

September 2007

Dear Music Lover:

Summer is nearly over, and life begins to settle into a routine again. **Ocala's own** *Central Florida Symphony Orchestra* begins its 2007-08 season with some exciting plans.

First, we are launching our **first ever “annual fund-raising campaign”** to focus attention in a brief period on our need for donations from all quarters. It will begin with a “season kick-off” event on September 20 at the Country Club of Ocala designed to inform community and business leaders about last year's accomplishments and the great asset that CFSO gives the community. We will announce dollars raised so far toward a goal of \$165,000, which is a 10% increase over donations and sponsorships received in 2006-07. Commitments already made from season ticket holders and others will be part of that amount. We will follow up with mailings and other contacts, but our goal is to achieve the \$165,000 goal in cash and pledges by October 31. That will give the season a firm foundation.

Incidentally, you may be interested to know the **total budget** for CFSO for the 2007-08 fiscal year is \$345,620, with approximately \$99,000 expected to come from ticket sales. In addition to a goal from donations and sponsorships of \$165,000, fund-raising events, grants and outside concert revenue make up the balance of the budget. So you can see, community support is essential to provide the subscription concerts, the children's concert, the Young Artist Competition, and the other outreach projects of CFSO.

Our **first concert of the season**, “A Night in the Gardens of Spain”, will be held on Saturday, October 20, beginning with a black tie dinner at the Ocala Breeders Sales facility. Tickets are on sale at the CFSO office. Now that road construction in front of OBS is completed, we can offer valet parking, and parking lot lights have been installed. Patrons of the Saturday evening concert will see a “VIP tent” on the grounds for concert sponsors to entertain their special guests, and a cash bar will be offered in the auditorium lobby.

Here is the **schedule for subscription concerts for the season**:

- **Oct. 20 & 21:** A Night in the Gardens of Spain
- **Nov. 10 & 11:** Hollywood Goes for Classics
- **Dec. 15 & 16:** Vivaldi to Jazz: Unwrap the Holiday Magic
- **Mar. 1 & 2:** Salute to Ocala Breeders and the Appleton

Each of these concerts is coupled with a **social event**, beginning with the Opening Night Dinner, two receptions, and a Season Finale Dinner. Tickets are on sale for all those events in the season brochure and at the CFSO Office.

In addition to the Subscription Concerts, we continue our tradition of performing for Fine Arts For Ocala's (FAFO's) "*Symphony Under the Stars*" **Mothers Day concert on May 11** (2008), the **free "*Symphony Under the Lights*" on Ocala's Historic Downtown Square Dec. 14** (2007), and the **Appleton After Hours Dec. 6** (2007). We are very hopeful to find **sponsors for a free concert for all Marion County fourth graders to be performed on February 29, 2008**. We also will continue to offer the 17th annual Young Artist Competition Jan. 26, with a finalist recital (free to CFSSO season ticket holders) on Jan. 27. On the drawing board is a **chamber orchestra concert** in partnership with the Appleton Museum of Art on Saturday, March 29, complete with a black tie dinner, as a fund-raiser for the two organizations.

Attendees will see some **changes to the OBS Auditorium**, with all new wood paneling behind the musicians, risers for central sections of the orchestra, and tall sound baffles in the two alcoves behind the musicians. Throughout the season Ocala Breeders Sales Company will continue with their remodeling between our concerts and their thoroughbred sales events, including new ceiling tiles and lighting. We are so grateful to the management of OBS to welcome us back to their facility!

Season tickets have been mailed to all who have renewed, and single ticket sales are now possible. Be sure to order your tickets early for the best seats!

One of the major undertakings for CFSSO this year, both financially and organizationally, is the **installation of a computer software system** in September that will handle record keeping for ticket sales as well as donor records and communications. Patrons will be able to purchase tickets on line as well as in person. We also will have our own credit card account, so that purchases no longer will be processed through the Veranda Gallery & Tea Room, a kindness that their owners have so generously given CFSSO.

One of our finest assets is our **Symphony Guild**, a group of individuals (men and women) who volunteer their time at CFSSO events, concerts, and any way they can be the "arms and legs" of our organization. Not to be overlooked is our **board of directors**, a very hard-working group of volunteers. We are so grateful for the commitment and sacrifices they make to carry out the work that results in musical excellence. And of course we welcome back for a seventh season as our Music Director and Conductor, **Dr. James Plondke**. His musical leadership is exceptional!

In closing, a couple of "fast facts": **we nearly doubled our attendance**, or an average of 750 people at our eight performances there, in contrast to our capacity crowds of 375 at the CFCC Fine Arts Auditorium. And **70% of our musicians are local**, coming from a radius of 50 miles around Ocala.

Yours for a fantastic CFSSO 2007-08 season,

Toni James, Board President

"A Great Community Deserves a Great Orchestra"



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