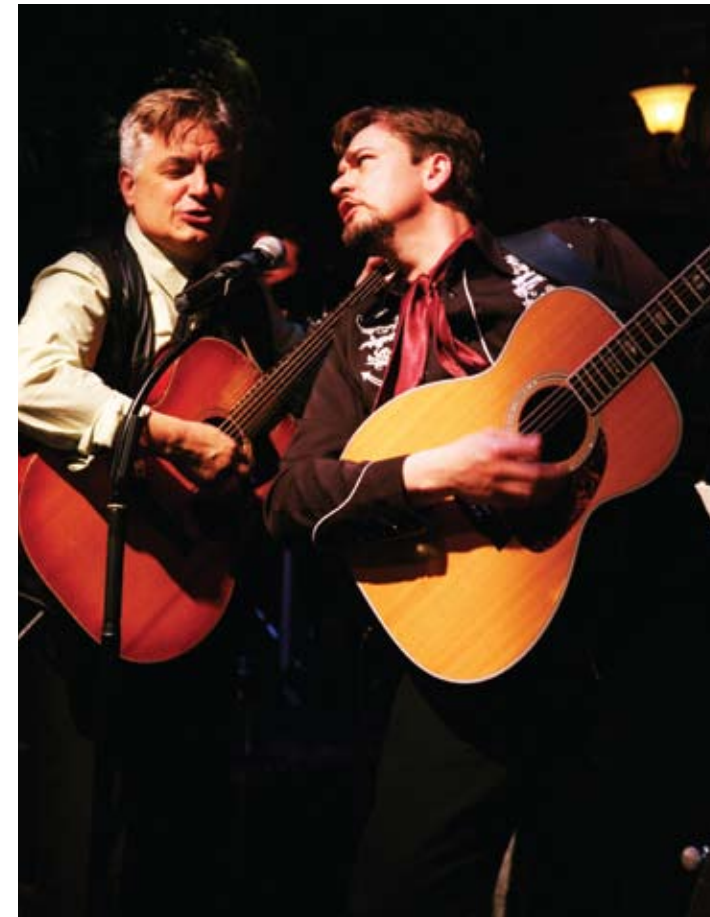


Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *Next to Normal* to the heart-wrenching world premiere of *Jericho*, FST produces work that speaks to a living, breathing, and constantly changing community.

Once their appetites were whetted with the latest and greatest of cutting-edge theater, Sarasota audiences hungered for more. In 1987, FST began offering lively music revues. Today, in the Parisian-style Goldstein Cabaret, audiences enjoy cabaret and improv, which celebrates the lyric poets of our time and presents social and political satire. And that’s not all. In an effort to draw new audiences, FST introduced daring and edgy fare that stimulated audiences by mixing thought-provoking plays, such as Edward Albee’s *The Goat*, with popular works such as last season’s *Shear Madness*.

But staging performances isn’t the extent of FST’s reach. The company makes a concerted effort to keep theater alive by developing new plays, specifically during the annual Sarasota Festival of New Plays. Here, audiences can see a play in process, thanks to the Richard and Betty Burdick Play Reading

PHOTOS COURTESY FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE



Series, while playwrights can try out rehearsals of their latest works. Even children get into the act with *Under Six*, featuring a collage of works by students in kindergarten through the sixth grade. It’s the culmination of FST’s Write a Play program, in which some 55,000 students across Florida, from kindergarten through 12th grade, learn the art of crafting a play.

So the next time you hear the phrase “studio theater,” ask yourself, as did one famous playwright, “What’s in a name?” In the case of Florida Studio Theatre, the answer is “plenty.”

Clockwise
from top left:
The productions
of *The 39 Steps*,
Ruined,
*Night Train to
Memphis*, and
*Black Pearl
Sings!*

FST florida
studio
theatre

For tickets, visit the box office located at the corner of North Palm and Coconut avenues, call 941.366.9000, or visit floridastudiotheatre.org.



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Allegro!



The Sarasota Ballet wows audiences around the globe.

In an already rich arts community, The Sarasota Ballet quickly became the hottest ticket in town when Director Iain Webb took the reins in 2007.

Founded in 1991 by former Stuttgart Ballet dancer Jean Allenby-

Weidner, The Sarasota Ballet was one of Florida's cultural gems, but Webb was charged with putting this regional company on the international ballet map.

The first season he received a nod from eminent dance critic Clive Barnes, who said,

"It's a sensational season. I don't think any American company has ever done all these ballets before. It's a rarity." *The New York Times* critic Alastair Macaulay named them "America's foremost exponent of Ashton ballets" when he saw them the next season, highlighting their "remarkable grasp of Ashton's multilayered musicality."

Following a career with The Royal Ballet, where he was guided by British ballet legends Dame Ninette de Valois, Sir Frederick Ashton, and Sir Kenneth MacMillan, Webb worked closely with boundary-crashing, Tony Award-winning choreographer



Matthew Bourne. As rehearsal director for Bourne's alternate version of *Swan Lake*, a huge hit on Broadway and beyond, Webb proved his sense of creative diversity in dance styles.

In only four seasons, The Sarasota Ballet has added 42 new ballets to its repertoire representing a remarkable range of choreographers. De Valois, Ashton, and MacMillan, and other Brits such as Peter Darrell and David Bintley are among them. Other famed choreographers include George Balanchine, John Cranko, Andre Prokofsky, Hans van Manen, and Twyla Tharp. Respected repetiteurs and choreographers work directly with the dancers, bringing the world to Sarasota and showcasing the company, now numbering 32 dancers, to today's international ballet masters. They also enjoy a special relationship with Royal Ballet principal and American Ballet Theatre guest principal Johan Kobborg, who will return to Sarasota for his third season, preparing his *Salute* for January performances.

The Sarasota Ballet was the first company worldwide to add a ballet by Matthew Bourne to its repertoire when it wowed audiences with *The Infernal Galop*. In 2009-10, they created a sensation with *There Where She Loves* by Christopher Wheeldon, arguably the most sought-after classical choreographer of today.

While local critics raved, international accolades began — and the ballet blogosphere buzzed. London's *Dance Now* called The Sarasota Ballet "a high profile company with a unique repertoire of genuine quality." *The Faster Times* said they "danced and acted with such vividness ... storytelling is the company's forte." In recent visits to Sarasota,

Dance Magazine was surprised to learn that The Sarasota Ballet and its dancers were performing works never before seen — not even in New York. The 2011-2012 season began with the great honor of partnering with The Suzanne Farrell Ballet at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center in October. Together they performed Balanchine's *Diamonds*, created in 1967 for his muse, the young Suzanne Farrell. This month, the two companies repeat these performances in Sarasota and Clearwater, paired with Ashton's poignant love story, *The Two Pigeons*, a company and audience favorite.

Clockwise from top left: Sir Peter Wright's *Giselle*, Victoria Hulland; Sir Frederick Ashton's *The Two Pigeons*, Octavio Martin and Victoria Hulland; Peter Darrell's *Othello*, Ricardo Rhodes; Anna Pavlova's *Dragonfly Solo*, Danielle Brown



Sarasota Ballet
director IAIN WEBB

For more about The Sarasota Ballet's remarkable performances this year, visit sarasotaballet.org.



**Celebrate
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The Trill Thing

The Sarasota Opera celebrates its 53rd season — and much more!

BY WAYNETTE GOODSON

It's an exciting time for the internationally acclaimed Sarasota Opera.

