


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

NEWS

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**SOUTH BEACH CHAMBER ENSEMBLE PRESENTS
“MUSIC IN MOTION: MIAMI TO RIO”**

**Cultural exchange project includes concerts and educational activities in
Rio de Janeiro (August 25-26, 2005) and Miami (Sept. 11-18, 2005)**

(MIAMI) – South Beach Chamber Ensemble (SBCE) launches a cultural exchange between the dynamic cities of Rio de Janeiro and Miami that includes public concerts in both cities (plus Miami Beach), school concerts, a lecture by Brazil’s heir to Villa-Lobos, and a celebratory reception at Britto Central on Lincoln Road. “Music In Motion: Miami To Rio” is the second in a series of international cultural exchange projects that SBCE is undertaking.

“Music in Motion: Miami to Rio” begins in Rio with performances on August 25 and 26 of piano trios by Brazil’s foremost composer, Heitor Villa-Lobos (Piano Trio No. 1), American legend Aaron Copland (*Vitebsk*), and Felix Mendelssohn (Piano Trio No. 1). The concerts feature the talents of pianist Michael Linville, violinist Thomas Moore and cellist Michael Andrews, all of whom have performed together in previous SBCE events as well as individually at numerous venues throughout the world. (See complete concert schedule at the end of this release.)

The exchange continues in Miami with a free performance of the same works on Sunday, September 11, at 3:00pm at the Cor Jesu Chapel on the campus of Barry University (11300 NE 2nd Avenue). The free event is made possible through a grant from Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs.

SBCE presents a second South Florida performance on Sunday, September 18, at 2:30pm at the Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach (2121 Park Avenue), where SBCE has served as artist-in-residence since 1997. One hour prior to the concert, SBCE and the Bass Museum present a lecture by composer Ricardo Tacuchian, widely considered Brazil’s “heir” to Villa-Lobos. The September 18th lecture and concert are being held in conjunction with the Bass Museum’s Latin American exhibition, which features paintings by Brazilian artists Lygia da Fonseca and Donato Mello, Jr.

On Saturday, September 17, at 8:00pm, Brazilians and classical music enthusiasts are invited to a special celebratory reception at Britto Central on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach (818 Lincoln Road). The evening includes live music, food and beverage, and an auction of a special Britto print that has been donated by the artist. “We are grateful to Romero Britto and his dedicated staff for opening his gallery for this occasion,” said SBCE director Michael Andrews. Mr. Britto’s lively and spirited works of art are the perfect backdrop to an evening of fun and musical adventure.”

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Performers for the Rio and Miami Beach concerts are familiar figures for South Florida classical music audiences. Michael Linville is an established keyboardist, percussionist, conductor and concert producer who also serves as Director of Admissions and Coaching Assistant at the New World Symphony, where he has led the Percussion Consort series for several years. Thomas Moore served as concertmaster of the Florida Philharmonic from 1979 to 1981. Currently he is Professor of Violin at New World School of the Arts. Michael Andrews was a cellist with the Orquesta Filarmonica de Caracas, Naples Philharmonic and Southwest Florida Philharmonic, before moving to Miami Beach, where he founded the South Beach Chamber Ensemble in 1997 and continues to be a driving force for chamber music in South Florida. He and Linville performed together at SBCE’s inaugural concert.

“Many observers would argue that Miami and Rio represent the best – even the most exotic – of the North and South,” commented SBCE founder and cellist Michael Andrews. “Both are vibrant, exciting cities that engage the human body and spirit in joyful and celebratory ways. The music of Villa-Lobos is one of Brazil’s most famous contributions to world culture. South Floridians can appreciate the masterful musings of a genius who combined the classical music forms of Europe with innovative and personal style against a background of tropical desire. At the same time, we are excited to bring the music of one of our great American composers, Aaron Copland, to classical music enthusiasts in Rio,” offered Mr. Andrews. “Lastly, in addition to this North-South dialogue, we wanted to include a voice from the old world, and Mendelssohn’s music represents the quintessential spirit.”

Tickets for the Miami Beach events of “Music In Motion: Miami To Rio” are priced from \$5.00 to \$25, and are available now. For further information on the September 18th concert at the Bass Museum, call 305-673-7530, ext. 1015, or email rkornbluth@bassmuseum.org. For information on the September 17th reception at Britto Central, call 305-673-2183.

“Music In Motion: Miami To Rio” is underwritten by grants from the State of Florida Department of Cultural Affairs and Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners through their respective International Cultural Exchange grant programs. Additional support is received from the City of Miami Beach, the Mayor and City Commissioners, the Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council, the Romero Britto Gallery and the Bass Museum of Art.

