



Temple Beth Israel Presents:
Strings Con Brio



July 16, 2026 | 7:00 PM



The Center of Jewish Living on Longboat Key

569 Bay Isles Road
Longboat Key, FL 34228

Maestro Bowermeister, Conductor

About Us



Strings Con Brio is a community string orchestra under the artistic direction of Kenneth Bowermeister and management of Monica Sirocchi. The organization engages over 65 musicians from student through the professional level, and operates with volunteer leadership and staff.

The mission of Strings Con Brio is to provide a venue for musicians of varying ages and abilities to share their gifts and love of music with the community, thereby enriching the lives of both performers and audience members alike.

Strings Con Brio was incorporated in 2015, and received 501(c)(3) designation in 2016. The organization, which engages volunteer musicians, began with providing collaborative performances for events in the community, and now performs as a conducted ensemble.

Meet our Founder



Monica Sirocchi is the Founder and Executive Director of Strings Con Brio and a violinist in the ensemble. She holds a Masters of Nonprofit Management, Bachelors of Science in Health Services Administration, and a minor in music. Her work experiences have included roles in healthcare, education, business, and the nonprofit sector. Prior to incorporating Strings Con Brio, Monica coordinated collaborative performances of students and alumni of a local college. She is a Sarasota native, and has served on the board of directors for various nonprofit organizations since 2010.



Meet our Maestro



Mr. Kenneth Bowermeister is the former Music Director and Conductor of The Venice Symphony and the former Conductor of The Pops Orchestra of Sarasota-Manatee. He also served as Conductor of the State College of Florida Chamber Orchestra and the Sarasota Orchestra's Youth Symphony and Symphonic Strings Orchestras. Mr. Bowermeister has appeared several times as a Guest Conductor with the Sarasota Orchestra and with the International Festival Orchestra of Oxford, England.

For 30 years, Mr. Bowermeister was Director of Orchestras at Pine View School for the Gifted in Sarasota County. He developed the award-winning string program that included 350 students in five orchestras. The recipient of many honors, Mr. Bowermeister was selected Teacher the Year at Pine View School on three occasions, was twice voted Sarasota County Music Educator of the Year and in 1998, was chosen Sarasota County Middle School Teacher of the Year. In 1999, he received the Sarasota Arts Council award for Outstanding Educational Leadership in the Arts.

Mr. Bowermeister performed as a violinist and a violist with the Florida West Coast Symphony, now the Sarasota Orchestra, where he served as Assistant Concertmaster for 21 years. He is a pupil of the internationally renowned Hungarian violinist Kato Havas and is a well-known teacher of Ms. Havas' exciting and revolutionary new approach to string playing.



A graduate of New College, the Honors College of the State of Florida, Mr. Bowermeister has been a member of the Florida Music Education Association (FMEA), Florida Orchestra Association (FOA), and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).

Program



Concerto for String Orchestra.....Telemann, Arr. McCarrick

Air on the G String.....Bach, Arr. Dabczynski

Coronation March from *The Prophet*...Meyerbeer, Arr. Dabczynski

La Donna è Mobile from *Rigoletto*.....Verdi, Arr. Hoffman
Michael Bodnyk, Tenor

Theme from Symphony No. 1, Movement III.....Mahler, Arr. Pfeil
Amanda Bauman, Bass

Fantasia on American Themes.....Trad., Arr. Barnard
My Country Tis of Thee - When Johnny Comes Marching Home
A Shaker Melody - America the Beautiful

Stephen Foster Legacy.....Foster, Arr. Bobrowitz and Law
Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair - Camptown Races

Beautiful Dreamer.....Trad., Foster
Michael Bodnyk, Tenor

Moon River from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.....Mancini, Arr. Neely
Michael Bodnyk, Tenor

Selections from Fiddler on the Roof.....Harnick and Bock,
Arr. Baumel

Tradition - If I Were a Rich Man
Matchmaker - Sunrise, Sunset - To Life
Kei Sulhi, Soprano
Andrii Padkovskyi, Violin - Benjamin Maynard, Violin

Pirates of the Caribbean: *The Curse of the Black Pearl*.....Badelt,
Arr. Ricketts