Not only is the company enjoying a \$20 million theater renovation, it's about to embark on its 53rd season, topped off with a gala celebration to honor Maestro Victor DeRenzi's 30th anniversary as artistic director.

The kickoff production is Puccini's tender love story *Madama Butterfly* (Oct. 28–Nov. 15), then Bizet's fiery *Carmen* takes the stage on Feb. 11 with original spoken dialogue through March 24th.

Donizetti's tale of deceit, murder, and madness, *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Feb.

18–March 24), is followed by DeRenzi's first time conducting Verdi's masterpiece *Otello*, which marks the final five years of the Company's Verdi Cycle ending in 2016.

The season wraps up with Barber's *Vanessa*, a continuation of the company's new American Classics Series (March 10–24).

"Victor DeRenzi is simply the finest, most idiomatic Verdi conductor I've ever heard, and I'm not forgetting some much more celebrated names," writes arts critic Lawrence Johnson. Indeed, under DeRenzi's leadership, the company has garnered international attention as a place to experience rarely performed operatic works. He also created educational and outreach activities. Notably, the Sarasota Youth Opera Program introduces youth ages 8–18 to all aspects of opera.

One of the best parts for audiences is experiencing all this fine opera in the "Jewel on the Gulf," the former A.B. Edwards Theater, now completely restored to its Mediterranean Revival glory. It's quite the crescendo, considering the company's start in 1960 with a chamber-sized repertoire in the 320-seat Asolo Theater. Recognizing the need for a theater more conducive to opera, the company bought the former A.B. Edwards



PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): LEBLANC STUDIOS; THE PEARL FISHERS BY DEB HESSER, HERB BOOTH, BOOTH STUDIOS

Theater in downtown Sarasota in 1979 and first performed there five years later as the Sarasota Opera House.

After undergoing a \$20 million renovation, the theater reopened in March 2008 featuring a larger orchestra pit, expansive

lobby, new lounge spaces, more comfortable seating (replacing 50-year-old movie-style seats), and most of all, a private dining room. Today *Opera* magazine hails the theater as "one of the best places to view opera," and Musical America dubbed it "one of America's finest venues for opera."

Over the course of three decades, Maestro DeRenzi has produced more than 100 different operas and conducted almost 600 performances since his start in 1983. (Equally impressive, the opera's executive director, Susan T. Danis, has spent 12 years growing the opera's budget from \$3.2 million to more than \$8.5 million.)

Come see the numbers add up by calling 941.328.1300 for subscriptions or by visiting the Sarasota Opera Box Office online or in person. Join in the excitement and experience a performance for yourself. You might even find yourself shouting "Bravo!"

Clockwise from top: View of Sarasota Opera House at sunset; Christina Bouras as Léila and Jonathan Boyd as Nadir in the 2003 Sarasota Opera production of Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*; inside the theater



BOX OFFICE HOURS:
Daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
and through intermission on
performance evenings.
61 N. Pineapple Avenue
941.328.1300

boxoffice@sarasotaopera.org



Celebrate
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What's That Sound?

The Sarasota Orchestra: Come as you are.
Leave different.

For more than 60 years, the Sarasota Orchestra has been entertaining local music lovers and visitors from around the world.

The 80-member orchestra performs more than 100 classical, pops, and multimedia concerts each

year and thrives as the oldest continuing orchestra in the state of Florida.

With five exhilarating series, the orchestra offers patrons a diverse mix of concerts from September to May. The Sarasota Orchestra also presents the world-renowned Sarasota Music Festival each June.

Masterworks

The full orchestra presents its hallmark series of seven concerts featuring unprecedented variety and the opportunity to experience the talents of some of today's most dynamic conductors representing differing artistic and musical perspectives.

Pops

Pops conductor Andrew Lane leads three vibrant concerts featuring selections from heralded Broadway shows, a tribute to some of jazz music's greats, and a salute to American icons.

Great Escapes

This enjoyable series of six concerts continues the tradition of providing a delightful mix of pops-like music with a sprinkling of light classics interspersed with informative and colorful commentary by the conductor.



Journeys to Genius

This popular multimedia series unveils the stories behind the great masters and provides insight into some of their most memorable works. In a fast-paced, 70-minute narrated format, audiences discover what makes these masterpieces so timeless, powerful, and exceptional.

Chamber Soiree

Ensembles made up of orchestra musicians perform seven concerts of exceptional chamber music throughout the season.

As an arts leader in the community, the Sarasota Orchestra is dedicated to exquisite performance and first-class musical education. The orchestra's acclaimed music-education program includes the 50-year-old Youth Orchestra, a summer music camp, and the Sarasota Music Festival.



2012 Sarasota Music Festival June 4-23, 2012

For three weeks each June, some of the world's most accomplished student musicians and faculty artists converge on Sarasota to study and perform great classical music. The Sarasota Music Festival is a magical combination of youthful promise and acclaimed talent that carries a reputation as one of the finest classical-music events in the world.

After a highly competitive review process, 58 exceptional students work side-by-side with a guest faculty composed of 40 music masters. In any given day during the festival, a student may rehearse in a faculty-coached ensemble, play in master classes, and perform on stage. Interspersed are unique opportunities for the public to hear these visiting artists rehearse or perform together.

The Sarasota Music Festival began in 1965 as a one-week event with seven guest mentors. Over the years, the festival continued to expand and receive national and international attention. In 1984, it was designated by the Florida State Legislature as the "Official Teaching and Performing

Festival of the State of Florida."

Today, the festival is led by artistic director Robert Levin, a world-renowned Mozart scholar, Harvard professor, and one of the most acclaimed concert pianists in the world. The faculty masters represent nearly all major American orchestras and a cross section of renowned music schools, conservatories, and institutes of music. The students range from professional-level musicians to superior students in music schools and conservatories. Festival students travel from around the world to participate.

Sarasota Music Festival audiences are entertained by faculty showcases, student and faculty chamber music performances, and Saturday symphonies with a student orchestra and student recitals. The "Levin Lectures" have become a festival favorite.

For more information about the Sarasota Music Festival, visit sarasotaorchestra.org.



Clockwise from left: orchestra violinist Chung-Yon Hong, Sarasota Orchestra by the bay, and Navigating the Bridge, the 2009 Sarasota Music Festival poster

