



Congratulations, Phil! "On Your "HOLE-IN-ONE"

Phil DiGennaro

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Classical South Florida 89.7 FM Begins Broadcasting

From the Top...

Thanks To A Grant From Philanthropist Mary Short

From the Top is a weekly, hour-long radio program that is beginning its 2nd decade showcasing America's top young classical musicians. The popular NPR radio program is heard on more than 250 stations nationwide with an audience of more than 700,000 listeners. From the Top is now being aired locally each Sunday over Classical South Florida 89.7 thanks to a generous grant by philanthropist Mary Short, President of The Mary Jane Harlow Charitable Trust.

"We are grateful to Mary Short for her exceptional support of classical music including this programming," said Douglas Evans, President and General Manager of Classical South Florida. "Mary's commitment to changing the lives of young people through the power of classical music is a testament to her lifelong passion for giving children positive values that can lead to more successful lives." Evans added that the series will inspire younger audiences and their parents and serve as a role model to other young people.

To celebrate the premier broadcast, Classical South Florida hosted a reception recently at the home of Shabnam Alibhai. At the reception, Claire Crawford, Major Gifts Officer at Classical South Florida 89.7 welcomed guests and introduced Doug Evans, who spoke enthusiastically about the explosive growth of the station since he started. He recognized some of those supporters in attendance including Dan Ashlin, President of Rio Vista Management Group and Cellist Anna Marie Litvinenko.

"Anna is the perfect example of how successful this programming is," Mary Short said. "She was a guest on From the Top when she was 13 years old. This past June, now 17 years old, Anna traveled to Moscow to compete in the XIV International Tchaikovsky Competition. She was the youngest competitor in the cello competition and one of the only three Americans." Ms. Litvinenko was joined by her father, Konstantin Litvinenko, a teacher at the New World School of the Arts High School. Anna delighted guests by playing "Violoncello Totale."

The weekly program celebrates the passion, dedication and personal stories of the nation's outstanding young classical musicians. Each hour-long episode features spirited performances and entertaining interviews with five featured soloists and/or ensembles. The show is hosted by acclaimed pianist Christopher O'Riley.

An important component of From the Top is the teacher kit that accompanies the program. This multi-media resource includes CDs, DVDs and printed material, all developed according to standards-based teaching and learning practices, which helps integrate the show into the classroom and club setting. In Broward County, one of the organizations incorporating "From the Top" into its programming is the Boys and Girls Clubs. Teacher kits will be provided to assist the club leaders in utilizing "From the Top" as an arts education resource.

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L.-R.: Mary Short, Douglas Evans, Anna Marie Litvinenko, Shabnam Alibhai and Dan Ashlin

L.-R.: Lynne and Ralph McGrath, Judith Carney, Maestro James Brooks Bruzzese and Renee La Bonte

On hand from various classical music organizations were representatives from Florida Youth Orchestra, Myra Weaver, Executive Director and the Symphony of the Americas, Renee La Bonte, Executive Director with Maestro James Brooks Bruzzese, Artistic Director.

This season more than \$200,000 in scholarships will be awarded to performers through the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award. Since 2005, this program has awarded more than \$1.2 million to pre-collegiate musicians who range in age from 8 to 18 with financial need to support their musical development.

To learn more call Claire Crawford, Major Gifts officer at Classical South Florida at (954) 522-8755, ext 205.

Classical South Florida is a member-supported, nonprofit 501c3 public radio organization dedicated to broadcasting classical music. Its program schedule includes broadcasts of nationally renowned classical programs such as Performance Today®, SymphonyCast®, Pipedreams® and The Metropolitan Opera®. CSF began broadcasting in South Florida in October 2007. Its program service is broadcast on WKCP 89.7 FM Miami, WPBI 90.7 West Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast and on a lower-powered repeater station at 101.9 FM West Palm Beach.



L.-R: Connie Higgins, Alicia Celorio, and Elsa Robinson

L.-R. Connie and Bill Lill and Susan Wuest.