

# SHOESTRING SOPHISTICATES

Yes, you can enjoy what South Florida has to offer culturally – and it won't cost a fortune.

BY SUE ARROWSMITH  
Special to The Miami Herald

As temperatures cool, tourism booms and out-of-town friends and relatives descend.

And why not? We may not have snow, but the climate is perfect for exploring South Florida's sandy beaches, charming neighborhoods and vibrant art and culture.

Knowing you're busy, we scouted out a few gems in the coming season that won't break the bank, but will take you to fun places to share with your favorite friends and lovers. The great weather beckons, as do the good times ahead.

#### LITERARY HAPPENINGS

• Head to the Street Fair of **Miami Book Fair International**, which runs from Friday-Sunday. Book readings, book sales, cooking demonstrations, music and a children's alley are all on tap. Got to [www.miami-bookfair.com](http://www.miami-bookfair.com) for a complete schedule. Admission ranges from \$5 to \$8 for the Street Fair; kids 12 and under are free.

#### HOLIDAY SPIRIT

• The new **South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center**, 10950 SW 211th St., will present *O Holy Night: Christmas with Seraphic Fire* at 8 p.m. Dec. 17.

The critically acclaimed ensemble presents a holiday program of timeless classics, including *O Holy Night* and *Silent Night*, as well as Gregorian chants. Tickets are \$25, \$15 and \$10 (\$5 tickets for students at [www.cultureshock.com](http://www.cultureshock.com)).

• Make it **A Soulful Christmas** with the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Art's Free "Gospel Sundays" concert at 4 p.m. Dec. 18, at the Knight Concert Hall, 1300 Biscayne Blvd. Enjoy favorite Noel songs performed by Grammy Award-winning gospel-jazz sextet TAKE 6. The concert will also feature two Miami gospel choirs: the Miami Mass Choir and the Unity on the Bay Choir. To reserve free tickets in advance, call the box office at 305-949-6722, or visit [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org).



PETER WOCINIAK/FOR THE MIAMI HERALD

**CHRISTMAS FAVORITES:** TAKE 6 will perform at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Art's free "Gospel Sundays" concert Dec. 18.

#### UNDER THE STARS

• **Big Night in Little Haiti**, free every third Friday of the month, celebrates Haitian music, food, art and traditions. This month, Papaloko and Loray Mistik will perform from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, at the Little Haiti Cultural Center Plaza, 212 NE 59th Terr. Visit the Family Art Corner by Positive

Impact Foundation from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. On exhibit in the main gallery: Earth, Tè, Tierra LHCC Local Artist Series II. Nearby galleries and studios will be open for free. For more information, visit [www.bignightlittlehaiti.com](http://www.bignightlittlehaiti.com).

• The next **Jazz at MOCA** (on the last Friday of the month) will feature music by New York-based trum-

peter Donald Malloy at 8 p.m. Nov. 25. Bring your picnic baskets, blankets and beach chairs for this free concert held on the lawn outside the museum (rain or shine). MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art), 770 NE 125th St., offers free admission the day of the jazz performance, from 7-10 p.m. Street parking. For more information, visit [www.mocanomi.org/jazz-at-moca](http://www.mocanomi.org/jazz-at-moca).

• The last Friday of the month, Nov. 25, is also Little Havana's turn to celebrate with **Cultural Fridays (Viernes Culturales)**. This free street festival runs along historic Southwest Eighth Street and includes a free tour of Little Havana at 7 p.m. (group meets in front of Tower Theater), live music, dancers, street performers, vendors, art galleries, domino competitions and more. For information, visit [www.viernes culturales.org](http://www.viernes culturales.org).

• The Grammy-nominated Cuban group, **Tiempo Libre**, will heat up Tropical Park, 7900 SW 40th St., at 8 p.m. Dec. 2, as part of the free *Noches Tropicales* concert series presented by the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department and sponsored by Target. Blankets, chairs, food and drink are welcome. Free parking. For more information, call 305-271-0812,

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November 17, 2011

Circulation: 170,769

or visit [www.miamidade.gov/parks](http://www.miamidade.gov/parks).

• **The Miami Beach SoundScape ExoStage**, corner of 17th Street and Washington Avenue, plays free movies on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. The upcoming lineup includes: *Raiders of the Lost Ark* on Nov. 23; *True Grit* on Dec. 7, *Chicago* on Dec. 14; *Some Like it Hot* on Dec. 21; and *Gremlins* on Dec. 28. In addition, South Pointe Park at 1 Washington Ave., will show the movie *Zookeeper* for little ones at 6 p.m. Friday. Free. For more information, visit [www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov). The SoundScape also is home to the **New World Symphony's free Wallcasts**. Bring your blanket, a picnic and your friends, and listen to the symphony under the stars. For a schedule, go to <http://www.nws.edu/Wallcasts.aspx>.