The Medallion Calls - Blood Ritual
Walk the Plank - The Black Pearl

Personnel



Conductor

Kenneth Bowermeister

Jason Mayden

Susan Oliveri

Claire Stone

Violin I

Linda Brucksieker

Maria Ginés

+Laura Jensen-Jennings

Francesca Jourawleff

Margaret Knoblock

Barbara Landy

Armida Lawter

*Benjamin Maynard

Shane Sharkey

George Tapia

Einav Zeevi

Cello

Antonio Austin

Elliot Oliveri

Donald Buxton

Leticia Colomeu

Ann Krause

Parker Lawler

Paula Rothman

Roberta Simon

+Anne Suda

Matrick Thorpe

*Nicholas Ungarelli

Norma Wanegar

Violin II

Ava Austin

Sooyun Chun

*Jaime Del Castillo

Maria Fullam

Renton Grupman

Ralph Liebshtein

Aandrii Padkovskyi

Joan Pollock

Monica Sirocchi

Bass

*Amanda Bauman

Piano

+Angela Steiner

Viola

Alexander Austin

Angela Hartvigsen

*Karen Mamel

Soloists

+Michael Bodnyk, Tenor

+Kei Sulhi, Soprano

**Section Leader*

+Denotes Guest

Meet our Soloists



Michael Bodnyk, tenor, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in voice from Mannes College of Music, the Master of Church Music degree in conducting from Concordia University Wisconsin, the Master of Arts degree in voice from Hunter College (CUNY), and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in music education from Boston University. He is currently

completing his Doctor of Sacred Music degree through the Graduate Theological Foundation. Mr. Bodnyk currently serves as the Minister of Music at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church. Before moving to Florida, he served as a cantor, section leader, and soloist at St. Patrick's Cathedral (NYC) for over 16 years. For many years, he served as the cantor for the daily masses broadcast nationally via satellite radio and television. With the Cathedral Choir, he was honored to sing for Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, President Bush, and many other world leaders and dignitaries. Mr. Bodnyk also served as the Music Associate at the historic Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral for several years. A strong proponent of music education, Mr. Bodnyk held teaching positions within the Archdiocese of New York for over a decade at the Academy of St. Joseph, St. Brigid School, and the Cathedral of St. Patrick Young Singers. He also served as the founding Co-Executive Director and Director of Arts for Camp Rhythmo, a STEAM-based nonprofit organization for young people. Mr. Bodnyk is the recipient of the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award from Moravian Academy (Bethlehem, PA), his alma mater. He is a past recipient of the Ruth K. Jacobs Award from the Choristers Guild and the McKeenan Award from Handbell Musicians of America. Mr. Bodnyk was invested as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, one of two papal knighthoods, in 2016 at St. Patrick's Cathedral by Cardinal O'Brien.

Meet our Soloists



Kei Sulhi grew up in Sarasota, Florida, graduating from Riverview High School. She attended Florida State University, where she majored in Voice and Music Therapy. While there, Kei traveled to Spoleto, Italy and performed in concerts and opera at the Festival Dei Due Mondi with the FSU chamber singers under the direction of Gian Carlo Menotti. She later earned her

M.A. in Rehabilitation Counseling at the University of South Florida and had a career in various capacities as in-home therapist for at-risk families, and community and residential mental health. She directed programming in child development, parenting training, in-home parenting education, and family therapy. Returning to music, Kei took turns as a soloist for churches and concert groups. In 2011, she founded the A Cappella group, The Friends of Allison, with student singers from New College of Florida. They dedicated performances in memory of her daughter, Allison, and concerts for families who have experienced loss. Presently, she is a Cantorial Soloist at Temple Beth Israel, Longboat Key, where she has been since 1996. She sings under the direction of Ann Stevenson-Moe.

Acknowledgements



Maestro Kenneth Bowermeister – Strings Con Brio Musicians
and Guests – Monica Sirocchi – Megan Swick – Bernard Scalise
– Shannon Thorpe – Timothy and Leneigh Sharkey – Robert
Lawter – Elora Lawter – John Jones – Armando and Eliana
Sirocchi – Temple Beth Israel Men's Club, Education Center, and
Staff – Alan Freedman – Alan Cohen – Lewis Moyer – Stuart Sinai
– Susan Goldfarb – Carl Kurtyka – Ralph Liebshtein and Arlene
Levy – Juan Marina – Shana Johnson

Thank You!