

A man with dark hair, smiling and looking slightly to his right. He is wearing a black tuxedo jacket over a white dress shirt and a black bow tie. The background is a dark blue-grey gradient with stylized, golden-yellow fireworks or starburst patterns scattered across it.

*Celebrating
30
Years!*



**SEASON
2025-2026**



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WELCOME to our Extraordinary 30th Anniversary Season!

As the first notes fill the hall, we invite you to join us on
a journey—a journey that is both
an homage to our **PAST**
and a thrilling glimpse into our **FUTURE**.

The music you will hear is the culmination of three
decades of passion, courage, and unwavering
dedication. We stand on the shoulders of the visionary
founders, the talented musicians, and the dedicated
patrons who built this Symphony from a humble
ensemble into

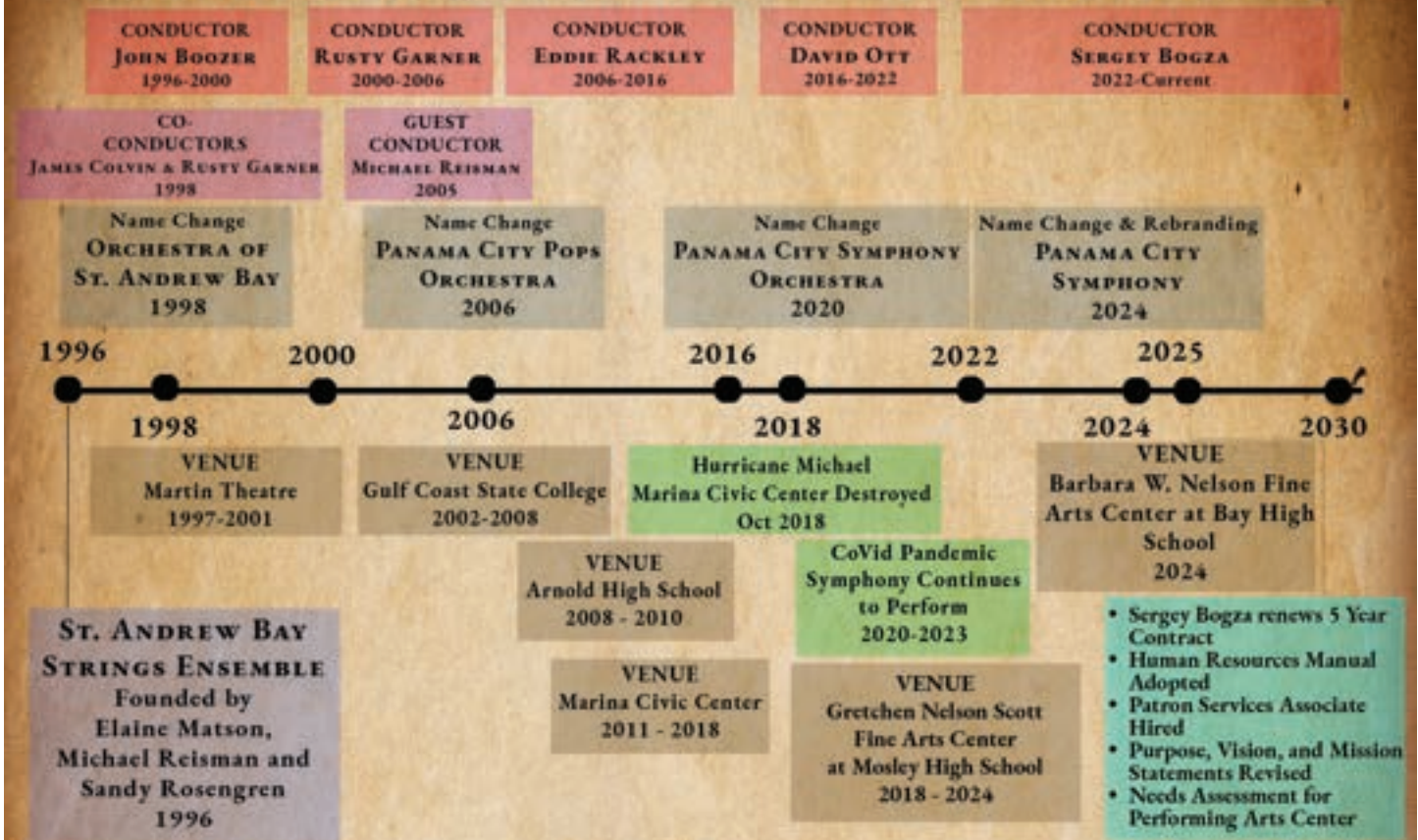
The Cultural Heart of Northwest Florida.