PHOTOS BY HERB BOOTH/COURTESY OF SARASOTA ORCHESTRA

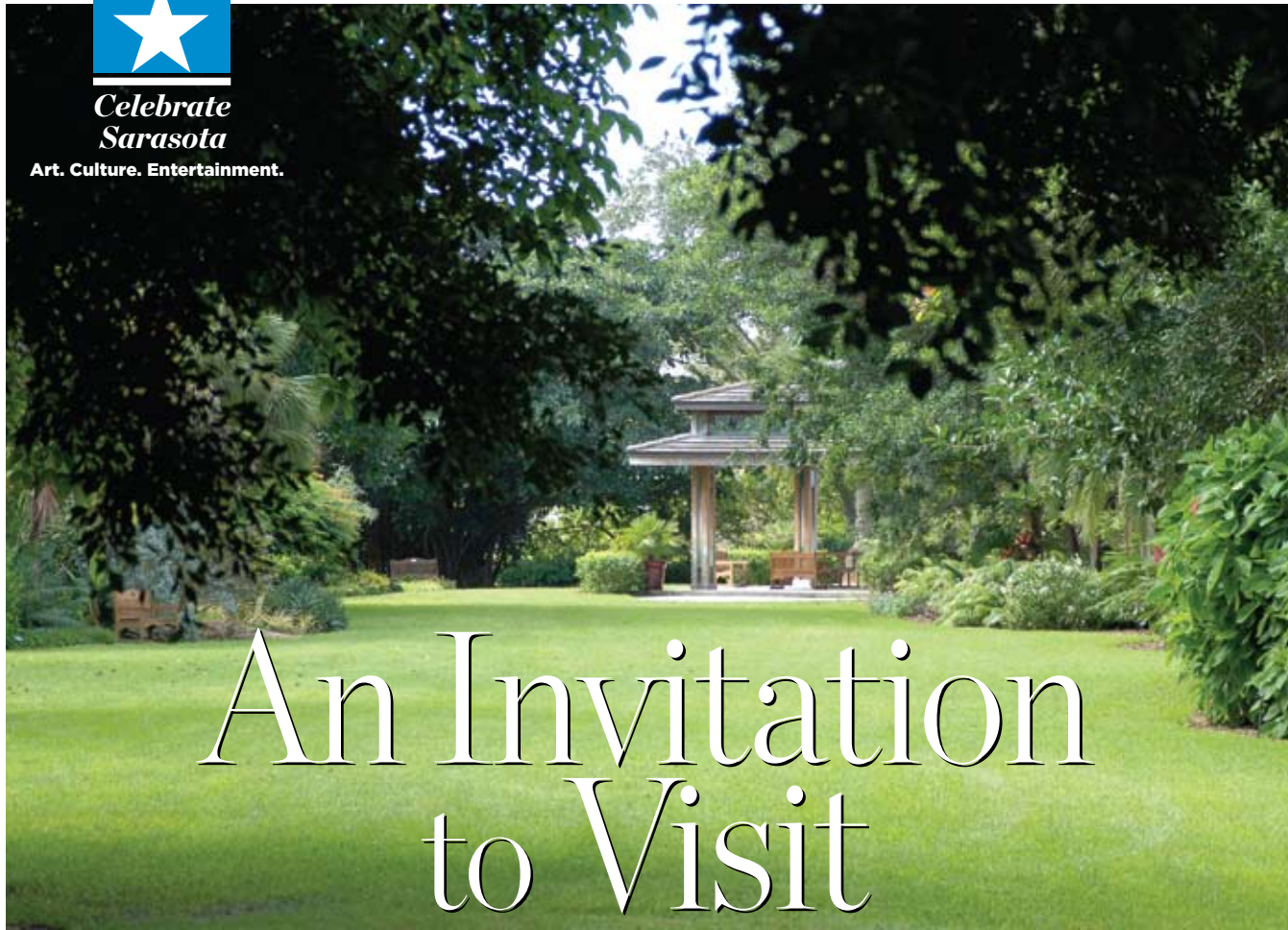
For more information visit sarasotaorchestra.org. To purchase tickets call the box office at 941.953.3434. The box office is located at 709 N. Tamiami Trail, in the Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center.





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An Invitation to Visit

The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Selby Gardens is focused on furthering the understanding and appreciation of plant life, with emphasis on epiphytes, and to provide enjoyment to all who visit and experience the Gardens.

the public on July 7, 1975, and has since doubled in size to 14 acres.

Selby Gardens offers visitors a rich cultural experience. Guests of all ages can stroll through the lush natural beauty of the Gardens, have lunch at the cafe or under the banyan trees, attend classes and lectures, visit the Kid's Corner, and browse at the Garden Shop. The Gardens also offers exhibits in the historic mansion and special events including Lights in Bloom, Plant and Garden Festival, Asian Festival, and the Garden Music Series. Selby Gardens also offers majestic nuptial and reception venues to say "I Do."

Visitors are encouraged to come often to experience the new and ever-changing display of rare and exotic orchids, bromeliads, and other luscious plants in the Conservatory and in the Gardens. Selby Gardens is a stunningly beautiful showplace that delights more than 130,000 visitors each year.

See you in the Gardens!

Marie Selby was born Mariah Minshall in Wood County, West Virginia, in 1885 and later moved to Marietta, Ohio. She married William Selby in 1908, and together they bought seven acres of land bordering on Sarasota Bay and Hudson Bayou. Little did they realize this purchase would someday become an exquisite Sarasota bayfront landmark.

Marie Selby left her property as a gift to the community to be used as a botanical garden "for the enjoyment of the general public." Marie Selby Botanical Gardens officially opened to



Clockwise
from top left:
The Great Lawn,
Moreton Bay Fig,
Koi Pond, *Cattleya
leopardii* var.
papurata (red orchids),
*Rhyncholaeliocattleya
Melinda Wheeler*
(yellow orchid)



The Gardens are open
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. every day,
with the exception of Christmas Day.
The Gardens closes at 3:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving
Day, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve.
900 South Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
941.366.5731 • selby.org



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SCOTT GARRETT (GREAT LAWN), GIFF ROLES (MORETON BAY FIG), SCOTT GARRETT (KOI POND), DA, ELLIOTT LARSTONE (RED ORCHID), GIFF ROLES (YELLOW ORCHID)



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BY IVY LAMB

Discovering the Secrets of the Sea

Despite humble beginnings, Mote Marine Laboratory has been on the cutting edge of marine science since the 1950s.



It's 1955. In sleepy Placida, Florida, world-renowned scientist Dr. Eugenie Clark (also known as "Shark Lady") fashions a marine laboratory out of a one-room shack with the help of a few enthusiastic fishermen.



Fast-forward to 2011 in Sarasota and that one-room shack is now a 10.5-acre, state-of-the-art marine research facility called Mote Marine Laboratory (after benefactor William R. Mote), a 200-acre aquaculture farm east of its main campus, a smaller lab and outreach facilities in the Florida Keys, and a field station on Pine Island in Charlotte Harbor.

Mote Marine Laboratory, known for its popular aquarium and groundbreaking research, has become an integral part of the Gulf Coast community. One of the few independent nonprofit marine laboratories in the nation, Mote has a staff of 195, with more than 30 doctoral-level scientists. And while the lab is best known for its work in Florida, its scientists conduct research programs all over the world in places such as Mexico, Cuba,



Argentina, the Dominican Republic, the Middle East, and even the Arctic. Its distance-learning education program, SeaTrek, reaches K-12 students worldwide.

Over the course of five decades, Mote Marine Lab has expanded to cover many areas of research, including studies of aquatic toxicology, chemical fate and effects, environmental health, marine biomedical research,

marine immunology, marine microbiology, sensory biology, and behavior. Mote even has hospitals dedicated to treating dolphins, whales, and sea turtles.

One thing that hasn't changed: the spirit of discovery that drove Dr. Clark's original research. She was the first to discover that sharks can learn, a groundbreaking idea at the time. Today, Mote's Center for Shark Research is officially designated as a national center for shark research by Congress.

Mote Marine Laboratory also understands the link between humans and the ocean. From studies on the toxic algae that cause red tides, to research on shark immune systems that might offer treatment for human cancer, Mote tackles projects that directly affect the health of humans and ocean dwellers alike.

"One of the primary reasons we do our research is to help give the community better water quality, better seafood, and better health through research programs focusing on our coasts, on our fisheries, and on biomedical applications," says president and CEO Dr. Kumar Mahadevan. "Many marine

labs are attached to a university or to the government, but because we are independent, we can guide our research — quickly and reliably. We are able to do things that benefit our community the most because we have the support of our community."

