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WELCOME



Good Evening and Welcome!

As we close season 32, we wish to thank you for your attendance and support. This season was a challenging one, having to move dates and locations. In spite of all of the upheaval, we were able to give you some memorable performances and experiences. From old friends coming home to perform with us again, to new friends being made, this season was one to be remembered.

And we have more fun in store for next season! Please watch for our season announcement and subscription renewals as we prepare for Season 33! We are grateful that you are here tonight, and we hope you enjoy this evening's program.

Ron Brooker

Ron Brooker, FSO Executive Director

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PODIUM NOTES



We will be celebrating Memorial Day weekend with truly wonderful music by American composers, from the end of the 19th century to the present day!

It is always a joy to collaborate with virtuoso violinist Andrés Cárdenes, whose past performance of the Bruch *Violin Concerto #2* with the FSO was truly captivating. For many years the concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony, Andrés will be performing Samuel Barber's beloved *Violin Concerto*, one of the great pieces of the violin repertoire.

We will also be playing Anthony DiLorenzo's *American Fantasy Prelude*, a piece dedicated to me and to the National Repertory Orchestra. Previously the FSO played to great acclaim Tony's *For Spacious Skies* last November for our Veteran's Day weekend concert and the world premiere of *The Holidays are Here Again* for our 2021 holiday concert.

Alan Hovhaness' haunting and engaging *Mysterious Mountain* will be accompanied by stunning photos of the Rocky Mountains, beautifully synchronized with the music.

Other selections will include Gershwin's lively *Cuban Overture*, John Williams' stirring music from *The Patriot*, and 19th century composer Dudley Buck's *Festival Overture on the Star-Spangled Banner*, which concludes with the audience rising to sing our national anthem.

We look forward to presenting this exciting program as we honor America with some truly outstanding American music.

Carl Topilow, Music Director and Conductor

CARL TOPILOW



During Carl Topilow's tenure as the Firelands Symphony Orchestra's Music Director and Conductor, the orchestra has seen a dramatic improvement in the orchestra's quality, a significant rise in subscriptions and the appearance of world class soloists to our stage.

In addition to his work with the FSO, Topilow is Founding Conductor of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, Conductor Laureate of the National Repertory Orchestra, a summer festival in Breckenridge, Colorado, and was named Faculty Emeritus at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has served as principal pops conductor of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, and the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra.

Topilow has performed as guest conductor with 132 different orchestras in 37 states and 12 foreign countries. This year, he will be hosting his fifth conducting workshop in Cleveland.

Topilow's wife Shirley is President and CEO of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra. Their daughter Emily is a marketing associate with the Cleveland Clinic, and their daughter Jenny is a violinist with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

Carl's book, *The Orchestral Conductor's Career Handbook* published by Rowman and Littlefield, is now available through www.carltopilow.com and www.rowman.com.



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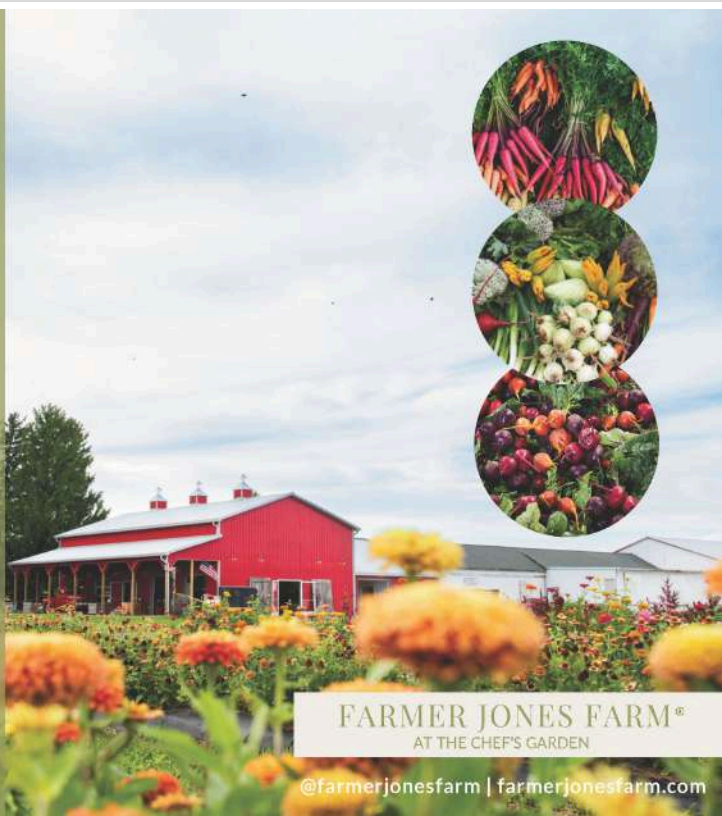
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ANDRÉS CÁRDENES, VIOLIN

