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Thursday, February 19, 2015



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## Music club's Saturday safari: free string lessons, piano thrills, fun

**By Harriet Howard Heithaus**  
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Most people don't know the Naples Music Club, now celebrating its 50th year, once took on the Collier County School Board.

The fists were sheathed in velvet, but the punch was firm and steady: Bring back the school orchestra program.

Eventually, the board that had terminated the program in the spring of 1979 changed its

vote before the next school year started. That victory served a critical part of the Naples Music Club mission: to bring music to young students.

So the club naturally incorporated that principle in its birthday celebration. The result is a Musical Safari this Saturday, organized with the help of North Naples United Methodist Church and Collier County Public Schools.

Part education, part opportunity and part sheer delight, it will let children who never have

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Musical Safari, sponsored by the Naples Music Club with support from North Naples United Methodist Church and Collier County Public Schools  
**When:** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. Saturday  
**Where:** North Naples United Methodist Church, 6000 Goodlette-Frank Road N.  
**Admission:** Free 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; \$25 adults, \$10 adults accompanying children, and \$5 children for 7 p.m. concert  
**Information and concert tickets:** 239-384-9205

been to a live concert hear musical instruments, and even better, touch them and play them. Your First Day in Orchestra classes on stringed instruments will be open, with three instructors

and instruments available for the curious. The classes will last 50 minutes and are free, like every other event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at North Naples UMC.

"All the sciences are increas-

ingly persuasive in that there is nothing more important than playing a musical instrument to help students develop intellectually and socially. The brain is most responsive in the 4- to 5- to 6-year period," said Myra Williams, president of the organization.

### MOM AND DAD, TOO

That try-it-out option is open to adults, too. The organizers, in fact, want intergenerational

See SAFARI, 4D



## Jackson Browne, his songs tout activism at Mann

Jackson Browne might want to begin all of his world tours in Fort Myers.

A vocal crowd Tuesday night shouted "We love you, JB!" and other praises throughout the

California rocker's more than two-hour show at Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. The 66-year-old moves on to five other sold out shows in Florida before heading to Japan, Europe and Scandinavia and returning to the U.S. in the summer.

"Thank you, Fort Myers, for coming out making us feel at home," he said, then speculated Southwest Florida would be a nice place to live one day.

"I'm looking for someplace to move to. We'll keep it under our hat — don't tell anybody."

Most any Jackson Browne show includes a fair share of activism. Wearing a blue-gray shirt with the cuffs rolled

See BROWNE, 4D



Jackson Browne performs Feb. 6 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

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"Erasistratus Discovers the Cause of Antiochus' Disease," by Jacques-Louis David. 1774, oil on canvas, 47 1/4 by 61 inches.

# GODS AMONG US

■ Baker Museum to unveil what leaders say is its most significant exhibition ever

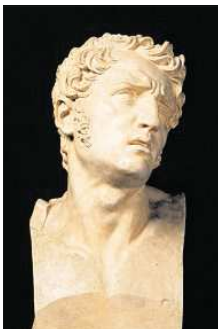
Get ready for the big one — the blockbuster — at the Baker Museum.

It's the multi-arts exhibition "Gods and Heroes: Masterpieces from the École des Beaux-Arts, Paris" — masterpieces of the "warhorse" variety from the 16th to 19th centuries — opening Saturday to the public.

How did Artis—Naples arrange for this unprecedented coup of 180 works?

"We have been working on this project almost since I arrived here three and a half years ago," said Artis—Naples CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. "I have had it in mind," added Frank Verpoorten, director and chief curator of the Baker, "since I worked at the Doherty Museum in Manhattan and helped install half of a two-part École exhibition, with the other half at the Princeton University Art Museum."

Both regard the show as the most important exhibition the



"Pain" by David d'Angers. 1811, plaster, 26 1/4 by 12 by 10 1/4 inches.

Baker Museum has presented in 15 years of operation.

"If there ever were a time for the public to visit the museum," van Bergen said, "this will be it."

They also are pleased "Gods and Heroes" will share museum galleries with three other significant exhibitions: "Surrealism in Belgium: The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie," many of its works being seen for the first time in this country; the timely selected "Florida Contemporary"; and "Face to Face: Artists' Self-Portraits from the Collection of Jackye and Curtis Finch Jr."

"Gods and Heroes" is a collaboration of the prestigious and traditional 400-year-old French national school of fine arts founded by Louis XIV joined with the promotional skills of the American Federation of Arts, New York. Together they planned the exhibition for the American public and produced the exhibition's 240-page catalog.

Making the choices of paintings, life-size sculptures,

See 'GODS', 6D



### IF YOU GO 'GODS AND HEROES'

**What:** Masterpieces from the École des Beaux-Arts, Paris  
**When:** Saturday through May 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and noon-4 p.m. Sundays  
**Where:** The Baker Museum, 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., North Naples  
**Admission:** \$10, adults; \$5, students with a valid ID and free, children younger than 17 and 6-9 p.m. last Wednesday of the month.  
**Information:** 239-597-1111, artinaples.org

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**SAFARI**  
from ID

classes. But kids aren't required. If you've always wanted to bow a violin, this is your chance.

"I've never played a cello or a harp, and I'm going to try them both," Williams said.

