

# Bach Festival Society OF WINTER PARK

Elizabeth Gwinn  
Executive Director

John V. Sinclair  
Artistic Director

Eric Ravndal III  
President

Contact: Margo Stedman, Program Coordinator  
Phone: 407.646.2342  
Fax: 407.646.2692  
E-mail: [mstedman@bachfestivalflorida.org](mailto:mstedman@bachfestivalflorida.org)

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## Humanitarian Opera Star Monica Yunus Comes to Central Florida

### Performance Information

**What:** Marilyn Horne Foundation Artist in Residence Soprano **Monica Yunus** in Recital

**Where:** Tiedtke Concert Hall, Rollins College

**When:** Friday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.

**Tickets:** \$15 for adults and \$10 for students 18 and under. To purchase, visit  
[www.bachfestivalflorida.org](http://www.bachfestivalflorida.org) or call 407.646.2182.

*The Hannibal Square Heritage Center in downtown Winter Park will be hosting a free reception for Ms. Yunus after the recital.*

**Winter Park, FL** The Bach Festival Society is partnering once again with the Marilyn Horne Foundation, this time to bring soprano Monica Yunus to Central Florida for a week-long Artist Residency. As part of her residency, Ms. Yunus will give education programs in schools throughout Central Florida and perform in recital on Friday, January 23, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Following her recital, which will take place in Tiedtke Concert Hall on the Rollins College campus, there will be a free reception at the Hannibal Square Heritage Center in downtown Winter Park.

The Marilyn Horne Foundation's Artist in Residence program brings the best voice talent to communities throughout the United States to encourage, support, and preserve the art of the

vocal recital. Marilyn Horne started the Foundation in 1993 and said of its mission, "Vocal recitals were essential to my development as a singer. I want young singers in this new millennium to have the same opportunities I've had in bringing the art of song to audiences everywhere." During her time in Central Florida, Ms. Yunus will be visiting four schools in Orange and Seminole Counties to perform recitals and interact with students. The students at each participating school will be invited to attend Ms. Yunus' final recital in Tiedtke Concert Hall free of charge.

Born in Chittagong, Bangladesh, to Russian and Bangladeshi parents, Ms. Yunus was raised in New Jersey and has established herself as one of America's most promising young sopranos. With bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School, she has already built an impressive résumé of international performances, ranging from The Metropolitan Opera in New York to recitals in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Madrid's Auditorio Nacional, with Her Majesty Queen Sofia in attendance.

In addition to her singing career, Ms. Yunus is deeply involved in humanitarian work. For this, she had a great example to follow. Her father, Muhammad Yunus, is founder of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his work in developing and distributing micro-loans to entrepreneurs too poor to qualify for traditional bank loans. Monica herself is the co-director of the charity Sing for Hope, an organization that maintains a roster of artists who are willing to donate their time and talents for charity. Sing for Hope facilitates the connection between artists and charities to respond to the pressing needs of individuals suffering from poverty, homelessness, natural disasters, inadequate educational resources, disease, or other hardship.

The Bach Festival Society is partnering with the Hannibal Square Heritage Center to host a reception for Ms. Yunus following her recital on Friday, January 23. The goal of this partnership is to encourage audience members of the Heritage Center to experience Bach Festival programming and to offer an opportunity for Bach Festival patrons to see the collection of the Heritage Center.

To meet its mission, the Marilyn Horne Foundation (MHF) partners with concert presenters throughout the country to co-present an MHF artist in a five-day stay, during which time the artist gives interactive educational programs in pre-college schools and a formal recital as part of the organization's concert series.

#### About the Bach Festival Society

The Bach Festival Society, located in Winter Park, Florida, is one of the longest continuously operating Bach Festivals in the country and among America's great oratorio societies. The Bach Festival Society brings the highest caliber of classical music to Central Florida. Performances are held in the intimate settings of Tiedtke Concert Hall and Knowles Memorial Chapel on the beautiful campus of Rollins College.

For more information regarding the upcoming season or to order tickets, please call the Bach Festival Society at 407.646.2182 or visit us online at [www.bachfestivalflorida.org](http://www.bachfestivalflorida.org).

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