Their legacy is a vibrant thread
woven into every note and
every performance.

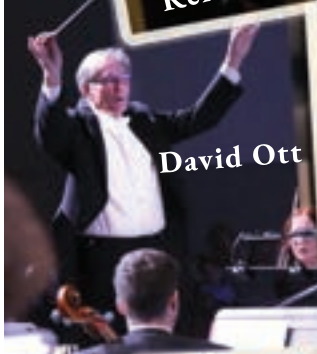
TODAY,
we are in an
exhilarating
new chapter. With
unprecedented
support, record-breaking
season subscriptions, and
a new era of artistic
leadership, our symphony is
more powerful and more
connected to our community than ever
before. This incredible energy—this
shared excitement—is a testament to the
fact that music is not just sound; it is a shared experience.
So, as Maestro Sergey Bogza raises his baton, let us be
enchanted by this beautiful music.
Thank you for being a part of our story.

The stage is set. LET THE SEASON BEGIN.

Panama City Symphony Historical Timeline, 1996 - 2025



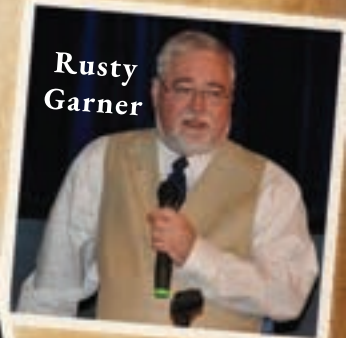
Michael Reisman



David Ott



Eddie Rackley



Rusty Garner

Trombone Quintet featuring 3 of the original Orchestra of St. Andrew Bay members. L to R: JIM COLVIN, KEN MATSON, Matt Kaminskis, MIKE SLINKARD and Dr. Lyda May 1998



Eddie Rackley

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PROGRAM COVERS OF THE PAST



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Christmas Concert



December 21, 1997

The Orchestra
of St. Andrew Bay
Martin Theatre
3:00 PM

\$5 Adult, \$1 Student



ECHOES OF THE PAST

Standing ovation

On March 17 my husband and I attended the Panama City Pops Orchestra concert at the Marina Civic Center. It was an outstanding performance! This is truly one of Bay County's jewels — sheer elegance with a splash of fun.

Thank you to the talented, musicians and Maestro Eddie Rackley for bringing such joy to our city.

JUDI LAWRENCE
Panama City

...

My deepest congratulations and appreciation to the musicians, singers and dancers of the Panama City Pops orchestra. The Saturday night Classics and Celtic was outstanding! Beethoven was, as always, marvelous, and the Celtic dancers and pipers spectacular. The "Titanic Suite" was stunning. I had no idea this level of art existed in Bay County. Bravo to all!

Those of you who didn't attend have no idea what you missed.

BART FUREY
Lynn Haven

Arts & Culture



Encore!

The Panama City Pops Orchestra Delights Audiences with Perfect Pitch BY HEINZ G. BROWN

If you think going to an outdoor concert is a great experience for a man, take up "You're never heart" a tongue twister.

Lead by Conductor Eddie Rackley, the Panama City Pops Orchestra performs a striking mix of the classic and the new. From the Beach Boys to Beethoven, Rackley, clearly, knows the new musical landscape with well-known popular music, incorporating a touch of Beethoven, big band and Latin.

For the past few years of his musical career, Rackley has been performing at the Panama City Pops Orchestra, which has been a great experience for him.

Founded by Bruce Adams, Michael Brown and John Brown in 1978, the Panama City Pops Orchestra has been a great experience for him.

and perform together. The ensemble could give you a complete orchestra, playing a wide variety of musical styles and genres.

These Rackley's are not a new act, but a well-known one. In 2009, the ensemble had given to nearly 50 different musicians and musicians. The other two musicians, who have been playing for the last 10 years, are also part of the ensemble.

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Orchestra concert

The Orchestra of St. Andrew Bay performs Come Ring in the Season at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Martin Theatre, 409 Harrison Ave.

Co-directors Jim Colvin and Rusty Gerner direct Christmas favorites including Tannenbaum Fantasy, Holiday for Strings, Stille Nacht and The Nutcracker ballet.

Admission is \$7.50 for adults and \$3.75 for children. Call 913-6334 for information.

SCENE AROUND TOWN



Conductor Eddie Rackley talks to the crowd during The Orchestra of St. Andrew Bay's presentation of "The Language of Love" at the Marina Civic Center Theater at Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City.

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SERGEY BOGZA

Music Director and Conductor

Since Maestro Sergey Bogza took the podium in 2022, Panama City Symphony has been revitalized by his unparalleled energy and visionary spirit. His passion for artistic excellence is evident in every performance, inspiring musicians and captivating audiences with the sheer beauty of sound.

