

# Powerful Voices

By Sally Whitehead

The Savannah Voice Festival strives for diversity with its performances, featuring excellent, emerging talent in the operatic world. SVF presents classical artists that not only shine in the operatic repertoire but inspire audiences in more than 30 crossover events during the series' run. The seventh annual festival will be staged in and around Savannah from August 3 through 25, featuring opera, musical theatre and popular song. This year's theme is "Heaven and Earth," and offers a wide range of patron experiences.

"In celebration of the two realms in which we live, we've curated an absolutely wonderful festival for our fans this year," exclaims Maria Zouves.

Zouves and her husband, world-renowned baritone, Sherrill Milnes, co-founded the SVF.

"This year's offerings range from rock and Broadway tunes to jazz, swing, and opera," Zouves says, "taking us on an emotional journey beyond our physical nature, exploring the earthly temptations of our humanity. No matter what kind of music you love, Savannah VOICE Festival 2019 has a concert you're sure to enjoy!"

In recognition of the support SVF receives from the Skidaway Island community, Zouves and Milnes are bringing superb entertainment to the Landings' Plantation Club. On August 4 and 11, "Forever Plaid," SVF's first-ever Broadway play and musical revue, will take the Plantation stage. The show celebrates close-harmony "guy groups" popular during the 1950s. Sean Christensen, Peter Lake, Nicolas Yaquinto and Scott Russell play the clean-cut Plaids, a quartet of high-school chums dreaming of stardom. But the dream turns to nightmare in the form of a fatal bus collision, with the Plaids returning from the afterlife for one final concert and chance at musical glory. The musical comedy is offered as dinner theater, making for a complete night out.

"Whether you come for the 'diner-themed' buffet or just the show, the evening promises to be a fun and lighthearted," Zouves says.

SVF offers additional lighter fare with four evening concerts at the Charles H. Morris Center. On August 14, Savannah's singer-songwriter, Nick Yaquinto, presents "Unplugged," featuring hit tunes from the

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1960s and '70s, and original songs based on his Savannah roots. On August 16, a Broadway concert, "Heaven on Earth," will be performed by festival artists. On August 19, in celebration of America's Songbook, with "Old Blue Eyes: Peter Lake in Tribute to Frank Sinatra" the tenor performs Rat Pack favorites. On August 22, opera meets rock with "Old Time Rock and Roll: Music of the '70s."

"Opera singers performing rock, Broadway and Frank Sinatra might sound a bit outrageous, but the Savannah Voice Festival celebrates great music," Milnes says. "We enjoy being able to offer audiences a wide variety of musical experiences – and our artists enjoy making music that they enjoy themselves. Opera singers are well-rounded music lovers. I played bass in dance bands myself as a young musician."

SVF is not abandoning its classical roots, and the organization remains focused on operatic music. "We were extremely proud to launch the Savannah Opera Company last year and are thrilled with the array of operas the company offers this season," Zouves says. "From gripping to fanciful, tragedy to comedy to culinary enticements, audiences are sure to be delighted with one or more of the fabulous five."

"Bon Appetit and Other Earthly Temptations" is set for August 9, at the Davenport House. This culinary extravaganza taps into the wit and antics of one of America's favorite television personalities, Julia Child, and is coupled with delicious songs about food. The evening includes a chocolate cake tasting.

The operatic version of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's book, "The Little Prince," tells the tale of a pilot and a prince in the Sahara, and the lessons these two unlikely friends experience from the desert's creatures. This community collaboration features the Savannah Opera Company at the Yamacraw Center for the Performing Arts. There are two shows, August 16 and 18.

On August 17, "Dialogues of the Carmelites" brings the Savannah Opera to Asbury Memorial UMC. This powerful work tells a fictionalized story of the Martyrs of Compiègne, Carmelite nuns who, during the French Revolution, were executed in Paris for refusing to renounce their vocation.

The festival's grand finale is a double fea-

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TheSkinnie VOL. 17 ISSUE 15 - 21



*We are beach people so when we learned that the Carefree Boat Club was at the Landings, at both harbors, and only 20 minutes from the beaches, joining was a no-brainer. We go to the beaches nearly every weekend. Chris and Leo always have a boat for us even at the last minute.*

— Sean, Amanda and 3 daughters (on the beach)

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# WHAT WILL BE NEXT?

