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Major names slated for 2007-08 concert season

Pianist Murray Perahia will make his first South Florida appearance in 26 years to open the Concert Association of Florida's 2007-2008 lineup at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. The celebrated American pianist kicks off the season for Judy Drucker's concert series Oct. 23 with a solo recital at the Fort Lauderdale venue. On April 6, Metropolitan opera tenor Marcello Giordani will make his local debut in a concert with orchestra, and fast-rising English violinist Nicola Benedetti performs a recital Jan. 21. Conductor Christoph von Dohnanyi and the Philharmonic of London will come to town at a date to be announced, and Rafael Fruhbeck du Burgos and the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra return Feb. 19. The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra makes its first Broward Center appearance Dec. 5 with guest pianist Christian Zacharias. The season's lineup also includes pianist Garrick Ohlsson (March 5), violinist Pinchas Zukerman Dec. 17, and the Moiseyev Dance Company (March 3). Subscriptions for the eight-concert series range from \$168-\$624. Call 305-808-7446, ext. 301.

-- LAWRENCE A.

JOHNSON

HEADING TO L.A. Olga Garay left a lot of cultural footprints in South Florida. Now she's set to make some more in Los Angeles. Garay, founder of Miami Dade College's Cultural del Lobo series and former assistant director of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council, has been appointed the general manager of L.A.'s Department of Cultural Affairs. From 1984 to 1997, Garay cut a wide swath through Miami's cultural scene -- managing the county's Neighborhood Arts Program, helping to plan what would become the \$473 million Carnival Center for the Performing Arts, and supervising three art galleries and curating the Cultural del Lobo series. Garay later served as program director for the arts for the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for eight years before leaving the nonprofit in 2005 to become an independent producer and performing arts consultant. In Los Angeles, Garay will be charged with developing a cultural master plan for the city and overseeing a staff of 64 and an annual operating budget of \$9.9 million in 2007.

-- DANIEL CHANG

DOWN'S DOCUMENTARY *Monica and David*, a feature-length documentary produced and directed by Miami's Ali Codina, has been accepted into the Tribeca Film Festival's All Access program, which runs from Wednesday through April 29 and fosters works in progress by emerging filmmakers. Codina, 29, left her job as programmer and outreach manager for the Miami International

Film Festival last summer to concentrate full-time on the film, which focuses on the personal lives of a Kendall married couple with Down's syndrome."Until recently, most adults with Down's syndrome had very short life spans and lived very isolated lives removed from society," said Codina, who has been shooting since March 2005. ``The film will be an exploration of this very charismatic, funny, very-much-in-love couple, as well as the realities of their situation and what their families must deal with alongside them."Codina plans to begin editing the film in July, with the hope of completing the project within 10-12 months.

-- RENE RODRIGUEZ

SHE'S BAAA-ACKA familiar face returns to WXVN-Fox 7 next month when Robbin Simmons takes over as co-anchor of the weekend evening newscasts.Simmons, who spent three years as a reporter and weekend anchor at WSVN from 2001 to 2004, is returning from an anchor-reporter job at WDIV in Detroit. Not exactly a surprise to her friends: She not only never sold her South Florida home, she never even changed her driver's license.Simmons replaces WSVN's Sharron Melton, soon headed for Houston.

-- GLENN GARVIN

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