

Artis—Naples

*Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic*

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ARTIS—NAPLES ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF VIOLINIST JAMES EHNES' ROLE AS ARTISTIC PARTNER

Naples, FL (February 13, 2023)—Artis—Naples announces the extension of James Ehnes' contract as artistic partner for an additional year, through the 2023-24 season.

Ehnes completes his first year in this role this spring, having performed with the Naples Philharmonic as soloist in Beethoven's Violin Concerto with guest conductor Sir Mark Elder in December 2022. His appearance with musicians of the orchestra in Schubert's Octet as part of the Syper Salon series takes place on March 7 and 12, 2023.

"We are delighted to continue this official partnership with our longtime artistic collaborator, James Ehnes," said Artis—Naples CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. "We appreciate the inspiration and commitment to the highest levels of artistry he always brings and are looking forward to seeing—and hearing—the continued growth of his relationship with the musicians of the Naples Philharmonic."

"Having already enjoyed over two decades of music-making with the Naples Philharmonic, it was a true honor to be appointed artistic partner earlier this season," said Ehnes. "I am pleased to extend this collaboration, as I continue in this esteemed role next season, and I look forward to sharing performances as leader, soloist and chamber musician with Artis—Naples audiences."

As the search for the next Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director continues, Ehnes is scheduled to perform during the 2023-24 season on two separate Naples Philharmonic Masterworks series programs in November and April. He will also collaborate with musicians from the Naples Philharmonic on a Wang Chamber Music series program following his concerto appearance in April 2024.

ARTIS—NAPLES

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen, we offer audiences more than 800 paid and free events annually within a variety of venues and settings situated throughout the 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The cultural campus is home to five

buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building and the Kohan Administration Building.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida's arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around the Southwest Florida region. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors, with Andrey Boreyko being the fourth and most recent. Following the completion of Boreyko's eighth and final season in 2022, a search is underway for the Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director position. As the search continues, Artis—Naples has appointed violinist James Ehnes as an artistic partner through the 2023-24 season, working with Naples Philharmonic musicians in a variety of settings with a focus on inspiring and embodying a high level of artistry. Podium leadership includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 13 years in this role in the 2022-23 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. In 2017, conductor Radu Paponiu was named assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and in 2019 he was promoted to associate conductor. Starting with the 2022-23 season, Alvin Ho has joined the artistic team as assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine art museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors. Of particular strength are The Baker Museum's collections of American and Mexican modern art, including significant gifts from the collection of Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is dedicated to stewardship and scholarship from both its growing permanent collection and outside sources. At the same time, The Baker Museum seeks out the best traveling exhibitions from the leading arts institutions in the world—including recently the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Smithsonian Institutions—to enrich the Southwest Florida community. In fall 2020, Artis—Naples celebrated the opening of an 18,000-square-foot expansion of The Baker Museum, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, that created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages. Each season thousands of Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming both on its cultural campus and in classrooms. The Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, with more than 3,400 households who give \$75 or more, offers activities, travel experiences and events geared toward creating a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival's continued excellence and growth. In 2019, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine's "Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World," and in 2022 celebrated its 14th year in the community.