

SPRING CLASSICAL CONCERT SERIES

Concert No. 1

William H. Jervy, Jr. Venice Public Library

Friday April 22, 2022

Natalie Helm, cello

Jesse Martins, piano

Program

A Song, to a Friend (2010)

Chris Rogerson

Après un rêve (After a dream)

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Berceuse (Lullaby)

Elégie (Elegy)

3 Pieces for Cello and Piano

Nadia Boulanger (1887-1979)

Moderato

At ease

Lively, and nervously rhythmic

La Tristesse

Mykola Lysenko (1842-1912)

Fantasy Pieces Op.73

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Delicate and expressive

Lively, light

Fast and with fire



Natalie Helm, cello

Principal Cello of the Sarasota Orchestra, Natalie Helm, has been praised as having a sound that “catches the attention of the room” and “leaves a lasting impression”. LA Times proclaimed the audience “was transfixed” by her performance that was “handled ardently”. A cellist of “musical grace” and extraordinary versatility, Ms. Helm enjoys a dynamic career as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral musician, and educator.

Ms. Helm’s recent engagements include solo appearances with the Sarasota Orchestra, Dana Point Symphony, and Montgomery Symphony Orchestra. Chamber appearances include recitals throughout the

UK and US with the genre-crossing DuoSkope and Sorella Duo. Recently releasing her first album, you can find Ms. Helm on iTunes, Amazon Music, and Spotify. Other appearances include performances for the SILLS series, Artist Series Concerts, and soloist with the Richardson Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, and Colburn Orchestra.

A top prize winner at international competitions including the Lennox International Competition, Blount-Slawson Young Artist Competition, Kingsville Young Artist Competition, and MTNA, Ms. Helm has had the opportunity to perform internationally throughout Italy, Germany, and Japan. She is the recipient of the prestigious Karl Zeise Memorial Cello Award and has appeared in collaboration with the American Contemporary Ballet, Domingo-Thorton Young Artist, and Yamaha School of Music. She was named Artist in Residence and Principal Cello of the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra for the 2015-16 season. In 2016, she toured the United States with a piano trio and vocalist that performed in over 30 cities in 3 weeks. Ms. Helm’s performances have been broadcast on NPR, iHeart Radio, Fox News, and PEOPLE Magazine.

As an avid chamber musician, Ms. Helm is the cellist and co-founder of Duoskope and Sorella Duo. Natalie performs regularly with the Grammy nominated self-conducted orchestra A Far Cry, based in Boston, the contemporary music ensemble newSRQ, based in Florida, and wildUp, based in Los Angeles. Ms. Helm has been featured in concert with The Da Camera Society, Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, Colburn Chamber Music Series, and Music From Angel Fire.

Music is a powerful elixir for change and Ms. Helm has embraced this idea through Upward Notes. As the founder, she brings musicians together to perform and create opportunities to bring positive social change to the communities she works in. Upward Notes has performed for

prisoners, homeless shelters, animal shelters, drug-rehab facilities, dementia patients, and assisted living facilities throughout the United States.

Born in Louisville, KY, Ms. Helm began studying the cello at age eleven. After only five years of playing the cello, she was accepted into the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music studying with Peter Wiley and David Soyer. Ms Helm also holds an Artist Diploma from the Colburn School of Music where she studied with Ronald Leonard. Natalie spends her summers on faculty at the Interlochen Arts Camp, the Curtis Institute of Music's Summerfest, the Sarasota Music Conservatory, and Associate Faculty at the Sarasota Music Festival. She has given masterclasses at University of Southern Florida and been on the faculty of the Pasadena School for Strings in Pasadena, CA, Montgomery Music Project in Montgomery, AL, and Go-go Allegro in Boston, MA and was a member of the Des Moines Opera Festival for three seasons.

Ms. Helm plays on a Raphael di Blasio cello from 1803.



Jesse Martins, piano

Jesse Martins is a conductor, pianist, and voice coach who has extensive experience working with all types of singers from children to experienced professionals.

Since joining the music staff of Sarasota Opera in 2011, he has been integrally involved in all aspects of the company's musicmaking. He conducted Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* (2019), Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (2021), and in the upcoming season he will conduct Donizetti's *La fille du régiment*. He was the Chorus Master & Head of the Apprentice Program during the 2020 Winter Festival and has performed as pianist in many concerts for the company and throughout the area including EnsembleNewSRQ.

As Youth Opera Music Director for Sarasota Opera, Maestro Martins has conducted the world premiere of Rachel J. Peters' *Rootabga Country*, the U.S. premiere of Dean Burry's *The Secret World of OG*, Britten's *The Little Sweep*, Dean Burry's *The Hobbit*, Krása's *Brundibár* and was the associate conductor for the world premiere of Daron Hagen's *Little Nemo in Slumberland*. He also co-wrote, in collaboration with Martha Collins, and conducted two works for the Sarasota Youth Opera: *Raise Up Your Voice – Intolerance Through the Voices of Children*, and *Let's Put on an Opera*. As part of the music staff, Martins was the cover conductor for Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, and *L'italiana in Algeri*, Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Eugene D'Albert's *Tiefland*, Catalani's *La Wally*, and Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona*.

Maestro Martins has worked extensively as a coach in his native Brazil, New Zealand, and now the Sarasota Opera and area.