



Welcome to the 42nd Season

A season of classical music ... SoundBites ... a Cabaret Gala and more!

The 2024-2025 classical concert season will feature music inspired by the motherlands, emotions, genius, and impressions. We will hear music from Old Masters and exciting current composers inspired by sources as varied as the African Spirit, a hiking trip, political realities, an art gallery, birds, the sea, and Cinderella. Appearing as soloists this season will be Daniel Rios, Clarence Heagy Oboe Chair, and world-renowned violinist Alexander Sitkovetsky performing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto on his 1679 "Parera" Antonio Stradivari violin. Music Director Michelle Merrill has curated a season rich in sounds and experiences that require virtuosity from our musicians. It is one that will take us to both new and familiar places and is not to be missed!

Tickets were mailed to Season Subscribers in August; however, there is still time to order. Your board is working hard to bring you a variety of engaging musical experiences throughout the season! Just visit our website at coastalsymphonyofgeorgia.com for complete information.

Our complete symphony experience this season also includes a winter gala – the 20th Cabaret! And SoundBites will be back by popular demand with exciting performances in interesting spaces.

2024-2025 Season

Homelands, September 30, 2024
Brunswick High School

Emotions, November 11, 2024
Wesley Church at Frederica

Genius, February 3, 2025
Wesley Church at Frederica

Impressions, March 24, 2025
Brunswick High School

20th Cabaret Gala - Our signature gala where we enjoy an

elegant evening of fun in support of the Symphony. *Save the Date*: DISCO NIGHT - Friday, February 28, 2025 at Frederica Golf Club. Watch for details on our website and in future newsletters.

SoundBites - Smaller ensembles play for smaller audiences in more intimate surroundings while enjoying cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation with the musicians. The first SoundBite of the season is October 17th at Village Creek Landing. Join the fun for *Marsh Moon Rising*.



CONCERT NOTES

42nd Season Begins with Music Inspired by Stories and Art from the Homelands

Monday, September 30, 2024 – 7:30 pm
Brunswick High School Auditorium



The concert opens with a rollicking overture from Russian composer, **Mikhail Glinka's** opera *Ruslan and Ludmila*. The opera is based on a narrative poem by Alexander Pushkin,

considered Russia's greatest poet. The music is enhanced by an Eastern flavor borrowing from Russian folk material, with an allusion to European dance music, and a decided advanced treatment of harmony. All of this is apparent in the overture which is considered a workout for violinists and a nightmare for bassoonists.



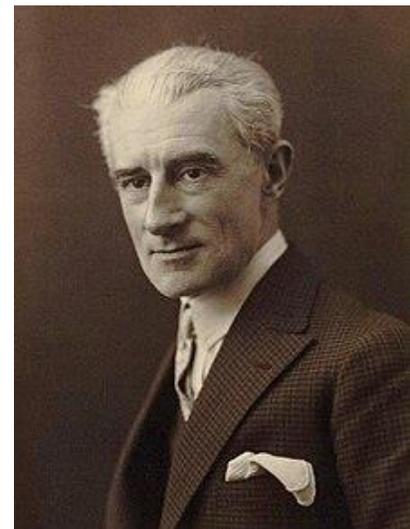
A celebration of the African spirit follows with American composer **Brian Raphael Nabors' *Of Earth and Sky: Tales from the Motherland***. Nabors music draws from a combination of classical, Jazz Funk, R&B and Gospel with the modern flair of contemporary classical music, using Gospel as the underlying force. *Tales*

draws on his special interest in creating a symphonic tapestry of music based on stories from Africa and the Caribbean by weaving three distinct African legends together and culminating in a celebratory finale.

The Opening Night program closes with Russian composer **Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition***. The music takes the listener through an exhibition of paintings by artist Victor Hartman who was a close friend of the composer.



Originally written as a piano suite, its symphonic possibilities soon became evident. Over 20 adaptations have been created, and French composer **Maurice Ravel's** version has become the most recorded and performed. With faithful scoring, Ravel amplifies both the wit and feeling of the piano piece and uses the entire orchestra to create musical characters from the paintings. The music is at times lyrical, sprightly, folksy, eerie, and majestic. Listen for the Promenade theme throughout that indicates a visitor strolling through the exhibit.





