



A PREVIOUS PICNIC IN THE PARK CREATIVE DISPLAY

COMMUNITY

PETER SHANNON DIRECTS THE SAVANNAH PHILHARMONIC



# Philharmonic to give free show at Forsyth

BY KIM WADE

912-652-0365  
kim.wade@savannahnow.com

It's been more than 10 years since Savannahians had the chance to sit in Forsyth Park for Picnic in the Park and hear a performance from the city's only symphony, but the wait is finally over.

The annual Picnic in the Park event will present the Savannah Philharmonic at the park's band shell, and the performance is free.

"This is obviously the first time the philharmonic has performed for Picnic in the Park," said David Pratt, executive director for the Savannah Philharmonic. "The philharmonic is absolutely excited to do this."

**What:** Picnic in the Park  
**When:** Oct. 6. Registration at 4 p.m.; judging at 5 p.m.; concert from 7:15-9:30 p.m.

**Where:** Forsyth Park  
**Cost:** Free

**Info:** [www.savannahphilharmonic.org](http://www.savannahphilharmonic.org)

Pratt said the Savannah Philharmonic is beginning its fifth season, and this performance marks the first time the orchestra has performed for the community for free.

"I've been here over three years, and the thing I hear most from people in the community is, 'When are you going to come back to the park?'" Pratt said. "The old symphony used to play Picnic in the Park.

"I want to say thank you to the city and the sponsors ... If it wasn't for their support, this wouldn't be possible. We really hope this becomes a tradition."

Under the baton of artistic director and conductor Peter Shannon, the performance will begin at 7:15 p.m. and is divided into two parts.

"They will perform classic pops in the first half," Pratt said. "It will be music that people will know from television, radio or in a movie. ... These will be pieces of music that are a lot of fun and very high energy."

After a brief intermission, the Philharmonic will perform music from Broadway and movies, such as a James

Bond medley, Morricone's "Gabriel's Oboe" and "West Side Story" selections.

The show will end about 9:30 p.m. with a "Salute to the Big Apple."

But before the Savannah Philharmonic takes the stage, the party kicks off with the Picnic in the Park's contest, so get to the park early to set up a creative picnic display.

This year's theme is "Celebrate the Arts." Picnickers have to register, and prizes are given to attendees who are the most creative with decorating their picnic spot and sticking to the theme.

Savannah area REALTOR® is again the sponsor for the picnic contest, with Janet Howard, chair of the Global Alliance Cultural Diversity Committee, and Linda King

and Bonnie Gaster, co-chairs of the picnic committee.

"The first-place gift basket we gave away last year was worth \$600 and second place was worth about \$300."

The baskets are filled with gift certificates for local restaurants and businesses, along with other items.

"Last year, we had 30 picnics register and we anticipate we'll have more this year ... We'll be set up early and people can come on down to the park any time after 1 p.m. and sign up and start setting up their space."

Registration is free and you don't have to register to set up a picnic spot. No grills are allowed, and those with tents are asked to place them on the perimeter to respect the views of others.



## ABOUT THE COVER

Food Font is an interactive art project where people can make alphabets out of food, take pictures and use these and other food alphabets in a fun, free, interactive online design tool. Teachers, health care workers and others are encouraged to set up events to create food alphabets in their own communities.

Learn more at [foodfont.com](http://foodfont.com).