Bogza's approach has steadily elevated musicality, fostered community collaborations, boosted music education, and enhanced organizational effectiveness. His exceptional blend of artistic prowess and keen business acumen allows him to navigate both creative and administrative complexities. The Board of Directors fully supports his vision. On July 1, 2025, he began his fourth year with a new 5-year contract.

Under Bogza's leadership, Panama City Symphony has experienced an incredible renaissance. He has significantly raised artistic standards and expanded the repertoire, bringing both beloved classics and exciting new works. Performances consistently receive standing ovations, generating palpable excitement. He has cultivated an environment of growth, collaboration, and community that deeply resonates with all who attend.

The progress under Dr. Bogza's leadership is awe-inspiring. Attendance has soared, community engagement initiatives have flourished, and the symphony's reputation has grown exponentially. This success is a testament to his tireless dedication, profound musicality, and unwavering commitment to making the Panama City Symphony a beacon of cultural enrichment.

Beyond Panama City, Bogza's expertise spans composing and leading opera, ballet, and concert repertoire. He made his professional debut with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and Alabama Ballet in 2024 and is a sought-after guest conductor and speaker. He's held a variety of Music Director roles and has conducted across the US and abroad. He holds a Master of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts in orchestral conducting.

*Ode to the Maestro Sponsors
Dr. Marlene & Ray East, Jr.*

Executive Committee

Denise Cox
Immediate Past President
President, Storm Energy, Ltd

The Panama City Symphony provides a musical metaphor for thriving businesses in our area where a visionary leader can conduct diverse and talented individuals to create value for the community.



Dr. Marlene East, President
Glass Artist; Licensend Counselor;
Non-Profit Executive Director (Retired)
Our Symphony's beautiful music creates a powerful, shared experience. The Panama City Symphony is a unifying force that enriches our community's culture.

Crook Stewart, Vice President
Tour Management and Accounting, Bonnie Ralitt;
Co-Owner of The Ghetto Palace;
Co-Founder of Music Matters
I once traveled the world seeking culture, but now the Panama City Symphony brings it right to my hometown.



Danielle Streichert, Secretary
Health Agent, Peoples First Insurance
I love sharing the Symphony with my daughter. We'll join hands, close our eyes, and let the music wash over us. I need these soul-connecting experiences. The Symphony provides the perfect soundtrack.

Marta Rose-Thorpe, Chair-Public Relations Committee
Marketing Strategist, Business Development, Community Connector, Cobalt Coast LLC
I'm excited to serve alongside this vibrant organization that elevates the arts, culture, symphonic music, and music education in Northwest Florida.



Raymond East, Jr. Treasurer
Owner, East Electrical Contractors (Retired)
I'm proud to be part of an organization that builds up our community through quality music and education.



Sonya Caldwell
Broker/Community Strategist, Caldwell Broker, LLC
Music provides the harmony that weaves our community together.



Art Kimbrough
Executive Coach and Chairman, Vistage Florida CEO
Peer Advisory Group, Panama City
Few communities our size have as fine an instrument for enhancing lives, attracting visitors, growing our economy, and creating a vibrant culture as we have in our extraordinary Symphony.

Janet Galvao
V.P./Branch Manager, United Community Bank
The Symphony is an important part of the cultural backdrop of Panama City. It provides an avenue for the community to engage in and be exposed to an amazing art form.



Mary Middlemas
Language and Writing Professor, Writing Center Director (Retired)
As a third-generation native of Panama City, I've had the pleasure of watching the Symphony become what it is today: an engaging and vital artistic treasure.

Karen Roganov
U.S. Military Officer (Retired); Activity Leader, FL Trail Association
Music is the language of life. It is a divine connector for all of God's creation. I am grateful for our community, our Maestro, and our world-class Symphony.



Steve Wiggins
Panama City Native; Former Business Owner; Musician; Pianist
The first time I saw the Symphony, I was wowed. The passion, the energy, and the music just gets better with every performance. We have a world-class Conductor and Symphony right here in Bay County!

Michael Dickey
Legal Advisor
Law Offices of Michael P. Dickey
It has been my pleasure to see the Symphony grow into the professional organization it is today, and to have served as president of the board during the formative years. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful musical resource here in our community.

