

The Charlotte Chorale  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – by Lia Soscia**

## **Port Charlotte High School Graduate Frank Sanders Excels In Music**

**Punta Gorda, FL – November 14, 2024** – Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) is known for its robust academic programs and commitment to student success. While many recognize FGCU's excellence in fields like business, engineering, and nursing, as well as its thriving NCAA Division I athletics, FGCU also hosts a gem of a program in the Bower School of Music. This distinguished school attracts dedicated musicians, and among its talented students is Frank Sanders, an accomplished saxophonist and pianist with impressive credentials, who accompanies The Charlotte Chorale while pursuing his studies in saxophone at FGCU.

Frank's musical journey began at age 12 as a self-taught instrumentalist. Today, he has established himself as a rising star in the music community, representing FGCU and Florida's music talent internationally. In October, Frank attended the renowned Alpen Classica Festival in Brixen, Italy. At the festival, he trained with distinguished instructors and collaborated with a global cohort of musicians, gaining fresh insights into saxophone performance and elevating his skills through intensive practice and performance.

The festival allowed Frank to work with accomplished instructors who helped him deepen his technique and expand his musical vision. These experiences in Italy have enriched his artistry and will serve him well in his dual path as a saxophonist and pianist. Closer to home, Frank is accompanist for The Charlotte Chorale.

Frank's relationship with The Charlotte Chorale began in 2020 when he auditioned for the R. Bruce and Caroline MacGregor Memorial Scholarship as a high school senior. His saxophone performance made a significant impression on Dr. William Dederer, the Chorale's Artistic Director. Dr. Dederer fondly recalls, "Frank 'played the spots off' his audition piece." Later in the audition session, Frank returned to accompany another scholarship applicant on the piano. His talent on both instruments left the Chorale's leadership stunned, prompting them to recruit him as their accompanist—a role he has embraced with dedication since 2020.

In addition to his work with The Charlotte Chorale, Frank has accumulated numerous awards, including the Young Artist Competition Award, 1st place in the Bach Ensemble Awards for piano, the Jillian Prescott Music Competition 1st Place, and recognition as the Florida All-State Symphonic Band Principal Alto Saxophonist. Even in high school, Frank took the initiative to create and lead student ensembles that achieved excellent results at the Florida Bandmasters Solo and Ensemble contests.

The Charlotte Chorale is proud to support Frank as he continues to grow in his musical career. Community members are encouraged to attend upcoming Chorale concerts to experience Frank's remarkable talent. With a promising future in music, Frank Sanders exemplifies dedication and artistic excellence. Keep an eye on The Charlotte Chorale's website for concert dates and tickets to experience Sanders' dynamic piano skills live.

**For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: [www.charlottechorale.com](http://www.charlottechorale.com)**