

### ON THE SHORE



# TENORS IN TRIPLICATE

America's Got Talent's Forte trio lend voices to Festival of the Arts Boca

By Elizabeth Rahe

ince competing on NBC's America's Got Talent last summer, the three tenors of Forte have enjoyed quite a ride, including performances at Carnegie Hall and the White House. On March 15, Josh Page, Sean Panikkar and Fernando Varela will bring their soaring vocals to the Festival of the Arts Boca for their first full-length Florida concert.

They are among a diverse collection of artists and authors booked for the fest, March 6-15, including violinist Itzhak Perlman, jazz trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, the aerialists of Cirque de la Symphonie, historian Doris Kearns Goodwin and many more.

South Florida is familiar territory for one of Forte's tenors, Varela of Orlando, who joined Palm Beach Opera's Resident Artist Program a decade ago. "I had a great time living in South Florida for a couple years," Varela says. "It was an important time for me – I met some of the teachers who helped shape who I was to become as an artist."

Who Puerto Rico-born Varela has become is a crossover performer, as comfortable singing opera as pop. He came together with Page, a New York classical artist who also performs in a rock band, and Panikkar, a Michigan-based opera singer of Sri Lankan heritage, just before the *America's Got* 

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*Talent* audition. "We were starting from scratch, not only musically but personally, too," he says.

However, the talented and personable tenors resonated with judges and viewers, who voted them to a fourth-place finish. Although all three have solo careers, the show's exposure has opened new opportunities for Forte, including a large-scale tour now in the works.

"The floodgates have flung wide open since *AGT*," Varela says. "It put us in a whole other league."

For their festival concert Varela says Forte will perform music from their first album, *Forte*, including *My Heart Will Go On* – "which gave us one of the best moments we had on the show" – and *Somewhere* from *West Side Story*. "We'll probably also sing *Nessun Dorma*, so there is at least one opera aria among the pop songs."

The fest kicks off March 6 with Perlman's violin virtuosity and the Festival Orchestra Boca, conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos. Perlman returns March 9, joining with Israeliborn chief cantor of New York City's Park East Synagogue, Yitzchak Meir Helfgot, for a concert based on their album, Eternal Echoes: Songs and Dances for the Soul. The program, which Perlman often refers to as "Iewish comfort music," combines the violinist's classical technique with Helfgot's soulful voice, backed by chamber-orchestra and klezmer musicians.



Festival of the Arts Boca at Mizner Park Amphitheater and Cultural Arts Center, March 6-15, 561-368-8445 (information), 866-571-2787 (box office), festival of the arts boca.org; tickets \$25-\$125.



## The perfect piece for a perfect moment

Aħ occasional series

Who: Robin Levinson, co-owner of Levinson Jewelers,
Fort Lauderdale
Where: The Emmys

What: Antique necklace, with 75 cts. of diamonds set in platinum, that she and her husband, Mark, found while traveling.

Why: "The reason I chose that necklace to wear to the Emmys was because it is very grand. It stands out like no other. The round diamonds are a very special French cut and they exude brilliance. And since the Emmys calls for glamour I thought it was a perfect fit. I have also worn it at a Franck Muller dinner in Geneva with a pair of jeans, high heels and a great jacket. It was a gift from Mark [husband and co-owner of Levinson Jewelers] for a special anniversary so it has special meaning to me."

-Elyse Ranart



### Academy of St. Martin in the Fields returns, with Joshua Bell

**The Regional Arts Concert Series**, in its 39th year, welcomes the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Orchestra, with acclaimed violinist and conductor Joshua Bell making his first series appearance in his role as music director. The program is a showcase for Bell's renowned solo work: Brahms (Violin Concerto in D, Op. 77), Mozart (Overture to The Marriage of Figaro, K. 492) and Beethoven (Symphony No. 3 in E-flat, Op. 55, *Eroica*).

—Ben Crandell

Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Orchestra with Joshua Bell, 8 p.m. March 16, Kravis Center. Tickets: \$35+. Info: 561-832-7469, Kravis.org.

### **CALENDAR**



#### March

2-22 Over 15 designers have transformed Villa Delle Palme, a Mizner-style villa at 124 Churchill Road, West Palm Beach, into the American Red Cross Designers' Show House, a fundraiser for the Palm Beach-Treasure Coast chapter of the organization. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday; noon to 4 p.m., Sunday. \$35. 561-833-7711, redcross.org/pbtc.

