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In tune with a mission to expand chamber music offerings

PROFILE IN PARADISE

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Since it was founded in 1995, the mission of Classic Chamber Concerts has been to provide world-class music to local audiences and to educate and encourage young people to enjoy classical music. Maestro William Noll has been artistic director since 2008; Nancy Kerns became executive director earlier this year when she was promoted from administrative director to help expand programming to venues in Marco Island and North Naples and to introduce concerts to younger audiences through educational outreach.

Over the years Nancy has held various marketing and sales positions, starting her sales career with AT&T Communications. For 15 years she and her husband, John, owned a candle-manufacturing business and sold their products to national retailers including Pier 1 Imports, Bed Bath and Beyond and Target.

A true Hoosier from Indianapolis, Ind., she graduated from Carmel High School and earned a degree in marketing from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. She is affiliated with Pi Beta Phi Sorority and has served as president and treasurer at the Bloomington, Ind., chapter.

Nancy's 30 years of vacationing in Naples (her mother has lived here for 25 years) ended when she and John moved here in 2009. She went to work at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, managing and staffing the downtown Naples Visitor Information Center and coordinating information with the other six visitor centers in Collier County in conjunction with the Naples, Marco Island and Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau. She was recently appointed to the Collier County Tourist Development Council and also serves on the Naples Code Enforcement Board, the Collier Citizens Council and committees affiliated with Fifth Avenue South, Baker Park, The Naples Players and Park Shore. She has also been recently appointed to the Greater Naples Better Government Committee.

The 22nd season of Classic Chamber Concerts begins Dec. 19 with guest artists and brothers Joseph and Sam Peliska performing concertos for solo guitar and clarinet at the Sugden Community Theatre. Subsequent concerts will feature the Jasper String Quartet, young Costa Rican pianist Daniela Navarro,

violinists Max Rabinovitsj and Nadir Khashimov and virtuoso trumpeter Mary Bowden with a special appearance of The Bach Ensemble performing highlights from Haydn's "Creation." There will also be a rarely performed piano quintet by conductor/composer George Szell. In addition, two concerts are planned at the Marco Island Historical Museum. For more information, call 434-8505 or visit classicchamberconcerts.org. |



Talking points with Nancy Kerns

Something your mother was always right about: Most things. She gave me a lot of advice, and I listened.

Mentor: Murray Hendel.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? A doctor.

High school job: I was a sales associate at Lazarus Department Store.

What would you be doing if you weren't doing this: I think I'd be an events coordinator.

Guilty pleasure: Blue Moon beer.

Next vacation destination: Savannah, Ga.

One thing on your bucket list: A cruise through the Panama Canal.

Skill or talent you wish you had: I would like to play the piano.

Advice for kids: Always go to class.

Something that makes you laugh: My dog, HB.

Last book you read: "Killing Kennedy" and "Killing Lincoln," both by Bill O'Reilly.

Something people might be surprised to find out about you: I have a minor in French.

What are you most proud of? My community involvement.

What the Paradise Coast really needs: Sand and parking.

Favorite thing about the Paradise Coast: The people, beauty and the vast amount of activities available.

— Bob Harden is the producer and host of "The Bob Harden Show," airing from 7- 8 a. m. weekdays at bobharden.com. Past shows are archived on the website.

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