



PRESS RELEASE for immediate release,
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Gulfshore Opera high season kicks off in Punta Gorda!

The high season Community Concerts kick off with a tour of **Opera to Broadway, American Composers** beginning January 19th at the Gulf Theater in Punta Gorda. The concert program will explore how opera influenced American music theater starting with early 20th century works by Jerome Kern, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin and ending with great contemporary American works by André Previn, Stephen Sondheim and others. Gulfshore Opera's Professional Artists in Residence perform with piano accompaniment.

In February, the company presents the first of two full scale productions - ***The Barber of Seville*** by Gioachino Rossini tours three counties February 19 – 26, taking place February 23rd at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center in Punta Gorda. This classic comedy with a playful energy that springs from Rossini's exuberant music will be presented in a whimsical new production inspired by the art of Antoni Gaudi. Returning stage director Josh Shaw (*La Boheme* and *Bat's Revenge*) is sure to make you laugh with a hilarious original production that includes colorful costumes, sets, and chamber orchestra conducted by Maestro Jorge Parodi. English surtitles are provided.

Celebrate the rich heritage of our kin from the Emerald Isle with **Songs of Ireland**, March 14th at the Gulf Theater in Punta Gorda. Back by popular demand, the GO Divas will perform beautiful traditional and contemporary Irish song arrangements in the style of Celtic Woman and others, with piano, fiddle and drum accompaniment. Enjoy songs like *Danny Boy* and *The Last Rose of Summer* and Irish melodies made popular by groups like Celtic Woman and The King's Singers.

The season 9 finale grand opera production is ***Don Giovanni***. Mozart's dark comedy, set in 18th century Spain, is known as one of the greatest operas of all time. Based on the Spanish legend of Don Juan, this philandering hero blazes a path to his own destruction in a single day! The company plans a full scale production in partnership with Naples Philharmonic Orchestra and featuring renowned soloists with lush sets and costumes and the GO chorus. Experience this classic opera at Barbara B Mann Performing Arts Hall on April 21 and Artis—Naples on April 30.

On May 7th, Gulfshore Opera will return to Carmelo's Italian Ristorante for a Cinco de Mayo event - ***Latin Infusion!*** concert and dinner. Attendees will experience a kaleidoscope of Latin music including boleros, zarzuela and Latin pop, by Gipsy Kings, Santana and others. Returning favorite Cuban baritone, Fernando Gonzalez sings opera and pop music. He is a member of the international group Latin Divos. His partner on stage is the lovely Venezuelan soprano, Erika Ramirez who is a member of the GO Divas. They will perform this Hispanic Heritage concert with Cuban guitarist, Jose Alfredo Fernandez-Acosta (Joe Fredd), Cuban pianist, Daniel Escudero, and Cuban percussionist, Alfredo Chacon.

Full event details below. For more information, visit www.gulfshoreopera.org or call GO Headquarters at 239-529-3925.

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Opera to Broadway, American Composers

January 19th, 2023

The Gulf Theater, Punta Gorda

Tickets starting at \$35

The Barber of Seville

February 23rd, 2023

Charlotte Performing Arts Center, Punta Gorda

Tickets starting at \$35

Songs of Ireland

March 14th, 2023

Gulf Theater, Punta Gorda

Tickets starting at \$35

Don Giovanni

April 21st, 2023

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Ft. Myers

Tickets starting at \$35

Don Giovanni

April 30th, 2023

Hayes Hall at Artis – Naples

Tickets starting at \$45

Latin Infusion! Concert & Dinner

May 7th, 2023

Carmelo's Italian Ristorante, Punta Gorda

Tickets: \$125 (Includes Concert & Dinner)

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About Gulfshore Opera

Your regional opera company serving three counties, Gulfshore Opera presents the highest quality of opera theater and vocal music performances while maximizing accessibility for diverse audiences of all ages. Gulfshore Opera was founded with core values of a community based creative collaboration. The company also promotes community well-being through musical education programs. Its mission is to make opera accessible to the general public by maintaining affordable ticket prices, and a wide range of performance experiences suitable for diverse audiences.