Coastal Symphony of Georgia Participates in Causeway Celebration

The F.J. TORRAS CAUSEWAY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION was a public event to celebrate 100 years since the opening of the FJ Torras Causeway that connected St Simons and Sea Island to Brunswick.

Les Roettges, the Principal Flute of the Coastal Symphony who holds *The Ruth Heagy Principal Flute Chair*, opened the Causeway Celebration Pageant on July 13, 2024 in Gascoigne Park with a special flute solo written by Sidney Lanier. The Coastal Symphony was honored to participate in and be a sponsor of this historic event.

CSG Executive Director Leadership Transition

Sharon Flores, the longstanding Executive Director of the Coastal Symphony of Georgia, is set to retire after an impactful eight-year tenure in this role.

Having joined the Coastal Symphony Board in 2006, she served as President from 2014 to 2016. Under her leadership, the organization experienced

significant growth, including the transition to a fully professional orchestra, the relocation to the new Brunswick High School Auditorium in 2016, and the recruitment of a full-time General Manager along with two distinguished Music Directors and Conductors—Maestro Luis Haza and the current Conductor, Michelle Merrill.

Sharon expressed her ongoing passion for the Coastal Symphony and conveyed her gratitude for the lasting friendships she has cultivated with board members, musicians, and symphony patrons over the past 18 years.

Lauren Kase is thrilled to join the Coastal Symphony of Georgia as its Executive Director. Previously, Lauren directed development for The University of Virginia's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy, and New York University's Silver School of Social Work, but perhaps her favorite role was managing The Juilliard School's Second Century Fund. Lauren grew up studying classical voice and feels it is a true privilege to support Music Director Michelle Merrill, the musicians of the Coastal Symphony, and the community they inspire. Lauren received a B.A. in Public Policy from Duke University and a Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania. She and her husband Keeva Kase live with their children Ketch and Claire on St. Simons Island.



Musical Mentors

Bringing Professional Musicians to School Students - 8th Annual Program to Begin this School Year

One of the Coastal Symphony of Georgia's most successful signature events has been the Musical Mentors Program – now beginning its eighth season of taking professional musicians into area schools. Last year, a new partnership with the Golden Isles Youth Orchestra greatly expanded the project with the two organizations combining forces in the Strings-On school initiative. The program's outreach and impact increased in the 2023-24 school year from one to two mentors visiting schools per year, to ten mentors interacting with youngsters eager to meet them. "We also moved from visiting one to four classrooms per year to more than 50 and from under 100 children impacted to almost 1,000," says CSG board president Leslie Graitcer.

The Strings-On Program, a one week per school initiative, provides every fifth grader with a violin and instruction designed to whet appetites and encourage music participation in middle and high school. GIYO instructors work with the students for four days, teaching them a piece to play with a CSG Musical Mentor who arrives at the end of the week. The mentor has had a big build-up all week achieving near Super Star status by the time he or she arrives to hear the students play their song and then play with them. The mentor answers questions about life as a professional musician, and often plays an instrument other than a violin allowing the youngsters to learn about other instruments as well. The feedback from CSG musicians reflects how much they enjoy the process: "I had a lovely time when I was there and would be happy to join again next season!" "Being able to perform for students and see them smile was so rewarding." "As for continuing, YES, YES, YES!" And that is exactly what Graitcer and her team who shepherd this program intends to do in the coming school year. "We are so grateful this program has caught on like wildfire," she says, "and we look forward to bringing music education to even more children in the coming season."



The Symphony is committed to offering performances of the very finest in symphonic music, now and in the future. Membership in the **Crescendo Circle** offers an opportunity to give today to ensure this local professional symphony can sustain its viability into tomorrow and keep shining as the premier musical organization in the community.



Members

as of September 1, 2024

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Meet the New CSG Board Members

Ryan Babcock practices law in Brunswick, Georgia, with The Babcock Law Firm, P.C., where he focuses his practice on representing those injured in personal injury cases. Before starting his own practice, Ryan practiced law in Atlanta with King & Spalding, LLP, and Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP, and worked as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Anthony A. Alaimo, Southern District of Georgia, in Brunswick. Ryan is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Law, and Wright State University, majoring in political science.