Mote's influence on the local community can be measured in numbers, too. This past year, Mote Marine Laboratory staff published more than 150 scientific articles, textbooks, and book chapters, attracted more than 1,300 volunteers, and had an estimated economic impact of \$71 million.

"You can sit in your ivory tower and do any kind of research you want, but you have to communicate with your scientific colleagues, and the people in the local community have to know what you're doing," says Dr. Clark. "That's what I'm proud of. That Mote has developed from a tiny little laboratory where people study fish, to a place where people can come and learn."



Clockwise from far left: Dr. Eugenie Clark; a sea turtle rehabilitated at Mote is released on the beach in Sarasota; Protect Our Reefs license plate supports coral reef research; and Mote underwater robots monitor ocean water quality



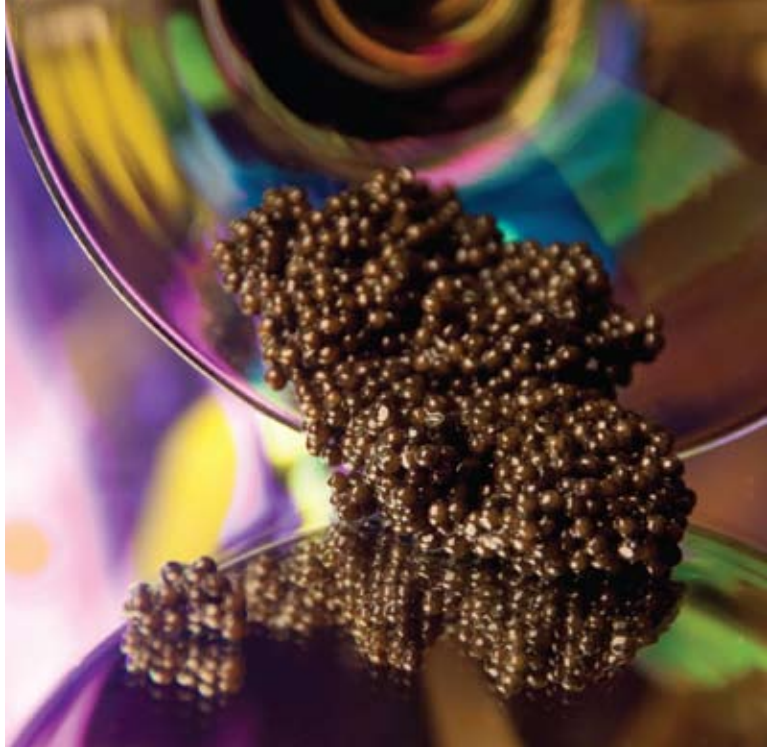
DR. EUGENIE CLARK PHOTO BY TAK KONSTANTINOU. CAVIAR PHOTO COURTESY OF EDEN. ALL OTHER PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOTE MARINE LABORATORY AND AQUARIUM



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Clockwise from top left: Sustainable and delicious Mote caviar; kids sifting for fossilized treasures in Fossil Creek; black-footed penguins are featured in Penguin Island; and Mote's Seahorse Conservation Lab



A More Sustainable Future

Mild. Smooth. Silky. The melt-in-your-mouth caviar from Siberian sturgeon has long been considered a delicacy. Unfortunately, years of overfishing badly depleted the sought-after sturgeon. Luxury and sustainability seemed incompatible until Mote Marine Laboratory opened its aquaculture park in 2001.

Mote Aquaculture Park is blazing the path for healthy and environmentally friendly aquaculture. The 200-acre facility adheres to strict health regulations and has developed cutting-edge technology to filter and conserve water. Rather than cycling in new water every five to seven minutes, Mote's sturgeon program recycles its water for days, significantly reducing waste. The park partners

wastewater. These plants are later used to restore wetlands habitats across the state.

With dwindling wild fish populations and an outsized U.S. seafood trade deficit (almost \$9 billion per year), the aquaculture technology at Mote Marine Lab points the way toward a more sustainable future. This year, the Lab's aquaculture park is helping meet the rising demand for seafood by selling about 75,000 pounds of sturgeon and two tons of caviar. The park also grows depleted saltwater species — game fish such as snook, red drum, and pompano — to help rebuild wild populations. Mote grows corals as well, used in restocking efforts designed to help restore the continent's only coral reef, located in the Florida Keys.



with a local company to grow native wetlands plants that help filter any remaining nutrients from the small amount of



The aquaculture technology can preserve wild fish and supply seafood to a growing market with minimal impact on the environment. So how does this aquaculture-produced food taste? Hailed by chefs from Sarasota to New York, the fillets and caviar from Mote are downright delicious.

Close Encounters of the Watery Kind

The ocean can be a mysterious place. What's out there just below the waves? At Mote Aquarium, you don't have to be a deep-sea diver to come face to face with hundreds of different marine species, from sharks to sea urchins.

Explore coral reefs and learn about the fish that live there. Visit the 135,000-gallon shark habitat to watch live feedings and narrated training sessions. Sign up to take a special tour through the Seahorse Conservation Lab and get a behind-the-scenes look at the lives of these curious creatures.

At Mote Aquarium you can also meet sea turtles, dolphins, and manatees. These educational ambassadors teach visitors about ways that we can help protect them in the

wild. Most fascinating? These animals all participate in special research programs that help scientists learn more about their behavior and biology — knowledge that can help manage wild populations.

For a limited time, Mote is also hosting some very special guests: black-footed penguins. From now to Spring 2012, the aquarium houses the tuxedo-wearing penguins, offering guests a unique opportunity to meet the South African natives.

Like the other exhibits in Mote Aquarium, Penguin Island is about much more than entertainment. These birds were just placed on the endangered species list. The aquarium hopes that when visitors learn about the penguin's plight, they will better understand the need for conservation, both locally and internationally.

The aquarium gives visitors a chance to meet fascinating sea creatures and to learn about the extraordinary research and conservation efforts at Mote Marine Laboratory. A visit to Mote Aquarium is a family-friendly outing that promises to educate and entertain.

Mote Aquarium is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. every day of the year. For more information, call 941.388.4441 or log on to mote.org.





Celebrate Sarasota

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Igniting the Imagination

Art Center Sarasota will inspire and enlighten you.

Since its founding in 1926, the organization has recognized that experiencing the visual arts is not only an enriching part of being human but is, in fact, essential.

Some 40,000 people flock to Art Center Sarasota in the Bayfront Cultural District annually from destinations across the U.S. and abroad, often to browse the exhibitions in the five galleries, attend an exhibition opening reception, or purchase unique original art.

Over 26 exhibitions in the galleries annually ensure new artworks to view and explore at every visit. Art Center Sarasota's curated exhibitions showcase professional local, national, or internationally known artists.

Art education is offered in classes, workshops, lectures, artist demonstrations, discussions, and a variety of cultural programs. The center is accessible to artists of all skill levels who come to broaden their horizons and young students who want to explore and nurture their artistic talent.

Art Center Sarasota has thrived thanks to the many participants, corporate sponsors, donors, and students that support the organization and believe in the importance of creativity as an essential element of a thriving community.

It is a center that celebrates the arts by bringing people together and a place where the imagination can flourish.



Art Center Sarasota is located at 707 North Tamiami Trail. For more information call 941.365.2032 or visit artsarasota.org.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ART CENTER SARASOTA



Great Performances

Artist Series Concerts brings a host of top performers year-round to Sarasota.

Now in its 16th season, Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota has grown through innovation, presenting world-renowned classical musicians from leading venues and concert halls from the U.S. and abroad.

