

S O U T H B E A C H  
CHAMBER  ENSEMBLE

**NEWS**

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**SOUTH BEACH CHAMBER ENSEMBLE PRESENTS**

***MUSIC IN BEAUTIFUL SPACES***

**English Chamber Music and New Poetry by Carlos Pintado**

(MIAMI BEACH) – South Beach Chamber Ensemble (SBCE) performs its last concerts of the season featuring early 20<sup>th</sup> century English composers and our continuing collaboration with award-winning Cuban poet Carlos Pintado. Mr. Pintado was inspired by Edward Elgar’s *String Quartet in E minor, Op. 83* to create a new fusion of poetry and music. Elgar (1856-1934) had been trying to write a quartet that pleased him since he was twenty-one. It was not until the end of the Great War (WWI), when he was in his sixties, that he felt able to turn to chamber music with any confidence. The end of the war and his own advancing age required a response that was both confidential and autumnal. The string quartet is an intense romantic dialogue in three movements.

Gustav Holst (1874-1936), best known for his orchestral work *The Planets*, wrote *St. Paul Suite* when he was Director of Music at the St. Paul Girl’s School, London. The popular suite is a staple of music students everywhere. Holst’s music is well known for unconventional use of meter and haunting melodies. Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) was a composer, conductor, violist and pianist. His many awards include three Grammy Awards. *A Simple Symphony* was written in 1934. For many musicians Britten’s technique, broad musical and human sympathies and ability to treat the most traditional of musical forms with freshness and originality place him at the head of composers of his generation.

Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958) discovered English folk songs in 1904, which were fast becoming extinct owing to the increase of literacy and printed music in rural areas. He traveled the countryside, transcribing and preserving many himself. Later he incorporated some songs and melodies into his own music, being fascinated by the beauty of the music and its anonymous history in the working lives of ordinary people. *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* was composed in 1910 for the Three Choirs Festival, and was one of the first major successes for Vaughan Williams. The work takes its name from the original composer of the melody, Thomas Tallis (1505-1585).

“Music In Beautiful Spaces” is underwritten by grants from Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners. Additional support is received from the City of Miami Beach, Mayor and City Commissioners, Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council, Miami Beach Botanical Garden, Barry University and Whole Foods.

# **SOUTH BEACH CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**

*We envision a world where music inspires and energizes all people, creating peace, harmony, joy and unprecedented satisfaction in being alive*

## ***Music in Beautiful Spaces***

### **Concert Schedule**

**Fri, April 30, 2010**  
7:00pm

**Andy Gato Gallery-Barry University**

Thompson Hall, second floor  
11300 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Miami Shores 33161

Elgar: String Quartet in E minor, Op. 83

Britten: Simple Symphony

Holst: St. Paul Suite

Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis

*Admission at the door: \$15 adults, \$10 students and seniors, free for Barry U students and faculty*

**Sun, May 2, 2010**  
6:00pm

**Miami Beach Botanical Garden**

2000 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, 33139

Elgar: String Quartet in E minor, Op. 83

Britten: Simple Symphony

Holst: St. Paul Suite

Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis

*Admission at the door: \$15 adults, \$10 students and seniors*

Luis Fernandez, violin  
Tony Seepersad, violin  
Rafael Ramirez, viola  
Michael Andrews, cello

# South Beach Chamber Ensemble

## Brief History

The mission of the South Beach Chamber Ensemble (SBCE) is to promote and perform chamber music in all its diverse forms, from its origins in the distant past to the varied cultural creations being produced today, bringing together performers, composers and audiences to experience the beauty and intimacy of the human spirit. We envision a world where chamber music inspires and energizes all people, creating peace, harmony, joy and unprecedented satisfaction in being alive.

Our International Cultural Exchanges brought together new audiences abroad. In 2005 Music in Motion: Miami to Rio consisted of a concert at the Villa-Lobos Museum in Rio de Janeiro, a performance at the Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach and programs for high school students in each city. In September 2007 Music in Motion: Miami-Argentina-Brazil expanded to present piano trio performances and student programs with the internationally renowned Brazilian pianist, Licia Lucas. Together, we played in Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, then traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina and returned to play in Miami Beach. Both projects were featured with a live performance on WLRN's Arts Beat with Ed Bell.

One of our musical interests is South American chamber music, an exciting way to cross cultural barriers and bring diverse audiences together. A piano trio by Brazilian composer Guilherme Bernstein Seixas was dedicated to the South Beach Chamber Ensemble and had its North American premiere in Miami Beach.

Executive Director Michael Andrews has attended the Chamber Music America Annual Conference in New York for many years. These conferences are stimulating, educational and inspirational. Being there gives national stature to the South Beach Chamber Ensemble. Meeting composers at the conference is one of the most exciting opportunities available to attendees. As a result we collaborated with Boston composer Pamela Marshall, whose string quartet "Truth Becoming" had its southeastern US premiere with us in Miami Beach in February 2007. We commissioned Quinteto sobre los poemas de Carlos Pintado from her (inspired by the poetry of Miami Beach's Carlos Pintado) and performed the world premiere in Miami Beach on May 17, 2009.

Our strategy to develop musically includes application for funding from the Knight Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts and other national organizations, foundations, corporations and individuals, giving us the opportunity to play more challenging and collaborative repertoire (such as late Beethoven string quartets, Bartok and contemporary works).

In an effort to bring chamber music to all parts of the world we inaugurated South Beach Up North, a chamber music festival in Mr. Andrews' hometown of Wausau, Wisconsin, June 2006. Major funding comes from the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, local corporations and individuals. This will be our fifth year directing this festival and performing in Wisconsin.

We were named ensemble-in-residence at Barry University in January 2009. Our November 2009 Sleepless Night collaboration on the Main Stage in Miami Beach with Hip Hop artist, Nigerian dancer-drummer and Cuban poet was a huge success, with several thousand people attending what Miami New Times declared a "Best Bet."

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