"We have all different sizes so children can play small instruments, the adults full-size ones. By the end of class you'll know pizzicato-ing and open string playing," said Judy Evans, director of the music club's prekindergarten music program. "If we have good students, we'll do a hoo-down on open strings at the end of the class."

For sanitation reasons, woodwinds and brass aren't among the first-time lesson opportunities. However, attendees will get to see just how much students can do with those instruments during performances by school ensembles. From Palmetto Ridge High, there's a chamber orchestra; Sea Gate Elementary has sent

its drumming corps and Mike Davis Elementary will present its own Calypso Kids steel drum group. About 20 schools have offered support with equipment or student performances.

For those who would choose professional entertainment, there's a trio performing Camille Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals" at 11 a.m. Concert pianist Alexandra Carlson and Milana Strezeva, founder of the Manhattan piano trio, along with Philharmonic cellist Si-Cheng Liu, will perform.

Rebecca Richardson will sing "Young Love"-themed arias; jazz vocalist-pianist Pat Bracy will improvise for audiences.

Naples Opera Society President Ron Bowman and concert pianist Anne McLean will lead visitors through the "opera jungle" and close-up composer tales.

**LIVELY LATIN FINISH**

At 7 p.m., there's a concert at the church that the club hopes parents and children will return for: jazz piano virtuoso Nachi-

to Herrera. "Nachito had such a compelling style. He just had the whole audience in his hand," Williams said of his previous performances. "It's really kind of a stretch for us financially but we're hoping people will be willing to contribute." The concert itself is \$25 for adults, \$10 for adults with children and \$5 for children.

Although it can't show off all its pre-K violin students, the club has had great success in those music programs, and not all of them required a violin in hand.

Williams said Guadalupe tests showed that its students in pre-K violin classes went from the lowest 25 percent in kindergarten readiness to the top 25 percent in its first year there. A test among Avalon Elementary pre-K kids showed a leap from 66 percent readiness to 90 percent



Nachito Herrera



JEANETTE BOUCHER

Students at Palmetto Ridge practice violin. The Musical Safari Saturday will offer an introduction — including a hands-on lesson — to anyone interested.

among the violin players. The program is in seven schools now, and Evans wants to expand it to nine. Williams has good

news for seniors, too. Several studies have said even people aged 80 and older can stimulate their learning capacity when there's

music involved. All the more reason to pick up that cello Saturday when an instructor offers it to you.

**BROWNE**  
from ID

up and black jeans and boots, Browne offered his views on everything from the environment to government in-between in his songs.

He started the night with "The Barricades of Heaven," from his 1996 album "Looking East." Browne then moved to the piano — as he did off and on — to play and sing "Looking Into You." "The Long Way Around" followed, and then he played "Leaving Winslow" that he said honors American railroads and is a tribute "to old hobos I used to run into."

The song is from his 14th studio album, "Standing in the Breach," released last fall. "I keep on hearing 'bout the

disappearing ozone layer/I keep on hearing 'bout the disappearing Greenland Shelf/I keep hearing all about the disappearing middle class/I figure I'll be doing some disappearing myself," he sang as red lights beamed onto the stage.

Before the song, he offered foreshadowing when he said of some lyrics, "It turns out I don't just forget the ones from the old ones but I forget the new ones, too."

Browne did just that on "You Know the Night," with lyrics provided from Woody Guthrie that Browne put to music. He held up his arms with clenched fists of frustration as he forgot a few lines but recovered nicely to finish the song.

"I sang it this afternoon," he lamented, adding, "There's too many words in that song."

It was the only hiccup in an otherwise stellar night of music. Fellow band mates provided solid support, notably Greg Leisz on electric and acoustic, lap steel and pedal steel guitars and guitarist Val McCaullum.

Browne ended with "Fountain of Sorrow" after about 70 minutes, and took a half-hour intermission.

He and the band returned with "Your Bright Baby Blues" from his 1976 album "The Pretender" and "Rock Me On The Water." "If I Could Be Anywhere" followed, a newer song inspired by the ocean.

"Searching for the future among the things we're throwing away/Swimming through the ocean of junk we produce every day," he sang.

Afterward, he urged the crowd to avoid using plastic

bottles because they often end up in oceans.

"It's not somebody else better do something, we better do something," he proclaimed.

The audience cheered, becoming louder, as many yelled out encouragement to Browne about such issues. He then sang, "Which Side?" a song that includes lyrics such as, "The battle for the future, baby, which side are you on?"

"When it comes to these songs about the ocean and the political system, there are things we can do," he told the crowd as they applauded.

"We're not helpless. Anyway, I appreciate you listening to these songs."

Someone in the crowd eventually shouted out the words "Doctor My Eyes," one of Browne's biggest hits. He responded by

pointing out to the crowd then jogging to the piano, where he played the 1972 song from his debut album.

The Rock And Roll Hall of Famer's voice was as powerful as ever on this and every song, sounding exactly as he did when he began churning out hits in the 1970s.

Another hit, "The Pretender," followed and many fans headed toward the stage with their smartphone video cameras on "record," as he sang one of his signature songs, the 1977 classic "Running On Empty."

The band left the stage but returned for encores, including the Eagles hit Browne co-wrote, "Take It Easy" and later "I Am A Patriot" at the crowd's request.

Dave Osborn covers pop and country music for the Naples Daily News.

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