Series Executive Director John Fischer says, "Our goal is to provide entertainment experiences equal to what you find in great cities like New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles – but in the 'always on vacation' atmosphere of Sarasota."

What makes Artist Series Concert performances unique is the focus on small one-of-a-kind venues, which provide a true

connection between the performance and the audience. Each year during its 10-month season, Artist Series Concerts offers more than 50 performances, most presented in the charming setting of the Historic Asolo Theater at the Ringling Museum of Art. The ever-popular pops programs showcase leading performers from Broadway and cabarets.



For a complete schedule, details, and tickets, visit artistseriesconcerts.org. For tickets by phone, call the Historic Asolo Theater box office at 941.360.7399. To reach Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota, call 941.306.1200.

Above: Art Center Sarasota; Below: Art Center Gallery





Celebrate Sarasota

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Enriching, Educating, and Entertaining

Circus Sarasota is a unique presence in the community.

BY LANCE ELKO

It is the history and culture of the circus that sets Sarasota apart from any other place in Florida and, for that matter, almost any other city in North America.

No single organization better exemplifies the living, breathing circus in this community than Circus Sarasota. Thanks to the vision and passion of Dolly Jacobs and Pedro Reis, Circus Sarasota continues to preserve and enhance Sarasota's lively circus legacy that began in 1927.

Circus Sarasota's annual performance engagements have been acclaimed for world-class artistry and entertainment showcased in a one-ring, five-star European-style circus. No less significant, however, are the year-round ongoing outreach programs Laughter Unlimited, Big Top Education, and

Sailor Circus, dedicated to "children of all ages" in the community. Laughter Unlimited is a program in which performers provide entertainment for, and meaningful one-on-one interaction with, residents and patients of assisted living facilities, nursing homes, hospitals, UCP, and cancer support communities. For school-aged students, Big Top Education offers a stimulating and enjoyable circus-themed curriculum to teach math, science, and reading. Sailor Circus is the longest-running youth circus program in America, serving Sarasota County students from grades 4-12. Over 10,000 students have participated in the program, and more than a million people have attended performances of "The Greatest Little Show on Earth!"

What you experience under the Big Top and what Circus Sarasota contributes to the community prove that the circus is alive and well...and living right in Sarasota!

PHOTO COURTESY CIRCUS SARASOTA

Come On Down!

Sarasota's downtown teems with history, dining, shopping, and much more.

BY TARA TITCOMBE

A cultural and entertainment hub, downtown Sarasota boasts big city amenities including theaters, art galleries, and festivals throughout the year.

revamped and now filled with public art and lush landscaping. Continue your downtown discovery by checking out the dozens of art galleries, boutiques, and

Downtown's historic district (bounded by First and State streets, and Orange and Gulfstream avenues) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and features a stunning collection of early-1900s buildings. Stroll the wide sidewalks and check out the Kress Building, Roth Cigar Factory, and the Sarasota Opera House for a peek at the variety of architectural styles.

If you're looking for history and entertainment, don't miss the Golden Apple Dinner Theatre. Since 1971, it's been serving up a buffet-style meal along with world-class plays and musicals. Bonus: The theater is located near Selby Five Points Park, recently

antique shops — several feature locally made crafts and goods. Then grab a bite to eat at one of Sarasota's more than 60 restaurants.

Also check out local flavors every Saturday at the Sarasota Farmers Market — a downtown tradition since 1979. And don't miss Live It's Friday Night, the first Friday of every month, when downtown is on full display with music, activities, and entertainment throughout the area. In downtown Sarasota, there's always plenty to celebrate.



Visit dsarasota.com for more information on downtown Sarasota.



Visit circussarasota.org for more information and a 2012 calendar of events.



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Clockwise from left: Kirill Gerstein, Midori, Pinchas Zukerman, and Thomas Hampson



In Concert

The Sarasota Concert Association presents some of the world's greatest classical music performers.

For the past 67 years, the SCA has presented a five-concert series each year featuring performances by internationally renowned symphony orchestras and distinguished soloists.

Sarasota Concert Association 2012 Great Performers Series

JAN 9 Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Pinchas Zukerman, conductor and violin

JAN 30 Thomas Hampson, baritone

FEB 16 Kirill Gerstein, piano
MAR 7 Minnesota Orchestra with Osmo Vänskä, conductor, and Midori, violin

MAR 18 Northwest German Philharmonic with Eugene Tzigane, conductor, and Amit Peled, cellist

For more information call 941.955.0040 or visit sarasotaconcertassociation.org.

This January through March, the 2012 series will offer a stunning array of artists and orchestras at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in Sarasota.

Britain's acclaimed Royal Philharmonic Orchestra opens the 2012 season with principal guest conductor Pinchas Zukerman. A world-renowned violinist, violist, and conductor, Zukerman is considered one of the greatest violinists of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The season continues with acclaimed American baritone Thomas Hampson. A recitalist,

opera singer, and recording artist, Hampson is a star baritone of the Metropolitan Opera.

Next, Russian pianist Kirill Gerstein, one of the most prolific and charismatic young performers in classical music, will take the stage.

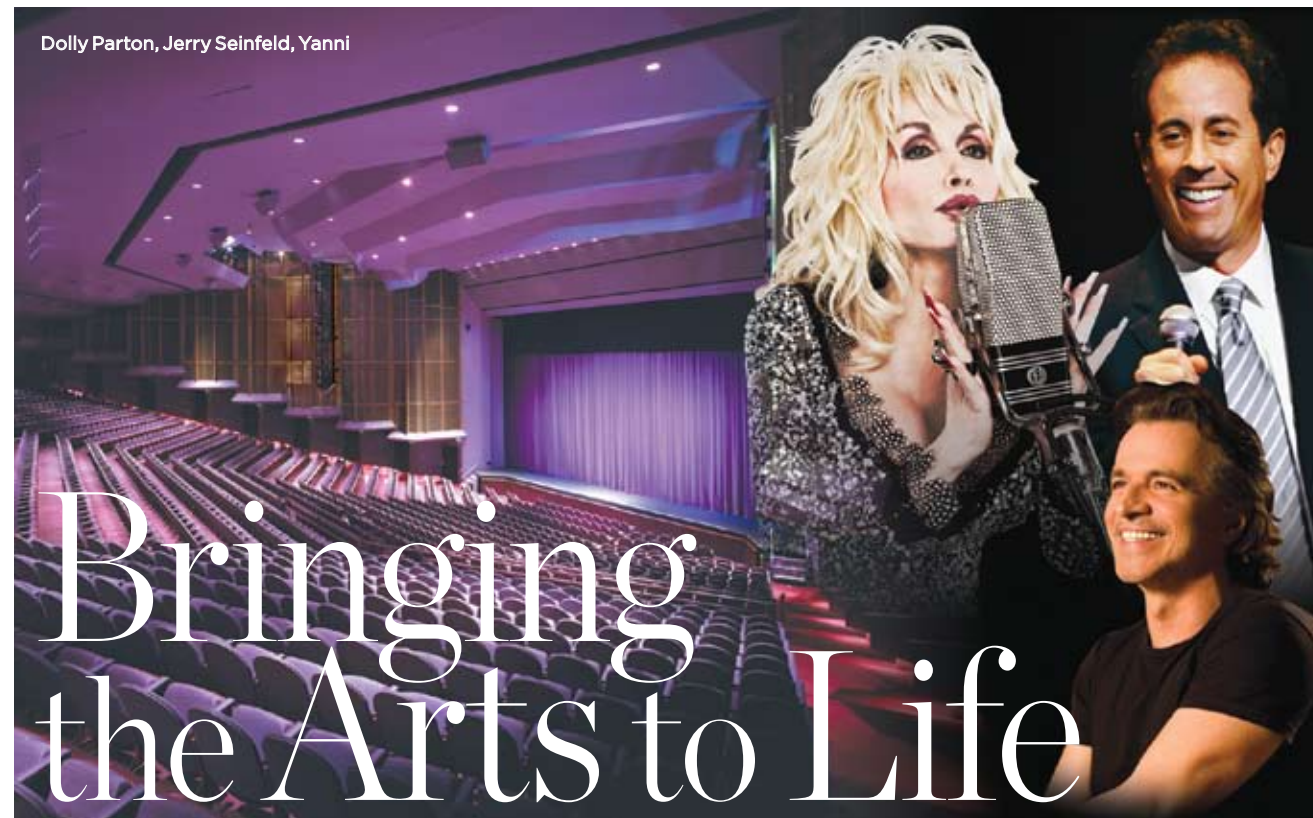
Then renowned violin soloist Midori will perform with conductor Osmo Vänskä and the Minnesota Orchestra. Since her debut at the age of 11 with the New York Philharmonic more than 25 years ago, Midori has established a record of achievement that sets her apart as a master musician, innovator, and a champion of the developmental potential of children.