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30th Anniversary Season Sponsors and Community Partners

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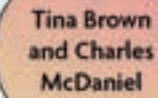
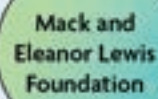
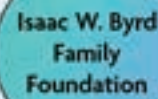


Ray &
Dr. Marlene East

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Dr. Jeffrey Portnoy &
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In Memory of
Buddy DeFranco



Jo Chonko

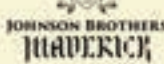
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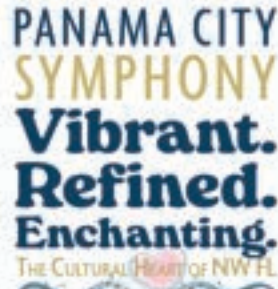
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Ode to the Maestro
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to request a correction.*



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Laura Dever
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Elena Hagan
Barbara Huss
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Elsie Williams

Meet Panama City Symphony's 30th Anniversary Season Guest Artists

Annika Jenkins
Violin

Pictures at an Exhibition



Justin Jon Moniz
Tenor

*Andrew Lloyd Webber
Symphonic Suites*



Sergey Bogza
Music Director
and Conductor



Alexei Romanenko
Cello
Shostakovich 9



Paulina Villarreal
Mezzo-Soprano
Bella Notte



Philip Lima
Baritone
Symphony & Soul



Leon-Lewis Nicol
Jazz Pianist & Composer
Bella Notte



*The 2025-26 Guest Artists
are sponsored by
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Presenting Sponsor
Charles A. Whitehead Foundation

PANAMA CITY SYMPHONY
OPENING NIGHT

Symphony & Soul

September 20, 2025 | 7 pm
BARBARA W. NELSON FINE ARTS CENTER

SEASON **25
26**
30 YEARS



PHILIP LIMA
Baritone



Panama City Symphony opens its 30th season with *Symphony and Soul*, a powerful tribute to the richness and vitality of American music. From Gershwin's rhythm-infused *Cuban Overture* and *Porgy and Bess: A Symphonic Picture*, to Grofé's sweeping *Mississippi Suite* and Copland's timeless *Old American Songs*, this concert offers a moving exploration of the nation's musical identity. Each work tells a distinctly American story—honoring the past and celebrating a bold season ahead.

NIGHTMARE BY THE BAY

BEASTS OF THE BAYOU

TERROR IN THE MIST

October 11, 2025 | 7 PM
BARBARA W NELSON FINE ARTS CENTER



Enter a world of bayou beasts, creatures, and folklore legends. "Nightmare on the Bay," now in its third season, weaves an original story created by Maestro Bogza into a Halloween-esque tapestry of intrigue with costumes, original cinematography, and epic symphonic music. Journey into the thrills of the bayou—and feel free to embrace your inner beast with a costume!

CHARLIE CHAPLIN



THE GOLD RUSH



FILM *with* Live Orchestra

November 8, 2025 | 7 PM
BARBARA W NELSON FINE ARTS CENTER



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Panama City Symphony commemorates 100 years of Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* with a spectacular live score performance. Maestro Sergey Bogza leads the orchestra in bringing the silent screen to vibrant life, syncing Chaplin's comedic genius with dynamic orchestral sound. Watch as The Little Tramp's quest for gold in Alaska unfolds in a series of delightful mishaps and adventures. Patrons are encouraged to dress in black and white in honor of Chaplin's style and era.



PANAMA CITY SYMPHONY

with the Panama City Ballet

November 29, 2025 | 6 pm
AARON BESSANT PARK

Presented By
Visit Panama City Beach



SEASON
**25
26**
30 YEARS



Free Event! For information on the weekend Beach Home schedule, go to:
visitpanamacitybeach.com/events/holiday-events/beach-home-for-the-holidays

Presenting Sponsor
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Holiday by the Bay

Featuring the
PANAMA CITY SYMPHONY
Adult & Children's CHORUS

December 13, 2025 | 7 PM
BARBARA W NELSON FINE ARTS CENTER



Sing with the Symphony Adult & Children's Chorus

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ALEXEI
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This concert features a program of vivid contrasts, blending lightheartedness with emotional depth. The performance opens with Milhaud's "Le boeuf sur le toit", followed by Alexei Romanenko's intense rendition of Shostakovich's "Cello Concerto No. 1". The evening concludes with Shostakovich's witty "Symphony No. 9", juxtaposing a seemingly light facade against complex undercurrents. Embrace the grandeur in your furs and fancy.

