



**"THE CHER SHOW"**

**WHERE:** Arsht Center, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami

**WHEN:** Jan. 2-7

**COST:** \$25-\$130

**CONTACT:** 305/949-6722, arshcenter.org

The theatricality, the soaring pipes, those sequined Bob Mackie dresses—everything about Cher has for so long seemed tailored for Broadway that it was inevitable somebody would put two and two together. That somebody is Rick Elice, who wrote the books for Broadway's "Jersey Boys" and "The Addams Family" and, in "The Cher Show," celebrates another cultural touchstone. Three actresses, referred to in the show as Babe, Lady and Star, portray different eras of Cher's remarkable life, and occasionally interact with each other, temporal logic be damned (she did write "If I Could Turn Back Time," after all). The music, 35 songs deep, is nearly all Cher's, and Mackie himself contributed the show's dazzling costumes, which won "The Cher Show" a Tony in 2019. Other actors portray notable figures in Cher's orbit, among them Lucille Ball, Robert Altman, Sonny Bono and Gregg Allman.

**SOUTH FLORIDA FAIR**

**WHERE:** South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach

**WHEN:** Jan. 12-28

**COST:** \$15-\$45

**CONTACT:** 561/793-0333, southfloridafair.com

There will be water, water everywhere at this year's South Florida Fair, whose theme is "Dive Into the Fun." New and exclusive events at the 2024 fair pertain to ocean conservation and marine life: Expect a live shark show, up-close sea lion encounters and immersive—the descriptor du jour in the entertainment world—"underwater experiences." Local organizations will educate visitors on the best ways to maintain a healthy ocean ecosystem, and the fair's resident paleontologist will stroll the grounds with baby sea animals in tow. This is all on top of the annual favorites at this now 112-year-old tradition: live music from national and local artists, daily Mardi Gras-style parades (with floats direct from New Orleans), an agricultural and livestock program with more than 1,000 exhibitors, and upwards of 200 rides, games and attractions. And don't miss the funnel cake; any New Year's resolution to eat healthier can wait until Jan. 29.



Miss South Florida Fair competition



**THE FANOOS ENSEMBLE**

**WHERE:** Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach

**WHEN:** Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.

**COST:** \$35

**CONTACT:** 561/832-7469, kravis.org

The term "Afghanistan musician" is practically an oxymoron. Music is among many pleasures of the free world banned by the Taliban, so to perform his art, Afghan vocalist and harmonium player Ahmad Fanoos had to flee the country—specifically aboard a Fox News evacuation plane during the final weeks of the U.S. presence in the country, in the summer of 2021. Now he's reunited in the States with his family-centered ensemble, including sons Elham Fanoos on piano and Mehran Fanoos on violin, and Sohail Karimi on tabla. Despite the troubles in their native country, the Fanoos Ensemble considers itself a cultural ambassador to Afghanistan, performing material from the country's pre-Islamic Buddhist period through contemporary compositions, and supplemented with poetry and visual art. The Fanoos Ensemble may not be able to perform in Kabul, but it has played Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center—and now the Kravis.

**SYMPHONIA CONCERT III**

**WHERE:** Countess de Hoernle Theater at Spanish River High School, 5100 Jog Road, Boca Raton

**WHEN:** Jan. 21, 3 p.m.

**COST:** \$55-\$90, \$10 students

**CONTACT:** 561/376-3848, thesymphonia.org

Principal Conductor Alastair Willis channels his longtime love for the theatre into the third program of the Symphonia's season, all of whose selections have a connection to the dramaturgical arts. A piece from Joseph Bologne—the first known classical composer of African descent, and the subject of the 2023 biopic "Chevalier"—was written for an opera, for instance. But it's a pair of connected compositions that most excites Willis: Haydn's Symphony No. 60, whose six movements were written for the play "Il Distratto;" and Anna Clyne's "Sound and Fury," which is directly inspired by the same Haydn symphony as well as Shakespeare's "Macbeth." "Clyne is one of the most performed living composers of today," Willis says. "She borrows a chord progression from Haydn's symphony and loops it. These repetitions mark out the passing of time. ... It's really cool."



The Symphonia's Alastair Willis

EDUARDO SCHNEIDER