

Pianist Franz Josef Mantini has maintained an active schedule of solo and chamber music performances in the Tampa Bay area and beyond for nearly thirty years. Mr. Mantini studied with renowned artist Jacques Abram at the University of South Florida where he appeared numerous times in solo recitals and as soloist with the USF Symphony Orchestra as winner of the annual Concerto Competition. He was also a prize winner in the 1990 Florida Chopin Competition and was recognized with a Jury Discretionary Award and Best Performance of a Classical Work in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> International Piano Competitions for Outstanding Amateurs hosted by the Van Cliburn Foundation.

His credits include a combined thirty solo and chamber performances at what is now the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa. He has collaborated with many current and former principal members of the Florida Orchestra as well as members of the Houston Symphony and Formosa String Quartet and has appeared in concerts with the Lafayette String Quartet and as concerto soloist with various community orchestras.

Mr. Mantini has been a regular at the Carrollwood Cultural Center in Tampa since its inception where he created the *Strings in the Spring* series, which has featured both local and international artists annually for over a decade. Guests have included former and current Florida Orchestra Concertmasters Amy Schwartz Moretti and Jeffrey Multer, TFO Principal Cellist James Connors, Internationally acclaimed violist Che Yen Chen and many more. At the Straz Center, he has also performed 14 benefit concerts for his alma mater in both the School of Music and the College of Engineering, creating endowed scholarships in both that have provided assistance to more than 50 individuals to date.

In addition to his musical endeavors, Mr. Mantini earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and a master's degree in Engineering Management from the University of South Florida and has applied his training at a variety of companies in the scientific, military, and automotive industries. He resides in Tampa with his wife Julie and sons Gabriel and Gianni.