

Holiday Gems

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 7:30pm

First Presbyterian Church

Sponsored by Palm Avenue Fine Art

Leigh and Harvey Cohen

Jacobs Management Consultants

Global Integrated Development, LLC

Penny Resnick and Peter Blanton

Donna Wood and William MacMillan

The season opens with the chamber orchestra's annual holiday concert with music by Debussy, Vivaldi, Mahler, and Tchaikovsky, plus holidays favorites. Featured soloists include harpist Giuseppina Ciarla and mandolinist Rafael Ramirez.

Program

Introduction, Aria, and Presto	Benedetto Marcello/Bonelli
Danse Sacre e Profane for harp and strings	Claude Debussy
Sonata da Chiesa, movements 3, 6, 7	Adolphus Hailstork
Concerto in A minor, arranged for mandolin	Antonio Vivaldi
Adagietto	Gustav Mahler
Trepak from Serenade for Strings	Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky
Hanukkah Light	Zamir Bavel
Christmas Overture	Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Italian born Giuseppina Ciarla is a classical musician and a groundbreaking crossover performer combining her artistry of harp and voice. Principal harpist with the Sarasota Opera since 2002, Giuseppina Ciarla has performed with world class conductors such as Lorin Maazel, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Victor DeRenzi, and Daniel Oren, to name a few. She has recorded for Bongiovanni and Koch record labels. She is a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Sarasota.

Beginning his viola studies at an early age in Venezuela, Rafael Ramirez became involved in classical music with "el Movimiento Simon Bolivar" in 1992. His honors include 2nd place at the State Mandolin Festival, Capacho, Venezuela, a full scholarship with the Slava Bogu String Quartet, Bogotá, Colombia, and First Prize winner of the chamber music competition at Florida International University (2006 and 2007). He holds a Doctorate in Music Performance from the University of Miami and is a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Sarasota, Venice Symphony, Miami Symphony, Lakeland Symphony, and Palm Beach Pops.