**SEND US YOUR MASTERPIECE**  
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Submissions must be no less than 8" x 10" 300 dpi .jpg or .tiff files. Please limit the file size to 10mb. All correctly sized submissions will be considered. Contact Philip Schweier with questions: 912.598.9715

ture. Co-produced with Opera Orlando, "I Pagliacci," tells the story of Canio's troupe of commedie dell'arte who've come to entertain a village. A restless spirit and dangerous liaisons lead to wrath and ill-fate during Leoncavallo's great work. In addition, Savannah Opera will perform "The Birthday Clown," its third original commission as part of a collaboration between Savannah Classical Academy's String Ensemble and SVF. Written by SVF composer-in-residence, Michael Ching, this lighthearted, 20-minute opera "short" tells the story of a struggling magician and the life he laments. The double bill is slated for the Yamacraw Center for the Performing Arts, on August 21, 23 and 25.

The finale works include heartbreaking tragedy and clever, comic relief. "A mash-up of tears and laughter, a fitting conclusion for our seventh season," Zouves says.

At First Presbyterian Church on Washington Avenue, on August 3, "Voices in Sacred Song," a free concert, showcases the brilliance of spiritual music through oratorio and song, ending with Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." Also free – SVF's master classes, featuring the festival's international faculty in collaboration with local educational institutions, including Savannah Classical Academy and Georgia Southern University (Armstrong Campus).

"The Masters in Voice series is sponsored by the Georgia Council for the Arts," Milnes says. "GCA, as well as other fantastic educational supporters for our outreach and community events, make it possible for us share the profound impact the arts can make in a community."

Milnes, a three-time Grammy Award winner, has performed more than 600 times with the Metropolitan Opera, alongside greats including Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti and Joan Sutherland. He is acclaimed as the foremost baritone of his generation and a true master of the operatic art form. SVF emerged from the Milnes VOICE Programs and the training that they provide.

"I am inspired by how many facets of our programming people enjoy and how much the artists we mentor grow from this connection," Milnes says.

Zouves adds, "The festival offers us a wonderful opportunity to witness our organization's commitment to passing the baton of excellence in vocal arts to the next generation. We couldn't be any prouder of the talented artists' accomplishments and the new talent audiences will have the chance to enjoy this year."

After three weeks of spectacular events, the SVF will return to the Landings with a gala dinner and concert on August 24. "Say goodbye to the artists of 2019 and be the first to hear the 2020 line up of Savannah Operas in this special wrap-up night," Zouves says. "You won't want to miss this final, marvelous event. In keeping with our theme, it's Heaven on Earth!"

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.savannah-voicefestival.org](http://www.savannah-voicefestival.org), email [info@savannahvoicefestival.org](mailto:info@savannahvoicefestival.org), or call 855.76. OPERA (855.766.7273).



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# island hopping

Please email content to [mail@theskinnie.com](mailto:mail@theskinnie.com).  
Deadline is the Friday prior to publication.

## THE NEW YOU

**WHAT:** Are you a New Neighbors member?  
**CONTACT:** To join, go to the website and click on Membership, or contact Milli at [nncontact20@gmail.com](mailto:nncontact20@gmail.com)

**WHAT ELSE:** New Neighbors is a very active club open to any individual who lives at The Landings on a full- or part-time basis, is over the age of 21 and has never belonged to the Landings New Neighbors. The club offers more than 250 different activities, tours and events for you to enjoy. Go to [www.landingsnewneighbors.com](http://www.landingsnewneighbors.com) to see more examples of how exciting New Neighbors can be.

## GOTTA LOVE IT

**WHAT:** Landlovers welcomes you!  
**CONTACT:** Landlovers Membership Chair, Cec Calcaterra at [ceccalcaterra@gmail.com](mailto:ceccalcaterra@gmail.com) or 803.309.5883

**WHAT ELSE:** Landlovers Club is open to all Landings residents no matter how long one has lived here! Our club offers a variety of social activities and events like flea markets, house tours and garden tours. To learn more about us, visit [landingslandlovers.com](http://landingslandlovers.com) and click on "The Happenings" tab on the left.

## SHELL GAME

**WHAT:** Turtle Tuesdays for all ages  
**WHEN:** Every Tuesday in June and July at 2 p.m., except July 2

**WHERE:** UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium, 30 Ocean Science Circle, Skidaway Island

**HOW MUCH:** UGA Aquarium admission, cash or check only

**CONTACT:** Kayla Clark at 912.598.3345 or [kayla270@uga.edu](mailto:kayla270@uga.edu) with questions

**WHAT ELSE:** Meet a new turtle that's native to the Georgia coast at the UGA Aquarium. Turtle talks include a feeding at the aquarium's freshwater turtle pond as well as an opportunity to interact with one of the aquarium's ambassador turtles.