Jamie Bessette is the Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation at the College of Coastal Georgia. Jamie also plays a key role on the President's Executive Team and oversees public affairs, marketing, branding, governmental relations, and campus communications. Since joining in 2019, his efforts in institutional advancement and fundraising have consistently led to annual increases in fundraising totals. Notably, the most recent year marked the highest amount raised and the largest number of donors in a decade.



Janice Lamattina worked for over 25 years with advertising agencies in New York City in Account Management and as a Media Strategist. She served as a trustee for the Coastal College of Georgia Foundation, on the Steering Committee for the Center for the Performing Arts, and on Boards of the Coastal Symphony of Georgia, chairing the annual gala fundraiser, and the Cassina Garden Club, chairing The Christmas Tour of Homes. Janice is also a member of the St. Simons Rotary Club where she most recently served as president during 2023-24.



Dr. Colette Lee-Lewis is a graduate of Old Dominion University and obtained her medical degree at Hahnemann University School of Medicine now renamed Drexel University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. Dr. Lee Lewis has 20 years of experience in Nephrology, and she has been actively serving patients in Brunswick and surrounding counties for the last 17 years. Colette is a member of the Brunswick, GA Chapter of the Links Inc., likes volunteer work with MAP International, and works with a local non-profit organization.



Orah Reed has more than thirty years of experience in Human Resources Management at the local government level. She is currently the Director of Human Resources for the Brunswick Housing Authority and previously served as the Director of Human Resources for the Glynn County Board of Commissioners. She also served as a Personnel Analyst and Compensation and Benefits Analyst for the Unified Government of Athens-Clark County. She began her public sector career at the Atlanta Regional Commission in the Department of Governmental Services.



Timothy Wilson is the visionary owner of both an esteemed accounting firm and a brokerage firm. His background is in accounting, taxation, and financial planning, with expertise in business brokerage within the veterinary industry. He has been the CEO and Principal Managing Partner of Strategic Partners since 2012. Tim is a graduate of Ashworth College with a degree in Business Administration, and a member of the National Association of Enrolled Agents and National Association of Tax Professionals.





Named Chairs “Get it”

Have you ever wondered how much it costs to put on a CSG classical music concert? The cost for one of those wonderful four concerts we are privileged to hear every season can run in the neighborhood of \$45,000. Even though we are a relatively small concert organization, our musicians are performers of excellence who regularly appear with much larger, “big city” orchestras nationally and worldwide. The quality of music we are receiving is right up there with the best of them. The goal of the Named Chair Program is to provide the foundation necessary for the Coastal Symphony of Georgia to achieve its mission to engage, enrich and inspire our community through artistically vibrant musical performances. The program was established in 2015 to help guarantee the long-term financial viability of the organization.

Our amazing Named Chairs get it. This awesome group of Community Partners understands that to continue to have this kind of world-class quality, those of us who listen must step up with our support. They also have a lot of fun watching their particular principal musician play in our concerts, particularly when they play a solo like Daniel Rios, *The Clarence Heagy Principal Oboe Chair* will do at our February 2025 concert.

We cannot say thank you enough for our Named Chairs who play such an important role in helping us to keep the music playing. They are listed below. Please say thank you when you see them around town and come join them by underwriting a chair of your own. Principal chairs available include 2nd violin, bass, clarinet, horn, tuba, and percussion. Contact Deborah Wright at dowright@comcast.net for information on joining this terrific group of symphony supporters.

CSG Named Chairs

**The Jane Günter-McCoy
Memorial
Principal Viola Chair**

**The James A. Heagy
Principal
Cello Chair**

**The Ruth Heagy
Principal
Flute Chair**

**The Thomas C. Heagy
Second
Flute Chair**

**The Michelle Merrill
Music Director and
Conductor’s Chair**



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These loyal partners are dedicated to supporting the Symphony's mission to engage, enrich, and inspire our community through artistically vibrant musical performances.

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