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## Banjos, ballerinas, Galway at Festival of the Arts BOCA

The lineup for the ninth annual Festival of the Arts BOCA in March is a mix of classical music and ballet, flutist James Galway, banjo virtuosos and a live orchestra playing Leonard Bernstein's score with the 1961 musical "West Side Story."

His daughter Jamie Bernstein will kick off the festival two days ahead of the official opening to talk about her father's legacy. Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Richard Ford, Thomas Friedman and Lucinda Franks are also among the Authors & Ideas forum, introduced by the series' chairwoman Cynthia Brown at

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on 45

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Ninth annual Festival of the Arts BOCA, March 6-15

**Where:** Presented by The Schmidt Family Centre for the Arts at the Mizner Park Amphitheater, tented with reserved seating, and Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center, in Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real

**Tickets:** Range from \$15 to \$125, early bird special \$39 through Dec. 25, festivalboca.org or 866-571-2787

#### Events:

- In conversation with Jamie Bernstein on "West Side Story" and her father Leonard Bernstein's legacy, 7 p.m. March 4
- Concert and film, "West Side Story" with Festival Orchestra BOCA, 7:30 p.m. March 6
- Concert banjo virtuosos Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn, 7:30 p.m. March 7
- Author Richard Ford, "Let Me Be Frank With You," 4 p.m. March 8
- International ballet dancers, 7 p.m. March 8
- Author Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, "The Cancer Puzzle," 7 p.m. March 9
- Author Thomas Friedman, "That Used to Be Us," 7 p.m. March 11
- Author Michael Grunwald, "Saving Paradise," 7 p.m. March 12
- Mozart Gala with flute, piano, violin and orchestra, Sir James Galway, Arnaud Sussmann and Festival Orchestra BOCA, 7:30 p.m. March 13
- Author Lucinda Franks, "Love & Politics," 4 p.m. March 14
- Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Young People's Chorus of New York City, Master Chorale of South Florida and Festival Orchestra BOCA, 7:30 p.m. March 14
- Author Martin Goldsmith, "Alex's Wake," 4 p.m. March 15

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the festival launch.

Those talks will run concurrently with the performances from March 6 to 15 at both ends of Mizner Park. The Mizner Park Amphitheater is tented and seated with reserved ticketing for the festival. Most of the authors will speak in the Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center.

The mix of performers and writers was announced at a pre-festival launch party and concert with a performance by the violin and bass trio Time for Three on Nov. 14 in the cultural arts center's black box theater. A sold-out crowd of supporters and longtime and potential audience members attended. Another pre-festival event is scheduled for 3 p.m. Jan. 18 with the Is-

raeli Chamber Project.

Chairman Charlie Siemon played an audio tape by violin great Itzhak Perlman, last year's headliner, supporting his protégé Arnaud Sussmann, who will play at the March 13 Mozart Gala for flute, piano and violin and orchestra with James Galway.

"The big hook is 'West Side story' with a live symphony that premiered in Avery Fisher Hall two years ago," said Charles Letourneau, managing director, festivals and events, for IMG Artists that partners with the festival for the talent. "We'll finish with Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and the Young People's Chorus of New York and the South Florida Master Chorale. The chorus will do a suite from 'West Side Story.'"

The Grammy Award-

winning duo of Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn will play banjos on March 7, and ballet night on March 8 will include principal dancers from the American Ballet Theater, Boston Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Washington Ballet and Russians, he said.

"Galway is turning 75, and during St. Patrick's week he's going to the White House," Letourneau said about flutist James Galway, among the performers in the all-Mozart program on March 13.

"The city has stepped up and played a key role," Siemon said.

An agreement to provide \$150,000 for marketing and public relations and in-kind police and other staff services was approved by the Boca Raton City Council Nov. 12.

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