The 2012 season concludes with the Northwest German Philharmonic, conducted by Eugene Tzigane, with cellist Amit Peled.

SCA also presents "Munchtime Musicales," a series of free concerts featuring performances by high-caliber, area-based artists. The series is designed to offer a wide variety of musical genres, including classical, folk, and jazz, featuring both vocal and instrumental performers. The series is free and open to the public.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SARASOTA CONCERT ASSOCIATION

Dolly Parton, Jerry Seinfeld, Yanni



Bringing the Arts to Life

A one-of-a-kind venue hosts diverse performers and inspires young minds.

BY IVY LAMB

Of all the buildings dotting the beautiful Sarasota Bay, one in particular stands out: the purple and lavender, sea shell-shaped Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.

Orchestra and violin virtuoso Joshua Bell. And when you see stand-up comedians like Jerry Seinfeld and Bob Saget, you'll know that Van Wezel Hall offers something for everyone.

Inspired by a pair of shells from the Sea of Japan, architect William Wesley Peters (collaborator of Frank Lloyd Wright) designed the hall to mimic their scalloped silhouette. The interior of the hall is just as impressive. Renowned for its acoustics and intimate feel, the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall has brought world-class entertainment to Sarasota for more than 40 years.

The 2011-2012 season places both the variety and quality of the Hall's programming on center stage. The lineup features everything from Broadway hits like *Shrek the Musical* and *Young Frankenstein* to pop legends Liza Minnelli and Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. If classical is more your style, catch performances by the Cleveland

A true cultural gem, the Van Wezel enriches the Gulf Coast community through its programming, and with the help of The Van Wezel Foundation gives back by bringing the arts to life for local schoolchildren. The Foundation supports the annual Schooltime Performances, which educated and entertained more than 22,000 students from Sarasota and neighboring counties last year alone. In recognition of its outstanding arts outreach, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts selected Sarasota as the sixth partner city for "Any Given Child," a long-range arts education program for grades K-8.

Whether you attend a show or help inspire a child by donating to the Van Wezel Foundation, you'll be saying one thing: Bravo!



For more information about the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall call 800.826.9303 or visit vanwezel.org. To learn more about the Van Wezel Foundation call 941.366.5578 or log on to vwfoundation.org.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL



Celebrate
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The Sound of Innovation

New Music New College:
Innovate, experiment, explore,
challenge, experience.

BY LANCE ELKO

For many years, Sarasotans have been blessed with art in all its forms.

Visual arts have been central to the town's identity for decades, but the role of performance arts has expanded greatly in recent years. Music in particular has struck a note with the community —

especially the performances presented by New Music New College.

Sarasota's New College is the official honors college of the state of Florida. It is highly selective — only 840 students attend this unique liberal arts school. For 50 years, graduates have become leaders in academics, medicine, law, journalism, advertising, and music, among other fields.

In 1998, New Music New College emerged as a program within New College — providing students who possessed musical talent and refreshingly new ideas an opportunity to create and perform throughout the community. Many Sarasotans have enjoyed the

compelling and experimental sounds in galleries, outdoors, and other unconventional spaces.

The students and faculty perform original music, and NMNC also presents concerts by a host of contemporary music specialists from across the country.

Director and professor of music Stephen Miles explains that NMNC is an evolving experiment, one that tests assumptions and conventions about music. “We challenge the traditional boundaries that separate music and speech, music and theater, and performer and audience,” Miles says.

New Music New College is unique not only in its musical offerings and approach to learning, but also in its integration with the community of Sarasota.



Clockwise from top left: New College Koski Plaza, pianist Kathleen Supové, saxophonist Sam Rivers, New College student performs, and NMNC director and professor of music Stephen Miles



For more information visit
newmusicnewcollege.org.



PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): COURTESY OF NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 11-12

New College students perform hybrid works of movement and vocal sound by composer and NMNC director Stephen Miles and choreographer Margaret Eginton of the New College faculty in the former Ringling Mansion that is now College Hall.

JANUARY 21

PIANIST KATHLEEN SUPOVÉ

Using electronic media, costume, and audience engagement, Supové turns the idea of a piano recital into performance art. Supové has appeared with the Lincoln Center Festival, the Philip Glass Ensemble, and a host of other performance artists.



MARCH 2-3

CROSSROADS 4: MEETING OF THE MINDS FESTIVAL FLUID MOTION WITH SAM RIVERS

Free-form jazz meets experimental music when saxophonist Sam Rivers and Fluid Motion perform on the evening of March 2. Rivers is one of the finest contemporary improvisers working today. Fluid Motion's sound is described as angular, intricate, and post-bop in style. On March 3, Sam Rivers and Fluid Motion perform with Sarasota Orchestra musicians and New College students. Both concerts will be outdoors, and the March 3 event will surround the audience with sound from three stages.

APRIL 21

MICHAEL GORDON'S *TIMBER*

The composer and co-director of New York-based Bang on a Can presents a new work. *Timber*, performed by the ensemble Mantra Percussion, creates a mélange of sound from six graduated simantras, percussion instruments fashioned from two-by-four lumber pieces. The piece explores polyrhythmic textures and oscillating dynamics. Alex Ross of *The New Yorker* describes the sound as having “the fury of punk rock, the nervous brilliance of free jazz, and the intransigence of classical modernism.”



Celebrate
Sarasota

Art. Culture. Entertainment.

Creativity and Community

Ringling College of Art and Design
inspires students of all ages —
and art lovers everywhere.

BY IVY LAMB



Here I hope a famous school of artists will rise, for though life is short, art is long.”

spoken by Hippocrates — turned out to be remarkably prescient. Today, the arts school that Ringling founded is considered one of the best art and design colleges in the world, and a vital part of the Sarasota community.

Over the course of 80 years, Ringling College of Art and Design has grown from a student body of 75 to nearly 1,400 degree-seeking students.

