

SOUTHERN ARIZONA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
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SASO PROGRAMS MUSICAL GEMS – SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW

TUCSON, AZ – This season the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra offers a bouquet of music found nowhere else, including perennial favorites and rare and exotic delights.

Music Director Linus Lerner has picked programs that mix and match musical styles with unusual instrumentation – ranging from the Chinese guzheng to a harmony of harps and a concerto for two double basses.

The season opens Oct. 8 and 9 with violinist Gareth Johnson, who at age 10 heard Itzhak Perlman and declared that he too could play that instrument. Lauded as a young Joshua Bell, Johnson will perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor. Galindo's Sones de Mariachi, Vaughan Williams' March Past of the Kitchen Utensils, Smetana's Moldau and Liszt's Les Preludes also are on the program.

Next up is He Zhanhao's "Lu You & Tang Wan" Concerto for Guzheng with Orchestra, Chorus and Soprano. Featured are Larry Leung on the guzheng, the Tucson Sino Choir and soprano Marcia Fest. Other treats on the Nov. 19 and 20 program are Gershwin's Cuban Overture and Stravinsky's Firebird Suite.

On Feb. 11 and 12 guest conductor Tao Fan returns to the SASO podium with his sister, pianist Cong Fan, performing the challenging Yellow River Piano Concerto. Also on the program: Brahms Symphony No. 2 in D Major.

On April 14 and 15 whimsy is in the air with Saint-Saens' Carnival of the Animals and a multi-media show. The program also features the innovative HarpFusion ensemble, along with Copland, Handel, Sibelius and the winner of SASO's annual youth concerto competition.

The final concert of the season includes a rare concerto for two double basses by Bottesini, performed by Waldir Bertipaglia and Catalin Rotaru. The program opens with Isaac's Patriotic Overture and ends with Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 in D minor.

SASO presents two performances of each program in a single weekend – the first on Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Desert View Performing Arts Center at 39900 S. Clubhouse Drive in SaddleBrooke, and the second on Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, SW Sanctuary, 7575 N. Paseo Del Norte in Tucson. At the St. Andrews concerts, tickets are complimentary for ages 17 and under.

The orchestra also presents an annual fund-raising gala which will be held Jan. 28, 2012 at the MountainView Country Club in SaddleBrooke. The gala is not included in the season ticket package.

Lerner has conducted orchestras, operas, choruses and instrumental groups in his native Brazil, the United States, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Spain, Mexico and China. He also serves as artistic director of the Bayou City Performing Arts in Houston. Lerner completed his musical arts doctoral degree in orchestral conducting at the University of Arizona.

Founded in 1979, SASO is a vital community resource that unites performers and audiences through a passion for music. The orchestra presents world premieres, seldom-performed treasures and classical favorites. The orchestra has toured in China, giving six performances in five cities, including Beijing.

Season tickets are \$75, a savings of \$25. Individual tickets are \$20. Order the SaddleBrooke Series online at <http://tickets/saddlebrooketwo.com> or call 825-2818. Order the St. Andrews Series online at www.sasomusic.org or call 308-6226. Individual tickets also are on sale at the door.

Here are the details of the 2011-2012 SASO season:

Oct. 8, 7:30pm SaddleBrooke DVPAC / Oct. 9, 3pm St. Andrew's Presbyterian

Galindo	<i>Sones de Mariachi</i>
Mendelssohn	<i>Violin Concerto op. 64, E minor</i> <i>Gareth Johnson, violin</i>
Vaughan Williams	<i>March Past of the Kitchen Utensils from "The Wasps"</i>
Smetana	<i>Vltava (The Moldau) from "Ma Vlast"</i>
Liszt	<i>Les Preludes (Symphonic Poem No. 3)</i>

Nov. 19, 7:30pm SaddleBrooke DVPAC / Nov. 20, 3pm St. Andrew's Presbyterian

Gershwin	<i>Cuban Overture</i>
He Zhanhao	<i>"Lu You & Tang Wan" Concerto for Guzheng with Orchestra, Chorus and Soprano Solo</i> <i>Larry Leung, guzheng; Tucson Sino Choir; Marcia Fest, soprano</i>
Stravinsky	<i>L'oisau de feu (Firebird Suite)</i>

Feb. 11, 7:30pm SaddleBrooke DVPAC / Feb. 12, 3pm St. Andrew's Presbyterian

<i>Tao Fan, guest conductor</i>	
Liu & Mao	<i>Yao Dance Overture</i>
Yin & Chu	<i>Yellow River Piano Concerto</i> <i>Cong Fan, piano</i>
Brahms	<i>Symphony No. 2, op. 73, D major</i>

Apr. 14, 7:30pm SaddleBrooke DVPAC / Apr. 15, 3pm St. Andrew's Presbyterian

Copland	<i>El Salon Mexico</i>
Handel	<i>Concerto for Harp, op. 4, No. 6, B-flat major</i> <i>HarpFusion</i>
Sibelius	<i>Kuolema from Valse Triste</i>
TBA	<i>Youth Concerto Competition Winner</i>
Saint-Saens	<i>Le Carnaval des Animaux (Carnival of the Animals)</i>

May 19, 7:30pm SaddleBrooke DVPAC / May 20, 3pm St. Andrew's Presbyterian

Isaac	<i>Patriotic Overture</i>
Bottesini	<i>Concerto for Double Bass, No. 2, B minor</i> <i>Waldir Bertipaglia & Catalin Rotaru, basses</i>
Shostakovich	<i>Symphony No. 5, op. 47, D minor</i>

For more information about SASO visit www.sasomusic.org or call 308-6226.