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SOUTH BEACH CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

To have all children and adults experience the beauty and intimacy of the human spirit through listening to, understanding and cherishing chamber music

Music in Motion: Miami to Rio

Concert & Special Event Schedule

Thurs., August 25, 2005
Fri., August 26, 2005

Rio de Janeiro High School, Rio de Janeiro
Villa-Lobos Museum, Rio de Janeiro
Villa-Lobos: Piano Trio No. 1
Copland: *Vitebsk*
Mendelssohn: Piano Trio No. 1

Sun., September 11, 2005
3:00pm

Cor Jesu Chapel, Barry University
11300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami Shores
Concert by South Beach Chamber Ensemble
Villa-Lobos: Piano Trio No. 1
Copland: *Vitebsk*
Mendelssohn: Piano Trio No. 1
Free admission. Information: 305-673-2183

Sat., September 17, 2005
8:00pm – 9:30pm

Britto Central, Miami Beach
818 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach
Festive reception, auction, and program with composer Ricardo Tacuchian, "heir to Villa-Lobos," & SBCE members.
Tickets: \$25 at the door.
Information: 305-673-2183

Sun., September 18, 2005
1:30pm – 2:30pm

Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach
2121 Park Avenue, Miami Beach
Lecture by Ricardo Tacuchian –
Brazilian composer and "heir to Villa-Lobos," Fulbright scholar and Rockefeller fellow will speak about Heitor Villa-Lobos, Brazil's most famous classical composer.

2:30pm – 4:00pm

Concert by South Beach Chamber Ensemble
Villa-Lobos: Piano Trio No. 1
Copland: *Vitebsk*
Mendelssohn: Piano Trio No. 1
Tickets: \$5 members, \$10 non-members + \$8.00 museum admission. Reservations: call 305-673-7530 ext. 1015 or rkornbluth@bassmuseum.org

Tues., September 20, 2005
1:30pm-2:30pm

Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach
Educational Performance for Miami Beach Senior High School Students

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 settings. Michael Andrews, the ensemble's founder, director and cellist, remains committed to bringing chamber music to all people with its "Music in Beautiful Spaces" 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 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 South Florida and beyond: Thomas Moore (former concertmaster of the Florida Philharmonic), Mei Mei Luo, violin (former associate concertmaster of the Florida Philharmonic), Jeremy Miller, violin (former first violin and personnel manager of the Florida Philharmonic), Michael McClelland, viola (former assistant principal of the Florida Philharmonic), and Michael Andrews, cellist (former cellist with the Orquesta Filarmonica de Caracas, Naples Philharmonic and Southwest Florida Philharmonic). Additionally, SBCE collaborates with students and faculty from the New World School of the Arts, FIU, University of Miami, Barry University and the New World Symphony, including Michael Linville. 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 eight years, the ensemble has performed works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Couperin, Dvorak, Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Piazzolla, Poulenc, Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, Saint-Saëns, Schubert, Scriabin, Turina, and Villa-Lobos, with special emphasis on string quartets and piano trios. Two years ago, SBCE musicians were proud to play an unusual mix of pieces, mostly from South America. That concert opened with Villa-Lobos' "Jet Whistle" for Flute and Cello, followed by a rhythmic contrapuntal piece for violin, cello, flute and guitar by contemporary Austrian composer Kurt Schwertsik. The program continued with Sergio Assad's "Winter Impressions" for flute, viola and guitar, with its wonderful evocation of Brazilian melodies and dance rhythms. The program closed with Uruguayan composer Guido Santorsola's Quartet #2 for Viola, Cello, Flute and Guitar, a monumental piece that is the "tour de force" of chamber music making.

The South Beach Chamber Ensemble continues as artist-in-residence at the Bass Museum of Art, where its audiences are as diverse as the ensemble's repertoire and range in age from three to 88 years-old. SBCE also performs at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, including a concert in conjunction with Art Basel in December 2004. Other 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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Early 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 with the Center for Emerging Arts, Inc. 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.

The SBCE's future is bright and thrilling. The ensemble has been invited back to Budapest, and will return to South America in 2006. That project includes concerts in Rio as well as in Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Additionally, SBCE's executive director is developing a summer chamber music festival for his hometown of Wausau, Wisconsin, to be launched in the summer of 2006. Its concerts throughout South Florida will also continue, with performances scheduled for the Bass Museum, Barry University, Miami Beach Botanical Garden, among other venues.

In the past year, SBCE has tripled its financial support from government and private grants, including grant awards from the City of Miami Beach, Miami-Dade County and Citizens Interested in Arts, Inc. SBCE's board of directors, along with its executive director, is exploring how best to develop as an organization. With the demise of the Florida Philharmonic and the exiting of the Miami String Quartet from FIU, SBCE's leaders believe there is a need, *and demand*, for world-class chamber music performed in an engaging and stimulating way in South Florida. With its ability to conduct innovative and exciting exchange programs, as well as its commitment to performing diverse repertoire in beautiful spaces, SBCE is ready to expand its presence for the enjoyment of all citizens who live in and visit South Florida.

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