

# Artis—Naples

*Home of The Baker Museum  
and the Naples Philharmonic*

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## **GUEST CONDUCTOR JUANJO MENA LEADS NAPLES PHILHARMONIC IN KEVIN PUTS' *GEORGIA O'KEEFFE AND THE BRIGHTNESS OF LIGHT*, FEBRUARY 16 AND 18, 2023**

***Renée Fleming and Rod Gilfry are Featured Vocal Soloists***

**NAPLES, FL (February 2, 2023)** – Renowned vocalists Renée Fleming and Rod Gilfry join the Naples Philharmonic for two performances under the baton of guest conductor Juanjo Mena at Hayes Hall, February 16 and 18, 2023.

The program features soprano Fleming and baritone Gilfry singing the characters of American artist Georgia O'Keeffe and renowned photographer Alfred Stieglitz in Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts' *Georgia O'Keeffe and the Brightness of Light*—a song cycle for orchestra using texts from the thousands of letters the two wrote to each other from the time they met until Stieglitz's death in 1946. The performance includes projected imagery of O'Keeffe's and Steiglitz's work as well as photographs of them and their letters, to bring context to their words.

“I welcomed this challenge of creating a work which would encompass their years both together and apart, from the first cautious exchanges between the two artists, through their impassioned and complicated relationship, to the years long after Stieglitz' death, when I imagine O'Keeffe writing to him even still,” said Kevin Puts in a program note about his approach to writing this piece, which evolved from a song cycle he originally wrote just for soprano with text solely from O'Keeffe's letters (*Letters from Georgia*).

Also on the program is Elgar's *Enigma Variations*—a collection of one theme and 14 variations, each depicting a character in the composer's life.

Artis—Naples is a co-commissioner of *Georgia O'Keeffe and the Brightness of Light*, along with the Colorado Symphony; National Symphony Orchestra; University of Texas, Austin; and the Eastman School of Music, the alma mater of both Kevin Puts and Renée Fleming.

Tickets and additional information can be found at [artisnaples.org](https://www.artisnaples.org). Tickets include same-day admission to The Baker Museum.

### **Naples Philharmonic Masterworks Series**

**Juanjo Mena, conductor**

**Renée Fleming, soprano**

**Rod Gilfry, baritone**

Elgar *Enigma* Variations  
Kevin Puts *Georgia O'Keeffe and the Brightness of Light*

**Thursday and Saturday, February 16 and 18**  
**7pm Prelude, 8pm Performance**  
**Hayes Hall**

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### **ARTIS—NAPLES**

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

### **KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS**

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen, we offer audiences more than 800 paid and free events annually within a variety of venues and settings situated throughout the 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The cultural campus is home to five buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building and the Kohan Administration Building.

### **NAPLES PHILHARMONIC**

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida's arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around the Southwest Florida region. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors, with Andrey Boreyko being the fourth and most recent. Following the completion of Boreyko's eighth and final season in 2022, a search is underway for the Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director position. As the search continues, Artis—Naples has appointed violinist James Ehnes as an artistic partner for the 2022-23 season, working with Naples Philharmonic musicians in a variety of settings with a focus on inspiring and embodying a high level of artistry. Podium leadership includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 13 years in this role in the 2022-23 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. In 2017, conductor Radu Paponiu was named assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and in 2019 he was promoted to associate conductor. Starting with the 2022-23 season, Alvin Ho has joined the artistic team as assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic.

### **THE BAKER MUSEUM**

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine art museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors. Of particular strength are The Baker Museum's collections of American and Mexican modern art, including significant gifts from the collection of Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is dedicated to stewardship and scholarship from both its growing permanent collection and outside sources. At the same time, The Baker Museum seeks out the best traveling exhibitions from the leading arts institutions in the world—including recently the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Smithsonian Institutions—to enrich the Southwest Florida community. In fall 2020,

Artis—Naples celebrated the opening of an 18,000-square-foot expansion of The Baker Museum, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, that created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

### **EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY**

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages. Each season thousands of Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming both on its cultural campus and in classrooms. The Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, with more than 3,400 households who give \$75 or more, offers activities, travel experiences and events geared toward creating a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival’s continued excellence and growth. In 2019, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine’s “Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World,” and in 2022 celebrated its 14th year in the community.

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