The college offers BFA degrees in 13 disciplines, ranging from Fine Arts to Computer

Spoken by art collector and circus impresario John Ringling in 1931, those hopeful words — originally

— originally

Animation and Digital Filmmaking, and a BA in the innovative Business of Art & Design program. Cited as the “Most Wired Campus in America” by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2011, the college also has received attention from *BusinessWeek*, which named Ringling College one of the top 60 design schools in the world (and one of only 10 in the U.S.). Ringling encourages creativity and innovation across all its disciplines, but the college reaches far beyond the student body; it also has myriad galleries and programs aimed at engaging the wider Sarasota community.

Selby Gallery, the professional exhibition space on campus, features the work of internationally recognized contemporary visual artists in addition to annual shows featuring faculty and students. The Gallery also hosts lectures, panel discussions, and performances. Many other galleries are scattered across the main campus, such as the student-directed Crossley Gallery, the Basch and Willis A. Smith Construction, Inc.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

galleries, and the Patricia Thompson Gallery showcasing alumni work.

Ringling College has made its mark outside the main campus as well. In the heart of Sarasota’s Rosemary Court Arts District, you’ll find “madeby,” a unique retail gallery that showcases student and alumni work for sale.

For non-degree seeking students and community members who are interested in

exploring and enhancing their creative abilities, Continuing Studies and Special Programs offers community art classes, lectures, workshops, and travel programs, in addition to the four-week intensive PreCollege Perspective program for high school juniors and seniors.

To spread the inspiration found on its main campus, the college’s two art center divisions — Longboat Key Center for the Arts and the Englewood Art Center — provide art classes and workshops, lectures, special events, and invitational and community exhibitions throughout the year designed to educate, engage, and entertain the communities they serve.

Ringling College refuses to rest on its laurels. The college is in the process of establishing the Visual Arts Education Center, which will house the newly conceived Sarasota Museum of Art/SMOA. When completed, SMOA will bring a rich array of modern and contemporary art to Sarasota, and help cement the city as the cultural capital of southwest Florida.

Clockwise from top: Selby Gallery, madeby, and Computer Animation Lab



To learn more about Ringling College of Art and Design, call 800.255.7695 or 941.351.5100. Visit us online at

ringling.edu/community





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From left: former President Bill Clinton, former Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Dr. Maya Angelou



Meeting of the Minds

The Ringling College Library Association TOWN HALL Lecture Series brings the world's most engaging personalities to the Gulf Coast of Florida.

TOWN HALL Lecture Series has been a cultural institution in Sarasota for more than 30 years.

The Ringling College Library Association (RCLA) attracts world leaders, artists, entertainers, sports figures, journalists, and

authors to share their life experiences, opinions, and passions with an attentive and sophisticated audience. Fueled by volunteers, RCLA has contributed more than \$6 million to support the Verman Kimbrough Memorial Library on the campus of Ringling College of Art and Design — a college that now ranks among the top art schools in the world.

Sarasota is an affluent community filled with intellectually curious people who choose to live in this vibrant spot on the globe. One subscriber said at the end of last season, "Our community has a thirst for engaging cultural

activities and the TOWN HALL Lecture Series stimulates meaningful and provocative conversation about important issues." It's no wonder that the series is well subscribed. Recent speakers have included former President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, international journalist Fareed Zakaria, director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Philippe de Montebello, former Prime Minister Tony Blair, Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, and best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell.

The TOWN HALL Lecture Series offers a choice of morning or evening programs followed by a lunch or evening reception where subscribers can have more personal interaction with the speakers. A group of local high school students, selected by their principals, are also given an opportunity to meet with these exceptional leaders — people who have changed the course of history.

PHOTOS FROM LEFT: BARBARABANKS.COM, ROBERTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM, COURTESY OF RINGLING COLLEGE LIBRARY

Town Hall 2012 Speakers

- Tina Brown Jan 7
- Laura Bush Jan 11
- Roland Fryer Feb 1
- General Stanley McChrystal Feb 13
- Steven Levitt Mar 5
- Bill O'Reilly Mar 21

To learn more visit rclassociation.org.



STATE COLLEGE OF FLORIDASM MANATEE - SARASOTA

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

As the oldest and largest public college on Florida's "Cultural Coast," State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) has a long-standing commitment to arts education and performance. Fueled by students' energy and faculty's expertise, SCF produces and hosts a variety of entertainment — photo, ceramic and art exhibits, theatre productions, and music concerts — at beautiful campus facilities and at venues throughout the area.

Highly regarded faculty members are recognized for their professional contributions to area arts organizations such as the appointment of Robyn Wilkes, SCF's director of instrumental studies, as director of the Sarasota Pops Orchestra.

Skilled music faculty members combine performance and teaching careers, guiding students through private lessons and directing ensembles that maintain an active performance schedule in the community and in the 839-seat Neel Performing Arts Center. Student music ensembles include the Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, Music Theatre Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Jazz Ensemble,

Guitar Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, and Symphony Orchestra.

Studio 84 Productions is the student acting company that performs classic and contemporary comedies, dramas, mysteries, musicals, and new works by the Theatre faculty. All shows are directed by the Theatre faculty and presented in the David S. and Anne V. Howard Studio Theatre.

The Fine Art Gallery hosts exhibits by students, faculty and guest artists from around the world who mingle with the public at opening receptions. Visitors leisurely peruse the exhibits during gallery hours or prior to performances and shows.

SCF students gain valuable hands-on experience whether they are pursuing cultural studies as a profession or hobby through additional offerings that include art history, two- and three-dimensional design, graphic design, film production, and photography/digital imaging.



SCF Concert Choir under the direction of Melodie Dickerson

Just as SCF's commitment to the arts community is reflected in an array of Visual and Performing Arts programs, the College's partnership with and responsiveness to the business community is demonstrated by an expanded mission that includes more college workforce degrees along with a broad offering of noncredit classes, workshops, and seminars through the Corporate and Community Development division.

Annual Holiday Ceramics Sale



Studio 84 Productions' "Everything in the Garden" directed by Ken Erickson



SCF Venice hosts the Venice Symphony



SCF's Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Marc Mannino



Fine Art Gallery manager Joe Loccisano with guest artist Olympia Zacchini



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A Legacy of Excellence, A Future of Innovation.



State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA, 30033-4097, or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of SCF. An equal access/equal opportunity institution.



Celebrate Sarasota

Art. Culture. Entertainment.

University in the Community

A prime location, quality education, and community outreach make USFSM a grade-A school.

BY NANCY OAKLEY

Who wouldn't want to go to a university near America's No. 1 beach? The 4,700 students at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee, just a few miles

from Siesta Beach and across the street from the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, appreciate the advantages of location and a dynamic curriculum that has resulted in unparalleled growth in a little more than three short decades.

A part of the University of South Florida System, USFSM offers bachelor's and master's degrees in Arts & Sciences, Business, Education, and Hotel & Restaurant Management at its main campus and teaching site in North Port. With classes boasting a 15-to-one student-to-faculty ratio, there is little wonder enrollment and academic achievement have soared at this institution.

But USFSM understands that learning extends beyond the classroom. Its mission has always been to serve the region. The College of Education, for example, partners

with elementary schools in two counties, while the Hotel & Restaurant Management program actively serves the area's tourism industry. And Sarasota's vibrant arts community figures into USFSM's mission as well: The university has designed a unique MBA program to teach students the business of film and is integrating arts into its curriculum. This year, USFSM will continue to play host to the Perlman Music Program's Winter Residency (see page 91).