-15 Festival of the Arts **O**Boca, a multi-day cultural arts event offering the biggest parade of stars in the event's eight-year history, including violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman, the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, Cirque de la Symphonie, presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin and more. The event takes place at the Schmidt Family Centre for the Arts at Mizner Park Amphitheater and the Mizner Park Cultural Arts

Center, both in Boca Raton. Times vary. Tickets \$25 to \$125. 561-368-8445, festivalboca.com.

ARC Broward hosts **Delish**2014, presented by The
Wasie Foundation, showcasing
the culinary creations of
ARC Broward's graduates
and judged by Chef Michelle
Bernstein. Guests will enjoy
gourmet treats, cocktails,
dancing, entertainment, a silent
auction and more. 7 p.m. at the
Hilton Fort Lauderdale Beach
Resort. \$125. 954-746-9400,
arcbroward.com.

Hope Floats, a benefit for Tomorrow's Rainbow, an organization that helps children overcome the death of a loved one through interactions with miniature horses. The event features a memorial paper boat parade, food trucks, live music, children's activities and a chance to meet the horses. 3 p.m. at Esplanade Park in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Free. 954-978-2390, tomorrowsrainbow.org.

Rooftop Soirée, the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary benefit ball and auction of Donna Klein Jewish Academy. 7:30 p.m. at the Polo Club Boca Raton. \$150. 561-852-5007, dkja.org.

**9 Tales and Tails**, a family concert where the Symphony of the Americas takes attendees on an orchestral exploration of the animal kingdom. 11 a.m. at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets start at \$10.954-462-0222, browardcenter.org.

**928<sup>th</sup> Annual JARC Gala Dinner Dance**, a "Wizard of Oz"-themed event that includes cocktails, dinner, dancing and auctions to benefit the non-sectarian organization that provides group homes, apartments and vocational training for adults with developmental disabilities. 6 p.m. at Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton. \$250. 561-558-2550, jarcfl.org.

9. 16 and 23 The Piaget Gold Cup, a polo tournament, with matches held on consecutive Sundays. 2 p.m. at the International Polo Club Palm Beach, 3667 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. South, Wellington. Prices vary. 561-282-5334, internationalpoloclub.com.

13-16 Dania Beach Marine Flea Market, featuring thousands of boatingrelated items available for sale. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, at Mardi Gras Casino, 831 N. Federal Highway, Hallandale Beach. Tickets are \$12 Thursday, \$10, Friday through Sunday, children under 12 are free. 954-920-7877,

15 Ban Cancer 2014, an outdoor concert

daniamarinefleamarket.com.

featuring Blue Fire Band, Sovereign States, John Terry, Roberto Perera and other great performers, hosted by The Richard J. Fox Foundation and Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale to raise awareness about prostate and pancreatic cancer. 6:30 p.m. at Esplanade Park in downtown Fort Lauderdale. \$10 suggested donation for general admission tickets; VIP tickets start at \$45. 954-260-9667, richardjfoxfoundation.org.

15another Step Closer 2014, a walkathon presented by The Pap Corps and the University of Miami/Sylvester Comprehensive Care Center to support research on all types of cancer. 8:30 a.m. at the FAU campus in Boca Raton. \$20.561-798-3116, papcorps.org.

15 The black-tie Boca Museum of Art Benefit offers an evening of dining, dancing and entertainment to support the Museum's artmatters fundraising initiative. 6:30 p.m. at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. \$375. 561-392-2500, bocamuseum.org/gala.

15 Texas Hold 'Em Shootout, a poker tournament, with auctions and live jazz music, to benefit the Jason Taylor Foundation, Message from Marli Foundation and SIDES (Sydney's Incredible Defeat of Ewing's Sarcoma). 5:30 p.m. at Smoke on the Water, 1630 Bell Tower Lane, Weston. \$350 per seat; \$25 admission. 212-810-1510, poker4benefits.com.

Purim with the Florida Panthers, an event for the entire family sponsored by The Jewish Professional Networking Group (JPNG). 3 p.m. at the BB&T Center. Jpng.org.