

December 2007

Dear Friend of *Ocala's* Central Florida Symphony Orchestra:

Perhaps the most beautiful season of the year is upon us. The musical season for the Central Florida Symphony Orchestra reaches a high point with our **annual holiday concert**, and this year promises to be very special.

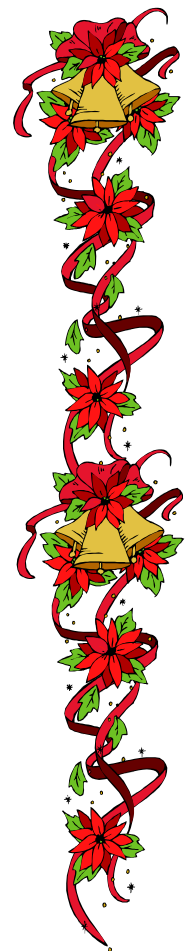
We have **not just two but three concerts** to perform – the regular Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon (Dec. 15 & 16) subscription concerts PLUS the fourth annual “Symphony Under the Lights” (Dec. 14) on the historic Ocala Downtown Square. The setting for the subscription concerts will be all red bows and twinkling lights, both in the lobby and on the stage. And of course on the Downtown Square the setting of masses of twinkling lights is enchanting. Both settings will include the **Florida State University Jazz Vocal Ensemble**.

Our sponsors for the free Downtown Square concert are the Dine by Design Group – **Sky, Ipanema, and Dee Dee's Dog House**. In addition, CFSO will have CFSO T-shirts and other musical items for sale. Our Symphony Guild members will be helping with this project.

And after the Symphony Under the Lights, the public may join the maestro and musicians for a **buffet supper at the nearby Veranda Gallery and Tea Room** (tickets are available for \$25 at the CFSO office and seating is very limited).

Our sponsors for the December subscription concerts are The Colonnades at On Top of The World and Joan Coke & Tom Romanac with Ameriprise Financial Services.

Following the Saturday evening subscription we will offer our **“Holiday Champagne and Decadent Dessert Reception”** at the rear of the auditorium. Those who attended the November reception enjoyed talking with Dr. Plondke and asking his opinion about late 20<sup>th</sup> century and early 21<sup>st</sup> century composers. You won't want to miss the opportunity to ask the Maestro a special musical question on your mind at this reception on December 15. Tickets are \$20 per person and available at the CFSO office.





A little earlier in December, the **CFSO Quintet** will perform at the popular Appleton After Hours event on Thursday, December 6. The event begins at 5 PM, with refreshments available.

Announcements have been mailed to nearly every high school and college in Florida about the **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Artists Competition** scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup>. Last year 25 high school and college level music students entered what has become a prestigious competition in Florida. Thanks to the support of the Richard B. Salsbury Foundation, we have been able to increase the monetary prize for the winners at the two levels (high school and college) to \$1,000.00 each. In addition, they are given the experience of performing a solo with the Orchestra at our final subscription concerts in March. The five or six finalists also receive a \$100.00 check and the experience of performing for a **special recital on Sunday afternoon 3:00 p.m., January 27, in the Ocala Breeders Sales Auditorium**. This recital is a “perk” for season ticket holders; additional tickets are \$5.00.

Plans are being made for the return of **The Maestro’s Classic Golf Tournament**. Keep an eye out for your invitation in the mail.

Concluding our subscription season is the **“Salute to Ocala Breeders and the Appleton”** on March 1 & 2. We are saluting the special contributions these two very different organizations make to the cultural life in our community. The Ocala Breeders’ Sales Company allows CFSO to perform all our rehearsals and subscription concerts in their spacious and comfortable auditorium. The orchestra will perform Copland’s *The Red Pony* and Ravel’s orchestration of Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

CFSO is working on plans to perform as a quintet or ensemble at the newly refurbished **Marion Theater** just off the Downtown Square sometime in the spring. Stay tuned for details.

Our first **“annual fund-raising campaign”** continues through December 31, and we have a daunting goal of \$165,000 to raise. We are approximately half way there, but we still need more individuals and businesses to invest in the quality music that Ocala can be proud to offer its citizens. We appreciate gifts of \$25.00 as much as those of \$25,000.00, so please consider sending a donation if you have not already done so this year.

**SunTrust Banks has a special offer which will help CFSO**. Basically, if you open a new checking or savings account with SunTrust, they will donate \$100.00 to the charity of your choice, and we hope it would be CFSO! Please go to their website <https://promotion.suntrust.com/mycause/> for details.

*Yours for excellent symphonic music,*

*Sincerely,*

*Toni James, President, CFSO Board of Directors*