

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Shaun P. Merriman
941/306-0105

**Gateway Bank to Host *La Musica* Musicians
“Meet the Musicians” Event on April 6 – Open to the public
Gateway Bank, 1100 S. Tamiami Trail (at Bahia Vista), Sarasota**

March 16, 2011 – (Sarasota, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida, announced today that the bank is hosting a “*Meet the Musicians*” event on the 6th of April as part of a special concert season for La Musica, as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary. “The La Musica Festival is the epitome of Sarasota’s elite arts culture and has consistently brought the finest musicians from around the world to our community for the past 25 years, and we are delighted to host nine internationally renowned musicians to provide the public with an opportunity to mingle with them,” says Merriman. He added, “Gateway Bank is proud to have supported La Musica for the past three years, and we ask the public to continue to support this esteemed organization.”

Among those attending are [artistic directors](#) Bruno Giuranna and Derek Han. Mr. Han is a founding member of the organization. In addition, Julie Albers (cellist) and Franco Petracchi (bass) will perform excerpts from the Rossini Duo for cello and bass.

The “*Meet the Musicians*” event will be held on Wednesday, April 6, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Gateway’s banking center located at 1100 S. Tamiami Trail. Wine, beer, and hors d’oeuvres will be served. The public is welcome to attend. However, space is limited, so please RSVP by March 30, to 941-306-0114.

About La Musica: The critically acclaimed La Musica International Chamber Music Festival celebrates its 25th anniversary this upcoming April 1-15, 2011, in Sarasota. The theme for this celebratory year is “A Musical Jubilee.”

Under the direction of Artistic Director Bruno Giuranna and Associate Artistic Director Derek Han, La Musica brings together the finest musicians from around the world to present inspired programs of familiar and unusual chamber music. This year's festival will begin with the same program that started its journey 25 years ago, which includes Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik."

For more information, concert and rehearsal schedules, please call 941-366-8450, option 3, or visit www.lamusicafestival.org.

About Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida: Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida is an independent community bank serving business and consumer banking clients in Sarasota and Manatee counties. BauerFinancial (www.bauerfinancial.com) recently awarded Gateway Bank a 4-Star rating indicating the bank is well capitalized, exceeds regulatory compliance standards, and demonstrates high quality asset management.

Gateway Bank operates three full service banking locations. The main office is located at 1100 South Tamiami Trail in Sarasota. The University Parkway banking center is located at 6204 North Lockwood Ridge Road, and the Manatee Avenue Banking Center is located on the northwest corner of 21st Street West and Manatee Avenue West.

The shareholders and directors of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida are primarily residents of Sarasota and Manatee counties. The Board of Directors includes: Charles J. Bartlett – Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen and Ginsburg, PA; Dr. Gary K. Bockhold – Center for Sight; Dr. P.T. "Bud" Fleuchaus – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; David J. Grain – Grain Capital, LLC; David K. Maholias – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; Shaun P. Merriman – Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida; Gavin W. Meshad – JWM Management, Inc.; Katherine K. Moulton; Wayne M. Ruben – Ruben-Holland Development, LLC; and David E. Sessions, Willis A. Smith Construction Inc.

