Society Scene

Festival of the Arts BOCA

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World renowned musicians swoop into Boca for annual festival

"Festival of the Arts BOCA" returns March 2-12 for its 11th installation.

"We are so excited to present the 2017 'Festival of the Arts BOCA' season, and we think the audience will be too," said Charlie Siemon, co-founder and co-producer of the festival. "We have stars from all over the world, from Brazil to Indonesia to Mexico and the United States, and famous music from the most beloved films and operas by the world's greatest composers."

Taking place at Mizner Park, 327 Plaza Real, guests will enjoy an array of music over several days.

Grammy Award-winning saxophonist Branford Marsalis will join The Symphonia Boca Raton, conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos, March 3 at 7 p.m. The program will include music by John Williams from "Catch Me if You Can," "Star Wars" and "Harry Potter."

On March 5 at 7 p.m., 13-year old Indonesian jazz pianist Joey Alexander returns in a double bill with 13-year-old Mexican classical pianist Daniela Liebman, who will play Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1. Accompanied by The Symphonia and Kitsopoulos, the teen prodigies will perform a program including Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 2 and new symphonic arrangements of Alexander's music.

Headlining this year's festival will be world-renowned violinist Sarah Chang. She will perform the romantic Violin Concerto in G Minor by Bruch on March 10 at 7:30 p.m. Completing the program with The Symphonia and Maestro Kitsopoulos will be Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 with wunderkind Daniel Hsu, who performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra this past summer.

The Festival's last performance will take place March 12 at 7 p.m. with three-time Grammy Award winner Sergio Mendes in an exclusive South Florida appearance. Widely recognized as one of the most successful Brazilian artists of all time, Mendes will bring his favorite hits, including "Mas Que Nada."

The festival will also include the Author & Ideas program, in which guest speakers discuss politics, the arts, science and fiction. Participants will include Jennifer Egan, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "A Visit from the Goon Squad;" Bob Mankoff, cartoon editor for The New Yorker; Jon Meacham, presidential historian, Pulitzer Prize winner and contributing editor at Time magazine; and Brian Greene, author of "The Elegant Universe," theoretical physicist and entertaining communicator of cutting-edge scientific concepts.

Tickets to "Festival of the Arts BOCA" range from $9.99 to $125 per person. Multi-event packages are also available.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.festivalboca.org or call 866-571-2787.

PHOTOS BY ZAK BENNETT

Kathy Courshon, left, Jim Tisdale and Olivia Hollaus

Joanna Marie Kaye, left, and Irene Scianna

Robert Weinroth, left, Boca Raton Mayor Susan Haynie and Scott Singer

Marta Batmasian and Dick Schmidt

Margaret Mary Shuff and Damian Polgar