

South Florida Symphony Masterworks Concert I

“And The Tony Goes To...”

Saluting Tony Award Winning Shows In A Night to Remember

The South Florida Symphony tips a top hat to the glittering lights of Broadway musical theater, one of America’s great indigenous art forms, in its magnificent salute “**And The Tony Goes To...**” Multiple awards winner **Maestra Sebrina Alfonso** again demonstrates technical brilliance and attention to detail in creating and producing this exciting musical extravaganza. Skillfully wielding her baton, Maestra Alfonso leads a nostalgic musical journey of songs made famous across the decades in *Guys and Dolls* (Frank Loesser), *Showboat* (Jerome Kern), *Oklahoma* (Rodgers & Hammerstein), *West Side Story* (Leonard Bernstein), *Evita* (Andrew Lloyd Webber), and *Candide* (Leonard Bernstein). Extraordinary hits by renowned eight-time Tony winner Steven Sondheim burst forth from the songbooks of *Company*, *Follies*, *Into the Woods*, and *Sweeney Todd*.

David McCarty, with 30 years of highly respected experience, serves as Stage Director for this spectacular concert. He is the principal teacher and the school productions director at the Academy of Performing Arts, Orleans, MA. Seven exceptionally talented and exuberant vocal artists take the stage with the Symphony to sing riveting solos, duets, ensembles, and chorus. **Mara Bonde** (soprano), in her Symphony debut, thrills American and European audiences with her electric stage presence and musical artistry. Her voice has been described as “sweet purity of tone” (Boston Herald) and “ravishing” (The Boston Globe). **Bridgette Gan** (soprano), also debuting, has quickly risen in opera, stage, and competition. She has been praised as “outstanding” (The Baltimore Examiner) for “gorgeous singing” (The Washington Post). **Beth Holland** (mezzo-soprano), returning to the Symphony, has sparkled on Broadway, Elizabethan drama, Letterman shows, soap operas, her radio talk show, and plays and cabarets in Florida and New York. In Symphony debut, **Janna Baty** (mezzo-soprano), is a versatile musician and acclaimed vocalist with “rich, viola-like tone and rapturous

luminous lyricism” (The Boston Globe). **John Whittlesey** (baritone) and **Davron Monroe** (tenor) return to the Symphony. Whittlesey’s April 2015 debut in a Key West recital scored critical acclaim. In the Second Annual Supper Club, he serenaded Holland, twirling her in duet and dance, to audience delight. Monroe has been said to possess a voice to be heeded from the first note. He has been called the most brilliant young performer of Musical Theater and Opera today. **Neil Nelson** (bass-baritone), in Symphony debut, has performed passionately in opera, oratorio, and concert stage performances. He “demonstrated commitment as Tonio in Leoncavallo’s *I Pagliacci*, perfectly balancing buffoonery and impressive vocal strength” (Tampa Bay Times).

The Tony Award, recognizing achievements in Broadway productions and performances in regional theater, compares to the Academy Award (film), Grammy Award (music), and Emmy Award (television). Starting with 11 categories in 1947, the Tony Award now has 24 categories and several special awards that are voted by 868 members of an entertainment and press panel.

CONCERT TOUR PERFORMANCES: Saturday, November 14, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Key West Tennessee Williams Theatre. Preconcert Talk 6:45 p.m., Edwin Pitts. \$25-75. Keystix.com 305-295-7676. Sunday, November 15, 2015, 4:00 p.m., Carol & Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium, FAU. Preconcert Talk 3:15 p.m., Ian Fraser. \$35-75. FAUevents.com; Student/Group Sales FAU Box Office 561-297-6124; Ticketmaster.com 800-745-3000. Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Preconcert Talk 6:45 p.m., Ian Fraser. \$35-75. Browardcenter.org; Broward Center Box Office 954-562-0222; Group Sales Box Office 954-660-6307; Ticketmaster.com 800-745-3000.

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