Recognized worldwide as a musical phenomenon, Grammy-nominated Andrés Cárdenes parlays his myriad talents into one of classical music's most versatile careers. A ferocious, passionate and personally charismatic artist, Cuban-born Cárdenes has garnered international acclaim from critics and audiences alike for his compelling solo violin, conducting, viola, chamber music, concertmaster

and recorded performances.

Since capturing the Second Prize in the 1982 Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition in Moscow, Mr. Cárdenes has appeared as soloist with over one hundred orchestras on four continents, including those of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Moscow, Bavarian Radio, Dallas, Helsinki, Shanghai, Caracas and Barcelona. He has collaborated with many of the world's greatest conductors, including Lorin Maazel, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Mariss Jansons, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Sir André Previn, Leonard Slatkin, Jaap van Zweden, David Zinman and Manfred Honeck.

Mr. Cárdenes is in great demand as a conductor. His appearances with the Bavarian Radio, Detroit Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Neue Philharmonie Westfalen, Sinfónica Nacional de Bogota, San Diego Symphony, Sinfónica de Caracas, Orquesta Fundación Beethoven (Santiago, Chile), and the OFUNAM Orchestra of Mexico City have received rave reviews. Headlines proclaimed "Cárdenes conducts Pittsburgh Symphony with epic mastery" (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review) after stepping in for an ailing Robert Spano. Mr. Cárdenes served as Artistic Director and Leader of the Pittsburgh Symphony Chamber Orchestra from its inception in 1999 through 2009.

A prolific recording artist, Cárdenes has interpreted concerti by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Barber, Balada, Chausson, Gutiérrez, and David Stock on the Artek, Naxos and Albany labels. He has recorded the complete works for violin by Leonardo Balada, and the complete violin and piano sonatas by Hindemith and Schubert. This year and next Mr. Cárdenes continues his project to record many standard and contemporary concerti.

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Made in America | May 24, 2025

The Firelands Symphony Orchestra
Carl Topilow, Music Director & Conductor

Guest Artist: Andrés Cárdenes, violin

Festival Overture on the Star Spangled Banner.....Dudley Buck

The Patriot.....John Williams

Concerto for Violin and Orchestra.....Samuel Barber

Allegro

Andante

Presto in moto perpetuo

Andrés Cárdenes, violin

INTERMISSION

American Fantasy Prelude.....Anthony DiLorenzo

Mysterious Mountain.....Alan Hovhaness

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Cuban Overture.....George Gershwin



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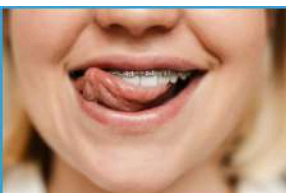
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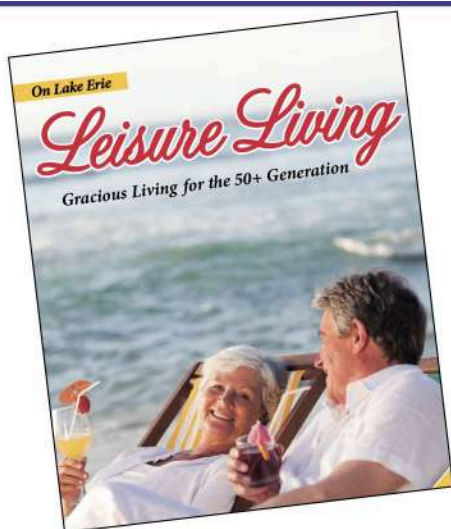
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