## LITTLE HANDS

**WHAT:** Toddler Touch Tanks for ages 2-5  
**WHEN:** Every Thursday in June and July – 10 to 11 a.m., except July 4

**WHERE:** UGA Marine Education Center

[www.theskinnie.com](http://www.theskinnie.com)

and Aquarium, 30 Ocean Science Circle, Skidaway Island

**HOW MUCH:** General admission to the UGA Aquarium; Please arrive 15 minutes early; Cash or check, please

**WHAT ELSE:** Explore the coast with your child in a unique setting perfect for inspiring wonder and curiosity! Marine educators will host toddler programs specifically designed with our youngest visitors in mind. Different activities and topics be covered each week. Programs include a mix of games, art, stories and animal encounters. Children of all ages are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is encouraged to guarantee your spot. Online registration will close at 4 p.m. the day before the program begins.

## NAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE

**WHAT:** Behind the Scenes Aquarium Tour for ages 5 and up

**WHEN:** Every Thursday in June and July – 2 to 3 p.m., except July 4

**WHERE:** UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium, 30 Ocean Science Circle, Skidaway Island

**HOW MUCH:** \$10 Cash or check, please; no credit cards

**CONTACT:** Kayla Clark at 912.598.3345 or [kayla270@uga.edu](mailto:kayla270@uga.edu) with questions.

**WHAT ELSE:** Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at the UGA Aquarium? Visitors are invited to enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour led by staff. Highlights include seeing the food prep room and observing a seahorse feeding! Pre-registration

## THIS OLD HOUSE

**WHAT:** Historical Interpreters

**WHEN:** Part-time, Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., or Sundays, 12-4 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Andrew Low House Museum, 329 Abercorn St. on Lafayette Square

**HOW MUCH:** \$8.50 per hour

**CONTACT:** Chris Sergi, Education/Events and Programs Manager, 912.233.1828, ext. 102 or [csergi@andrewlowhouse.com](mailto:csergi@andrewlowhouse.com)

**WHAT ELSE:** The Andrew Low House is searching for enthusiastic and dedicated individuals who have a love of history to serve as guides and educators to represent our museum.

## HOLES FOR HOSPICE

**WHAT:** 16th annual Robbie Smith Golf Outing to sustain the life-enriching programs and services of not-for-profit Hospice Savannah, Inc.

**WHEN:** Monday, Aug. 12, 9 a.m. shotgun start with a four-man scramble (captains' choice) format

**WHERE:** The Club at Savannah Harbor

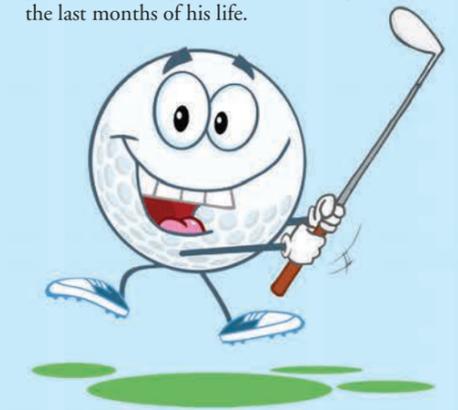
**HOW MUCH:** \$100 per person includes lunch, prizes, and beverages on the course; \$125 per person also includes two Mulligans, one raffle ticket, tee buster on hole 14, eagle putt on hole 7, and a "Fantasy" scratch-off card for a chance to win a complimentary round of golf

**CONTACT:** Players may register at [www.RobbieGolf.com/register](http://www.RobbieGolf.com/register) or call Ophelia Rodriguez at 912.629.1027

**WHAT ELSE:** Robbie Smith was a vibrant, fun, sports-loving young man who was diagnosed with brain cancer in 1992. For 15 years, his family and friends have organized a fun-filled day of golf in his memory and in gratitude for the care provided by Hospice Savannah during the last months of his life.

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## WICKED GOLF

**WHAT:** The 2019 Moon River Classic (Ladies Golf Invitational) channels all things "Wicked"

**WHEN:** Oct. 3-5. Registration closes Sep. 7

**WHERE:** Plantation Club, the Landings; Courses TBD

**HOW MUCH:** \$400 per 2 person team

**CONTACT:** Jane Barrick at [j.barrick@comcast.net](mailto:j.barrick@comcast.net), 912.598.7118 or Carol Bowen at [zsmrsb@me.com](mailto:zsmrsb@me.com), 912.598.2178

**WHAT ELSE:** Open to all Landings Club female golf members. Need a partner? Have a few extra friends to share? We can pair you up for a wicked good time! Welcome reception, practice round and two days of tournament play (choice of course-named or Skidaway tees), skills challenges Thursday, optional shoot out, skins game and Par 3 skill, box lunch day 1, awards luncheon day 2, tee gifts and prizes.