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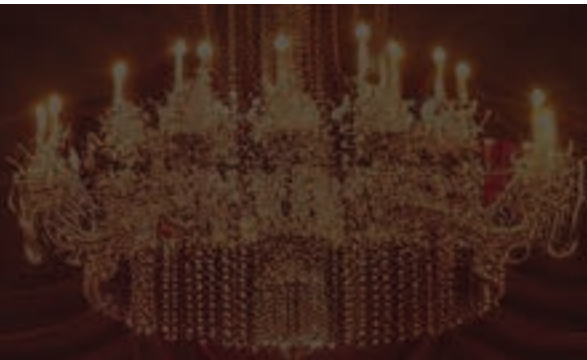
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Pictures at an Exhibition



& Bruch Violin Concerto ANNIKA JENKINS, VIOLIN

April 11, 2026 | 7 PM

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Josie Whiteis A Bassoonist's Journey

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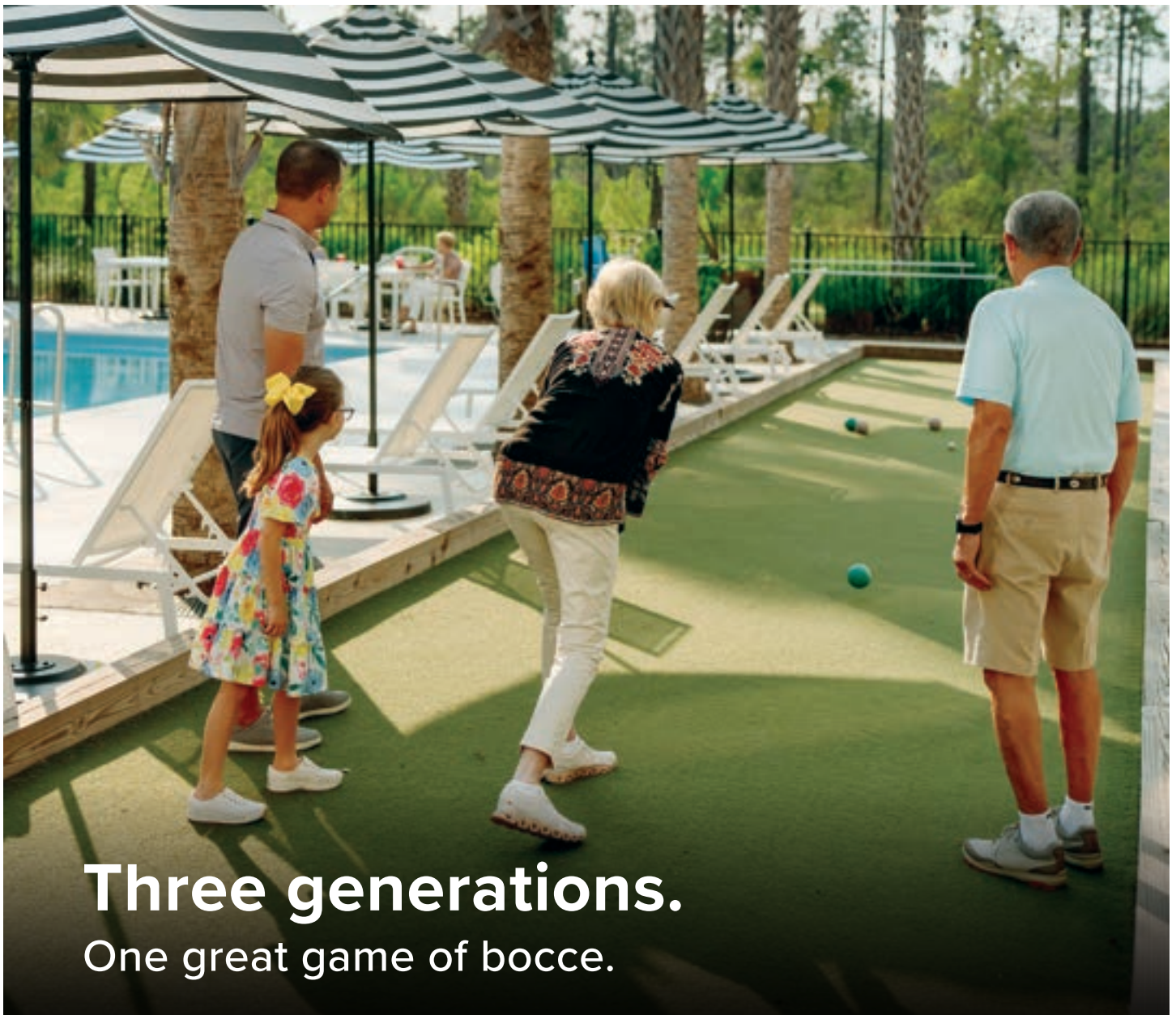
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Designed for our youngest K-2 audiences, our *Make Music Magic* program helps children develop an awareness and appreciation for music. Through interactive singing, exercises that use motor skills, and imaginative activities, students are guided to listen, react, and share their thoughts about different musical genres. The program helps children understand how music can express emotion and connect them to others.