• **The Jake and Elwood Blues Revue**, top Blues Brothers impersonators, will take over Bayfront Park, 301 N. Biscayne Blvd., from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 9, for the last Downtown Concert Series of the year, presented by The Miami Downtown Development Authority (Miami DDA). This event, which includes food vendors, is free. For more information, visit [www.downtownconcertseries.com](http://www.downtownconcertseries.com).

### COMMUNITY THEATER

• **Aventura Arts and Cultural Center**, 385 NE 188th St., presents a new adaptation of *Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream* with a fresh spin to capture young audiences at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday. This Family Fun Series event begins pre-show with free arts and crafts activities and face painting. Whole Foods will provide complementary snacks after the show. Tickets are \$3-\$15. For more information, call 954-462-0222 or 877-311-7469.

• **Miami Children's Theater**, which recently celebrated its 100th show, presents one of the most beloved musicals of all time, *The Wizard of Oz*, at the Coral Gables Youth Center, 405 University Dr. Showtimes: Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. The young actors will also perform Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* at The Russell Theater in the Dave and Mary Alper JCC, 11155 SW 112th Ave. Showtimes: 7 p.m. Dec. 9; 2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 10, 2 p.m. Dec. 11, 7 p.m. Dec. 16th, 2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 17, and 2 p.m. Dec. 18. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and children. For more information, visit [www.miamichildrens-theater.com](http://www.miamichildrens-theater.com).

### FUN AT THE MUSEUMS

• **The Museum of Art - Fort Lauderdale** (MOAFL), in collaboration with Book & Books, will host actor Taye Diggs and his good friend, illustrator Shane W. Evans, as they present their new picture book, *Chocolate Me!*, based on their experiences of feeling different and trying to fit in as kids. This free presentation will take place at 1 p.m. Sunday in the museum's book store, One E. Las Olas Blvd., at Andrews Ave. MOAFL offers free admission every third Thursday of the month, from 5 to 8 p.m. Also, Bank of America customers get in for free the first weekend of the month (with proof of bank account, such as debit card). For more information, call 954-262-0222.

• **Visit the Miami Science Museum**, 3280 S. Miami Ave., on the first Friday of the month for **Fabulous First Fridays**, which offers a free Planetarium Star Show at 7:30 p.m. and rooftop observatory open from 8 to 10 p.m. Laser shows start every hour from 8 p.m. to midnight featuring music by Pink Floyd, The Beastie Boys, Bob Marley, and more. Tickets for the laser show are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Once again, Bank of America customers re-

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Circulation: 170,769

ceive free admission to the museum the first weekend of the month (with proof of bank account). For more information, call 305-646-4234, or visit [www.miamisci.org](http://www.miamisci.org).

- Relax and mingle during **Wine Down Wednesdays** (the first Wednesday of the month) presented by **HistoryMiami**, 101 W. Flagler St., in downtown Miami. Sip wine and enjoy free access to the museum's exhibitions, live music, cultural performances, and monthly lectures from 5 to 8 p.m. Complimentary parking available at the garage on 50 NW Second Ave. Visit [www.historymiami.org](http://www.historymiami.org).

- **Coral ROCKS! Bicycle Tour**, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, sponsored by the **Coral Gables Museum**, in association with AIAMiami's Celebrate Design and Architecture Month. Cost for the tour and picnic lunch is \$15 per person, \$10 for Coral Gables Museum members. RSVP to [chris@coralgablesmuseum.org](mailto:chris@coralgablesmuseum.org).

### FREE ART WALKS

- The first Friday of the month is **Coral Gables Gallery Night** starting at 7 p.m. Highlights include live music and a free trolley service that runs along Ponce De Leon Boulevard to the galleries.

- **Coconut Grove** hosts its **Art Stroll** on the first Saturday of the month, also starting at 7 p.m. The event includes exhibitions, live music, free samplings of food and drinks.

- **Miami Beach** has its monthly **First Saturday Art Walk** on the first Saturday of the month along Lincoln Road to the Bass Museum of Art.

- On the second Saturday of the month, it's **Wynwood Gallery Night and Miami Design District's Gallery Walk**, featuring contemporary works and performance art at dozens of galleries, warehouses and art spaces.

- **Brickell Gallery Night** is celebrated on the third Thursday of the month.

- The **North Miami Beach Art Walk** is held along Northeast 125th Street on the last Friday of the month, in connection with the Jazz at MOCA concert.