

COMING TOGETHER

Standing ovation kicks off arts festival in Boca

BY MARCI SHATZMAN
STAFF WRITER

A VIP party in the Boca Raton Museum of Art helped give them more visibility, but saxophonist Branford Marsalis and the opening of the 11th annual Festival of the Arts BOCA next door in the Mizner Park Amphitheater filled the seats.

"Hold onto your hats, it's going to be a great concert," said Joanna Marie Kaye, festival director, at the performance opening March 3 after an author talk the day before.

Marsalis joined The Symphonia Boca Raton for several numbers. But

the standing ovation went to festival music director Constantine Kitsopoulos conducting a full symphony orchestra playing movie music by John Williams. They played "Catch Me if You Can," "Star Wars" and a suite from "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

"I think they're as good as a philharmonic," said audience member Skeets Friedkin.

This year's festival also included a Boca debut. Monica Mancini came in from California to sing a tune from "The Pink Panther." Her late father Henry Mancini scored the 1963 movie shown at the festival on March 11.

Also on the bill this year were Sarah Chang on violin and Daniel Hsu on piano March 10 and Sergio Mendes & Brasil 2017 closing out the festival March 12.

"Our Authors & Ideas Program is extremely varied, exploring areas of politics, the arts, science and fiction," Charlie Siemon, festival chairman and co-producer with Wendy Larsen, said in a statement. Four authors spoke this year, among them presidential historian Jon Meacham and Bob Mankoff, cartoon editor of *The New Yorker*.

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Dancers announced for August's Ballroom Battle

BY MARCI SHATZMAN
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A riding bull and lasso and line-dancing lessons drew lots of takers at the 24th annual Cowboy Ball moved under the tented Mizner Park Amphitheater in Boca Raton.

"I'm originally from Oklahoma," Mike Ridgway said as he climbed onto a mechanical bull with a bounce house floor.

George Snow Scholarship Fund volunteer Raj Anderson greeted guests in a cowboy hat brimmed with LED lights, setting the mood for the annual fundraiser Feb. 25. The venue was set with hay bales, barrels and red-and-white

checkered tables with country music by Center Stage for nearly 500 supporters.

Paige Kornblue and television meteorologist Glenn Glazer announced this year's dancers for Snow's other big fundraiser they both emcee, a takeoff on "Dancing with the Stars."

Boca's Ballroom Battle is Aug. 18 and the dancers will be Terry Fedele, board chairwoman of the Boca Raton Children's Museum and the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Advisory Board; Heather Shaw, vice president and general manager Saks Fifth Avenue Boca Raton; and John Tolbert, president of the Boca Raton Resort & Club.

Also on the list are: Jim mshatzman@tronc.com

Dunn, vice president and general manager J. M. Lexus; Logan Skees, director personal trainers at trainerspace; Elizabeth Murdoch Titcomb, director EMT Creative; and Derek Morrell, proprietor of the new Ouzo Bay restaurant nearing completion in Mizner Park. An eighth dancer will be named later, according to the fund.

The new corral for the Cowboy Ball "turned out great," fund president Tim Snow said a few days later. "Everybody loved the new venue and the format and the food was outstanding. We already have our date for next year, Feb. 17, 2018."

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