With Gratitude to our 2025-26
Make Music Magic Sponsors
Dr. David and Colleen Dietrich

Grades K - 2nd

DISCOVERING MUSIC

Symphony organizations have long recognized the need for early music education, which has been shown to improve academic skills, including math, language, and test scores, while also heightening listening abilities and increasing creativity. The Discovering Music program for students in grades 3-5 helps them explore the fundamental ingredients of music. In this program, musicians engage young minds by demonstrating their instruments' unique qualities and showing how they are used to create a full musical performance through active listening, individual instrument demonstrations, and interactive learning.



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Grades 3rd - 5th

HARMONY EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

The Harmony Educational Partnership provides a symphonic musical experience to students and a parent. This season, Reliant South Construction Group will provide 100 tickets to Girls, Inc. and Boys and Girls Club to our February 15, 2026 Matinee,



to our February 15, 2026 Matinee,
Andrew Lloyd Webber Symphonic Suites.

Drawings will be held at both organizations on Symphony Surprise Day.



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Grades K - 12th

GUEST ARTIST OUTREACH

The Symphony's guest artists are also dedicated educators and community builders. They perform recitals at various community locations, including schools and retirement communities. For example, when the 2024 Emerging Artists returned to perform with the Panama City Symphony in 2025, they each shared their talents at local retirement homes. This creates a win-win situation: the community benefits from their music, while the artists sharpen their performance and communication skills.



With Gratitude to our 2025-26
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MASTERCLASSES

Through our Masterclasses, high school and college students have the extraordinary opportunity to engage with a professional vocalist or musician. They enhance their musical knowledge and skill through various activities, including group lectures, one-on-one guidance, and instruction. Students also develop their performance and presentation skills and gain valuable insight into pursuing a music career.



With Gratitude to our 2025-26
Masterclasses Program Sponsors
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High School and Beyond

MENTORING PROGRAM

The Panama City Symphony Mentoring Program offers a rigorous pre-college training experience for advanced high school musicians in grades 9-12. Participants rehearse and perform with symphony musicians and receive private lessons and chamber music coaching, which can be in-person or online.

Meet Brooke Wright, 2025-26 Mentee

Brooke Wright is a senior at Deane Bozeman School with seven years of dedication to its band program. She has consistently demonstrated her musical talent by participating in prestigious ensembles, including the Florida All State Symphonic Band, the Bay All County Band, and the SEUS Honor Band at Troy University.

In addition to her ensemble work, Brooke has earned a superior rating at the Solo and Ensemble competition three times.

As she prepares for her next chapter, Brooke's goal is to continue using music to uplift others. She looks forward to furthering her experience by learning from and working with the Panama City Symphony.



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Grades 9th - 12th

Experience the Magic of *Moments with the Maestro*

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On the final evening of the competition, all finalists will take the stage for the Encore Showcase Concert.

This public celebration will feature each finalist performing a short encore-style composition, culminating in the announcement of the winners.

SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO JOIN US ON JUNE 13, 2026

With Gratitude to our 2026 Emerging Artists Sponsors:

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In the 2024 inaugural Emerging Artists Competition, Didi Stone (violin) won the High School Division and Victor Shlyakhtenko (piano) won the College Division. Each returned to Panama City for a public solo recital and a featured performance with the Panama City Symphony.