With such an emphasis on community, it comes as no surprise that some 18,000 USFSM alums choose to stay in the region and excel at the companies they work for. While he was a student, Jason Krykwo secured an SBA loan to start Sleek Audio, a customizable headphone company. Says the COO, "To date, we have personally fit more than 1,200 professional athletes, musicians, and artists with custom earphones and have distribution in more than 50 countries. Without the support of the staff and faculty of USF Sarasota-Manatee we never would have garnered the marketing skills and international prowess that we have."

PHOTO'S COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SARASOTA-MANATEE



PHOTO BY BARBARA BANKS

Itzhak Perlman in rehearsal with Perlman Music Program orchestra students

A Remarkable Musical Experience

The Perlman Music Program Winter Residency offers the rare opportunity to experience acclaimed music faculty and student musicians of exceptional talent mentor, learn, and perform.

The Perlman Music Program/Suncoast, founded to present The Perlman Music Program Winter Residency, welcomes the 8th annual return of Toby and Itzhak Perlman, the PMP faculty, and PMP musicians (ages 12-20+) to southwest Florida.

The public is invited to attend 20 free musical events, including rehearsals, master classes, and works-in-progress recitals on the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus. This remarkable two-week program culminates in the Celebration Concert at the Sarasota Opera House, with Itzhak Perlman conducting the PMP Orchestra.

Join us for this uplifting artistic and educational experience!



PMP Sarasota Winter Residency
December 26, 2011-January 6, 2012
Celebration Concert with Itzhak Perlman and the PMP Orchestra

January 7 at 5 p.m.

For advance tickets and details, visit PerlmanMusicProgramSuncoast.org.



USFSM is located at 8350 N. Tamiami Trail and 5920 Pan American Blvd. in North Port. Visit sarasota.usf.edu for more information.



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Logan Learned of the Sarasota Ballet in Sir Frederick Ashton's *Les Patineurs*

Sarasota Opera's *Magic Flute*



Where Charitable Passion and Creativity Meet

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County connects donors to the organizations they love.

Arts lovers know that Sarasota is ranked one of the “Top 5 Best Art Towns in America” in John Villani’s *The 100 Best Art Towns in America*.



Arthur Marks in Florida Studio Theatre’s *Mr. Bojangles*

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): FRANK ATURA, COURTESY OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SARASOTA, COURTESY OF FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County is a public charity that enriches the community by assisting donors in creating permanent charitable funds.



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It takes a community to keep our arts venues vibrant and thriving. When donors partner with the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, they can support the Sarasota Ballet, Sarasota Opera, Sarasota Orchestra, West Coast Black Theatre Troupe ... any or all of the great organizations that make Sarasota an arts mecca. We make donor dreams a reality. For Good. For Ever.®

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County: your one-stop shop for smart giving to the arts and all the things you care about.



Art, Culture, Community

“I begin with an idea and then it becomes something else.” —Pablo Picasso

In Lakewood Ranch, building a strong community is based upon ideas, one of which is creating a culture closely tied to the many assets in the region.

Lakewood Ranch is an 8,500-acre, award-winning master-planned community straddling Sarasota and Manatee counties on the West Coast of Florida. Just minutes from the Gulf Coast beaches and the abundant cultural assets of Sarasota, Lakewood Ranch is already home to more than 15,000 residents. The Ranch is known for its schools, Sarasota Polo Club, its own Main Street, a 75-acre sports complex, and plenty of shopping and dining.

We take many opportunities throughout the year to exhibit these assets. Delight in the arts in Lakewood Ranch by attending any of our signature events, as we showcase local and national artists, music, film, and the

performing arts. Every February marks one of the most popular events of the year — Ovation. This celebration features artists from across the Suncoast on two outdoor stages with live performances, special demonstrations, and interactive booths and displays. In March, during Art at the Ranch, artisans line the street with displays ranging from pottery to jewelry and sculpture to photography. One of the most popular events, Music on Main, presents local bands or musicians playing on Main Street during the first Friday of every month. Patrons come out to dance or just pull up a chair for this street party, which attracts thousands of visitors and benefits a different charity each month.

We also partner with many arts groups in Sarasota to bring their offerings to the Ranch, including the Asolo Repertory Theatre, La Musica, and the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.

At Lakewood Ranch, we began with an idea ... and look what it has become.



For more information visit lakewoodranch.com.

PHOTOS COURTESY LAKEWOOD RANCH



Celebrate
Sarasota

Art. Culture. Entertainment.

BY TARA TITCOMBE

Business and Pleasure

Sarasota is proof that you
can mix work and play.

Not only does Sarasota enjoy a diverse arts scene, but it also boasts a dynamic business community. And the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) of Sarasota County knows that the two go hand in hand.

Sarasota's stunning natural beauty, ideal climate, and proximity to water give the city an advantage for attracting businesses. But the arts and culture of the community are what make Sarasota stand out. Just ask Roxanne Joffe, president and founder of CAP Brand Marketing, who moved her business to



the area in 2004. "I lived in New York City for most of my adult life, and I was craving the art and culture that I was accustomed to," she says. "I didn't see the volume and the richness in other cities in the South that I saw here in Sarasota."

Along with a strong business environment, and rich arts and cultural offerings, Sarasota boasts superior educational institutions and a growing population providing a talented workforce for local companies. Rob Campbell, CEO for Voalté — a healthcare software solutions company — recognizes the importance of the arts in the workplace. "I believe any healthy community has to have great diversity," he says. "Even in technology we spend a lot of time on designing, staging, and creating compelling stories for user experiences. So access to the arts community is really critical."

Campbell also notes that the creative environment relates to an innovative business community. "In the last ten years, I've seen a good amount of blossoming entrepreneurship and high-tech startups," he says.



Clockwise from left:
Roxanne Joffe,
president and founder
of CAP Brand
Marketing, Sarasota
Business District and
Harbor, and Piero
Rivolta

Such characteristics are enhanced further by warm and welcoming Sarasotans. Joffe's business has been embraced by the community — and she feels completely accepted. "Quite a few CEOs tend to retire here," she says, "and I've found a few of them who have become my mentors."

The EDC — a public-private partnership — works hard to ensure that businesses are not only accepted, but welcomed, and the same goes for employees relocating to Sarasota. "This area is juxtaposed with amazing people and professional leaders," Joffe says. "It has not been difficult to integrate into the community."

There is perhaps no better example of an individual becoming an integral part of the community than Piero Rivolta. The Italian-born novelist, poet, and businessman moved to Sarasota in 1980 where he established Rivolta Yachts, developed various real-estate projects, as well as created an international chamber music festival called La Musica. But he was

first drawn to the area because of its arts and culture. "We decided to move to the United States...and our choice was simple: Florida," says Rivolta. "But coming from Milano and being involved for generations in the cultural and artistic life there, we needed a place that could give us similar opportunities. We were lucky — we found Sarasota."

Just like Joffe, Rivolta found a place to lay both his business and personal roots. "Sarasota became my home," he says. "It is the center of my life and is so deep in my heart that most of the books that I write reflect these sentiments."

Sarasota is a unique community that supports business just as much as it supports the arts. As Joffe explains, "Where else was I going to get the arts and culture, the weather, the people, and all those experiences in a manageable and livable place?" Only in Sarasota.

Contact the EDC of
Sarasota County by calling
941.309.1200 or by visiting
edcsarasotacounty.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROXANNE JOFFE, SARASOTA CVB, AND PIERO RIVOLTA

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To learn more about all Sarasota has to offer, visit sarasotafl.org/fine-arts.

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Thank You!

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