

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

NEWS

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SOUTH BEACH CHAMBER ENSEMBLE PRESENTS

South Beach Up North

Celebrating Robert Schumann's 200th birthday

(Wausau, WI) – South Beach Chamber Ensemble (SBCE) continues its fifth annual free chamber music festival with the celebration of Robert Schumann's 200th birthday. The German born Schumann (June 8, 1810 – July 29, 1856) was one of the most famous Romantic composers of the 19th century. He had hoped to pursue a career as a virtuoso pianist, having been assured by his teacher Friedrich Wieck that he could become the finest pianist in Europe after only a few years of study with him. However, a hand injury prevented those hopes from being realized, and he decided to focus his musical energies on composition. The **Piano Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 47**, was composed in 1842, two years after he married his teacher's daughter Clara. Schumann died when he was 46 years old. For the last two years of his life, after an attempted suicide, Schumann was confined to a mental institution.

The other major work on the August 1 program at the Woodson Art Museum will be Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů's **Piano Quartet**. Martinů (December 8, 1890 – August 28, 1959) was a prolific Bohemian Czech composer, who wrote six symphonies, 15 operas, 14 ballet scores and a large body of orchestral, chamber, vocal and instrumental works. In 1923 Martinů left Czechoslovakia for Paris. In the 1930s he experimented with expressionism and constructivism, and became an admirer of current European technical developments and jazz. Of the post-war avant-garde styles, neo-classicism influenced him the most. He continued to use Czech folk melodies throughout his oeuvre. He emigrated to the United States in 1941, fleeing the German invasion of France. Although as a composer he was successful in America, receiving many commissions, he became homesick for Czechoslovakia. He never returned to his native country, and he died in Switzerland.

Performing will be Sarah Schreffler, violin, Dee Martz (UW-SP), viola, Michael Andrews, cello and David Severtson (UW-GB), piano.

The July concert in the Garden at the Yawkey House Museum will be an informal family affair. Bring a picnic, spread out your blanket and listen to the **Four Seasons** by Argentine tango master Astor Piazzolla and great songs of the 20th century. Piazzolla (March 11, 1921 – July 4, 1992) invented the nuevo tango, incorporating elements of jazz, extended harmonies and dissonance, counterpoint, and ventured into extended compositional forms. Piazzolla's fusion of tango with this wide range of other recognizable Western musical elements was so successful that it produced a new individual style transcending these influences.

Support for ***South Beach Up North*** is provided in part by the Community Arts Grant Program of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, with funds provided by the Wisconsin Arts Board, a state agency, the Community Foundation and the B.A. and Esther Greenheck Foundation.

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*

South Beach Up North

Performance Schedule

Thurs., July 29, 2010
5:00pm

Rt. 51 with Glen Moberg, 91.9 WLBL-FM
Live radio show

Sat, July 31, 2010
6:00pm

Yawkey House Museum (in the Garden)
403 McIndoe Street, Wausau 54403

Piazzolla Four Seasons
American Songs
Free admission

Sun, August 1, 2010
12:00 Noon

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum
Franklin and 12th Street, Wausau 54403

Martinů: Piano Quartet
Schumann: Piano Quartet in E-Flat major, Op. 47
Free admission

South Beach Chamber Ensemble

Brief History

The South Beach Chamber Ensemble (SBCE) was launched in the fall of 1997 with a free concert of Haydn and Dvorak Piano Trios at the Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach, Florida. The performance was so well received that the Bass wanted two more concerts that season. The ensemble responded with a concert of works for flute, cello and harp in March of 1998 and ended its first season with Bach and Beethoven Sonatas for Cello and Piano in June of that year. Since then, the South Beach Chamber Ensemble has presented a diverse repertoire of music spanning four centuries, performed in a variety of beautiful, intimate settings. Michael Andrews, the ensemble's founder, director and cellist, remains committed to bringing chamber music to all people with the *Music in Beautiful Spaces* and *Music in Motion* series.

The mission of the 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. SBCE is one of the only arts organization in Miami Beach dedicated to offering chamber music to new audiences, while showcasing local musical talent.

The ensemble's musicians include a variety of instrumentalists who have performed throughout the United States and beyond: Sarah Schreffler, violin (Doctoral candidate, Arizona State University, Phoenix), Dee Martz, viola (Professor of Viola, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point), Michael Andrews, cello (SBCE Executive Artistic Director) and David Severtson, piano (Assistant Professor of Piano, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay). Additionally, SBCE collaborates with students and faculty from the New World School of the Arts, Florida International University, University of Miami, Barry University and the New World Symphony. These musical partners allow the South Beach Chamber Ensemble to explore and perform a wider variety of standard and unusual chamber music literature.

In the past thirteen years, the ensemble has performed works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Couperin, Dvorak, Golijov, Haydn, Hummel, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Marshall, Miller, Piazzolla, Poulenc, Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, Saint-Saëns, Schubert, Scriabin, Shostakovich, Turina, Vaughan Williams and Villa-Lobos, with special emphasis on string quartets and piano trios. Our music spans the globe and the centuries, from Pamela Marshall's Quinteto composed in 2009 in Boston to Franz Joseph Haydn's String Quartets composed in Austria in the 18th century to Philip Miller's pieces composed in South Africa in the 1990's.

The Miami Beach Botanical Garden is our home for concerts in Miami Beach. Other past venues include the Jewish Museum of Florida, Wolfsonian Museum, Miami Beach Community Church, St. John's on the Lake United Methodist Church and Performing Arts Network. These *Music in Beautiful Spaces* performances are supported, in part, by grants from the Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council, which has awarded SBCE annual funding since 1999.

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Brief History

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In 2004, SBCE crossed Biscayne Bay to perform for the first time at the Central Presbyterian church in Kendall and at the University of Miami's Clarke Recital Hall, as part of its promise to Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs. In February 2004, SBCE members were very excited to be invited to Budapest, Hungary for an international cultural exchange where SBCE musicians met the brilliant, young, blind pianist Tamas Erdi. Together, they played the spectacular Schumann Piano Quintet in Eb major with Mr. Erdi in early March in Miami Beach and Miami, just before Mr. Erdi's Carnegie Hall debut. This launched our international performance series.

With grant support through the International Cultural Exchange programs of the Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs and the state of Florida's Florida Arts Board ***Music in Motion: Miami to Rio*** was our initial project highlighting the music of Brazil and the United States. The first concert took place at the Villa-Lobos Museum in Rio de Janeiro in September 2005. We returned to South America in 2007. ***Music in Motion: Miami-Argentina-Brazil*** included concerts in Rio de Janeiro as well as in Salvador and Buenos Aires, Argentina. In each city special programs were held for school children.

Additionally, SBCE's executive artistic director developed a summer chamber music festival for his hometown of Wausau, Wisconsin, launched in the summer of 2006. Our first concerts had standing room only attendance and were supported by a broad base of individuals, local foundations and corporations. In 2006 we collaborated with the Wausau Conservatory of Music to relaunch their summer string camp for children and adults. In 2008 we took our chamber music into three assisted living facilities in Wausau, where we had wonderful responses and invitations to return. 2010 marks the 5th annual ***South Beach Up North***.

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 Miami hip hop artist LaGuardia, Nigerian dancer-drummer Vincent Onokurte and Cuban poet Carlos Pintado was a huge success, with several thousand people attending what Miami New Times declared a "Best Bet."

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Pictures available on request