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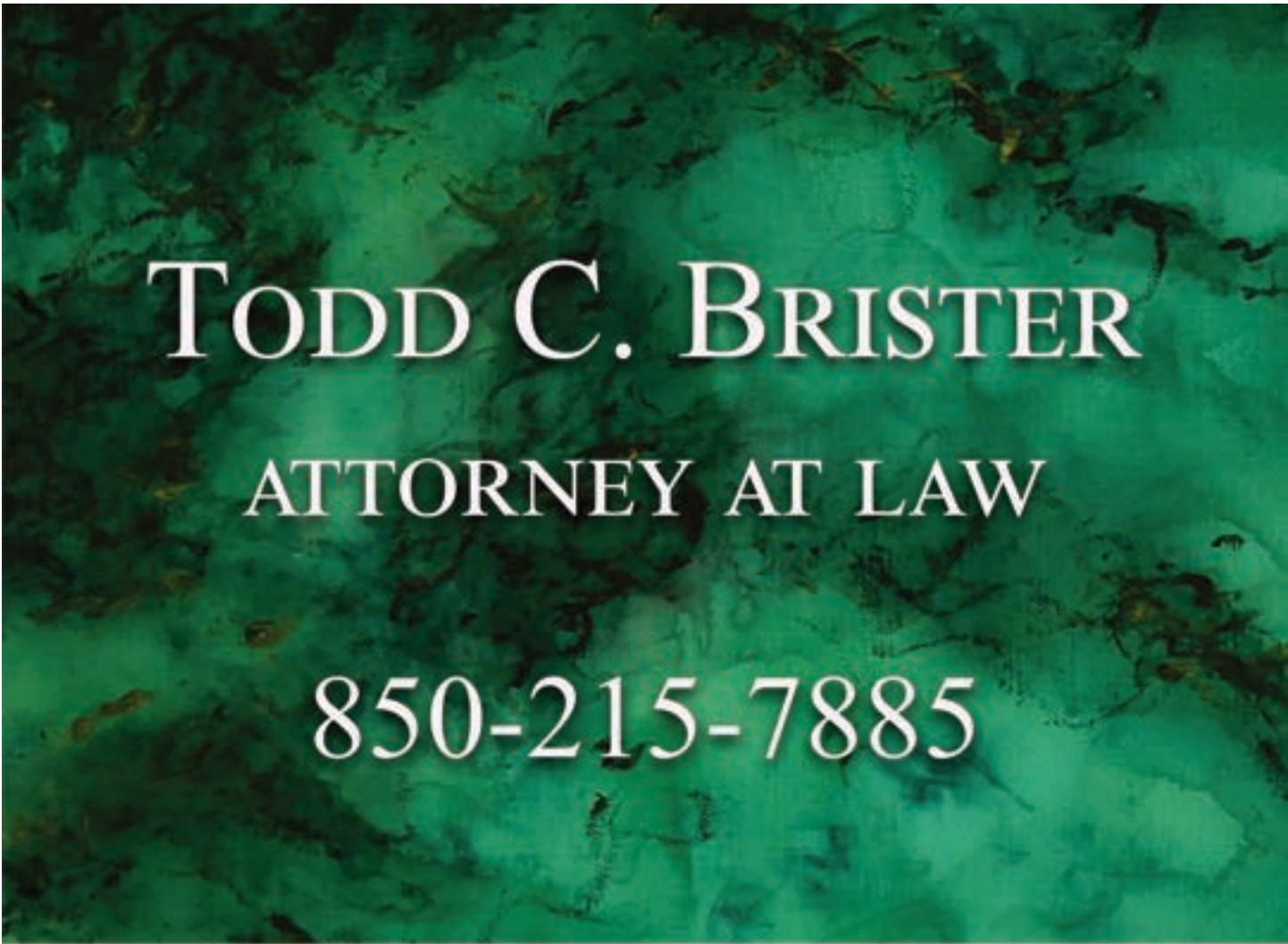


