

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF DECEMBER 13-19, 2007 A GUIDE TO THE GREATER FORT MYERS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE



Russian Romantics:

Andrew Kurtz leads the Gulf Coast Symphony in Classical Access Concerts

BY NANCY STETSON
Florida Weekly Correspondent



FLORIDA WEEKLY PHOTOS

Maestro Andrew Kurtz leads last week's rehearsal of the Gulf Coast Symphony.



The orchestra's chugging along when the man at the podium waves them to a stop. "There's not enough clarity," says Andrew Kurtz, gently addressing the musicians. "What you're doing has to be exact, you have to be together. When it's all

over the place, it starts to sound fragmented. Keep it simple. Don't overplay, don't overthink. You have to play the phrase exactly as it's written."

Then, like a classical-music human beatbox, he demonstrates what he wants, singing nonsense sounds to the musicians seated in front of him.

"Ba da PING," he tells them, vocally demonstrating the tempo and emphasis on each note.

He counts off the beats, and the orchestra repeats the phrase.

Kurtz smiles and nods his approval.

If you go

>>What: Classical Access Concerts: Russian Romantics

>>When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15

>>Where: Anderson Theater, Bishop Verot High School, 5598 Sunrise Drive, Fort Myers

>>Cost: \$10 to \$20

>>Information: Call 481-4849.

SEE SYMPHONY C4 ►

WEEK at-a-glance



Good grazing

Toro proves worthy contender among Bell Tower restaurants. C5 ►



Chamber concerts

A hot new chamber music series starts next month at the Foulds Theatre. C11 ►



Enchanted

It's the best movie of the holiday season, says film critic D.N.A. Smith. C11 ►

Art Basel is the Olympics for art lovers

BY JEFF CULL

jcull@florida-weekly.com

MIAMI BEACH — If you're an art lover, Miami Beach was the place to be last week.

The organizers of Art Basel Miami Beach tout the show as "the most important art show in the United States, a cultural and social highlight for the Americas."

Thousands of works — enough to fill a 5-pound catalog (that costs \$50), many with million dollar price tags — attracted the likes of Paris Hilton, Lucy Liu, Dennis Hopper, Lance Armstrong and more than 43,000 art enthusiasts to the four-day fair.

Works by local artists Bob Rauschen-

berg and Darryl Pottorf were scattered among the displays of 200 leading art galleries from around the globe. One woman reportedly purchased a Rauschenberg print for \$330,000. That was a steal compared to the others from Captiva's most famous person that were priced at nearly \$1 million.

One piece, "Detachable Figure: Dancer" by sculpture Jacques Lipchitz was going for a cool \$5 million. The undistinguished, 33-inch high woodblock sculpture was one of the rarest pieces at the exhibit.

And New York's Acquavella Galleries reportedly sold a 1973 Andy Warhol "Mao" painting with a \$12.5 million price tag. The actual sale price was not divulged.

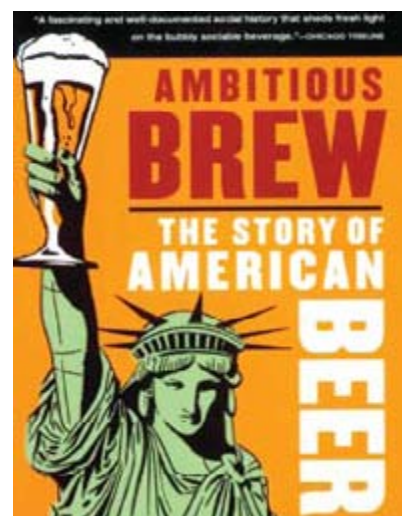


FLORIDA WEEKLY PHOTO

The art crowd at last week's Art Basel in Miami Beach jockey for position at the exhibition's bar.

Throughout the maze of German, Swiss, English, Brazilian, American and other art exhibits — more than 2,000

SEE BASEL, C8 ►



The history of beer

How the 7,000-year-old beverage was re-invented and re-defined to become a quintessentially American drink. C5 ►