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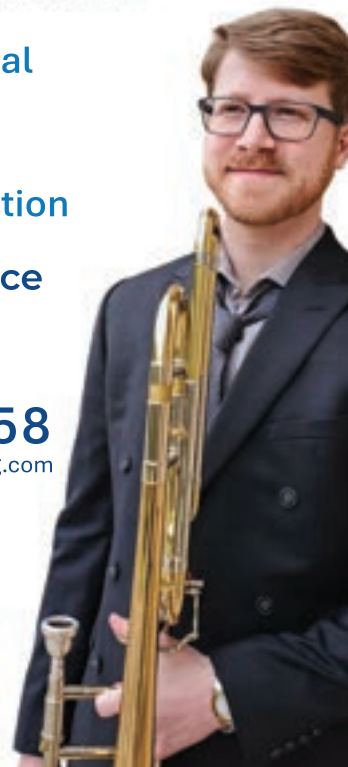
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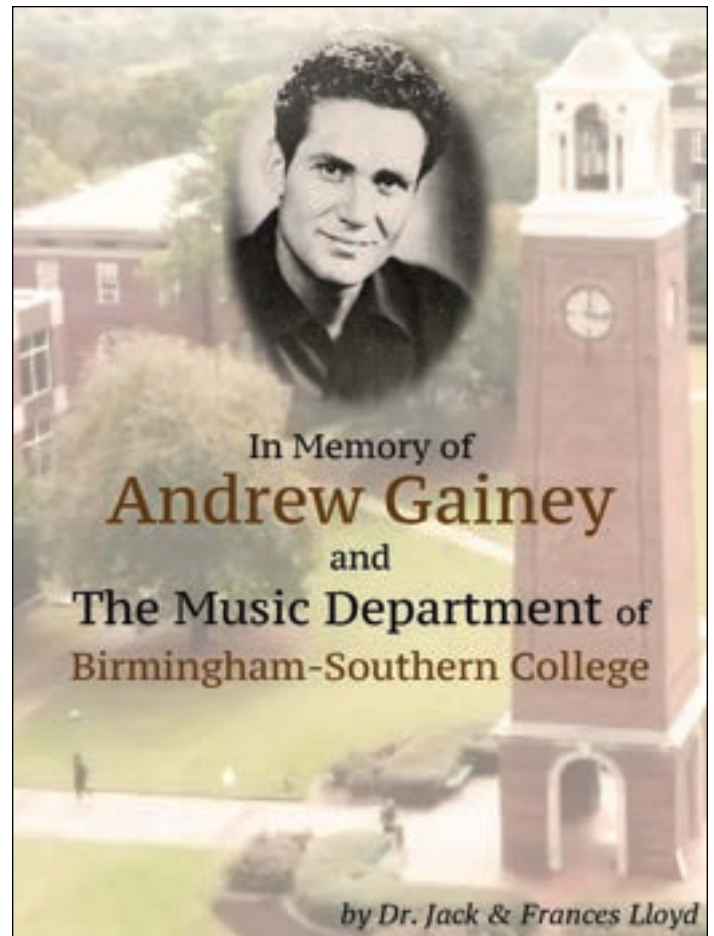
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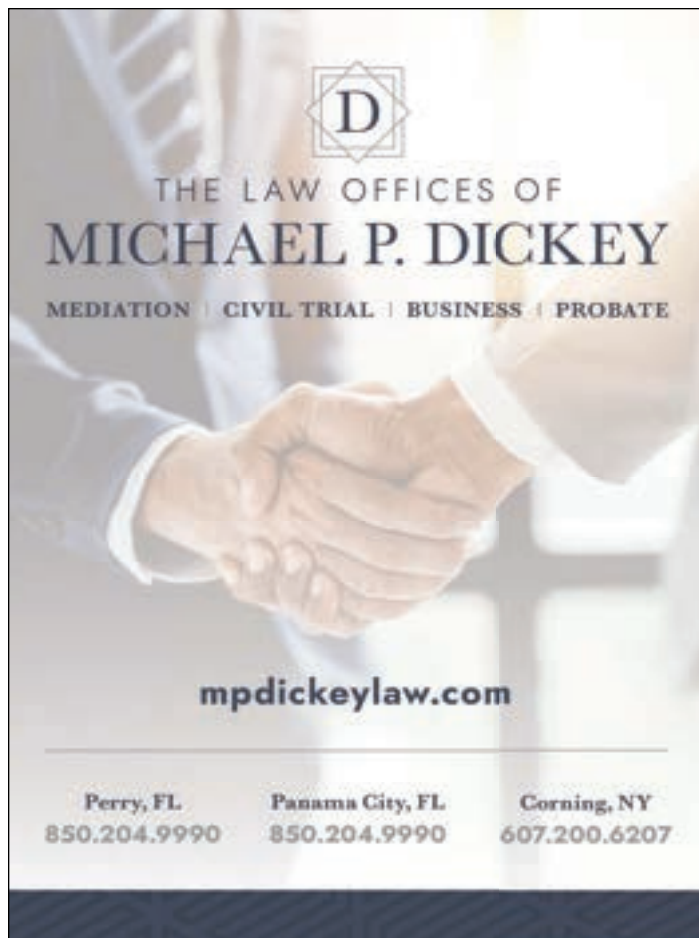
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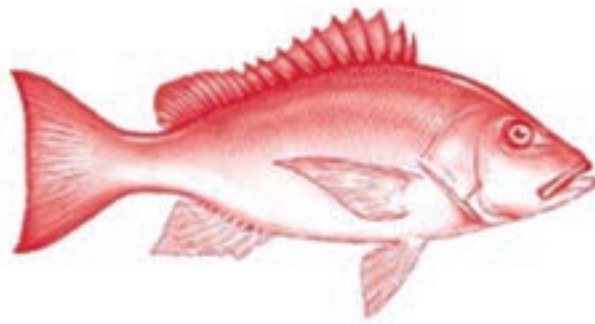
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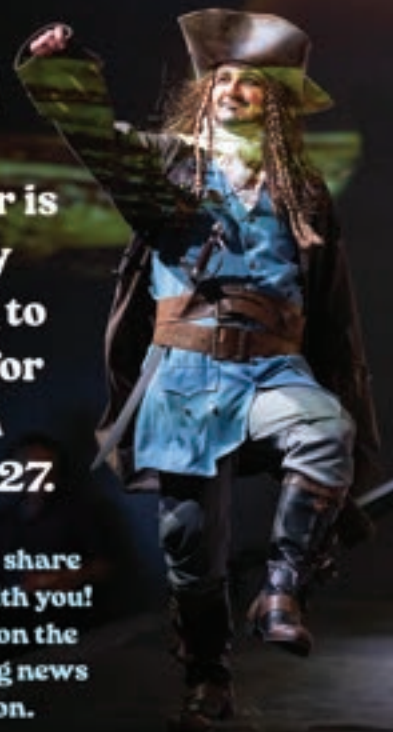
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