

About the French American Chamber of Commerce in Houston

Franck Avice, President



The French American Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, non-governmental, 100% independent, member-driven organization, made by companies for companies. Our mission: foster the French-American business community, support businesses in their settlement and development in Houston and build bridges for US companies with France. The FACC Houston is a place to exchange, learn and network.

Franck Avice was elected President of the French American Chamber of Commerce last month, succeeding Geoffroy Petit, an enthusiastic supporter of this luncheon series who is moving back to Europe.

On November 21, the Chamber will hold its annual signature event, *Beaujolais 2019*, at Minute Maid Park. For information and tickets go to www.facchouston.org.



About the International Friends of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna

The **Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna** brings together one of the largest, most complex collections in the world, spanning over 5000 years. The collections reflect diverse global cultures. They are housed in a palace of fine arts, which is an artwork in itself and in 2016 celebrated the 125th anniversary of its grand opening. The wide-ranging accumulation of works, including the Collection of Paintings by Old Masters, is the result of centuries of passionate collecting by a long succession of Habsburg family members and is open to all who wish to be inspired by and enhance their understanding of art. We are grateful to Sabine Haag, the museum's General Director, for her enthusiastic support of this luncheon series.

The **International Friends of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna (IFKHM)** is a dynamic group of patrons, collectors, and connoisseurs, united by their love of the museum's extraordinary imperial collection and masterpieces of European art, with a desire to see them properly cared for and passed on to future generations. We thank Bärbel Holaus-Heintschel for her continuing involvement with this series. www.khm.at

International Friends
of the
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna

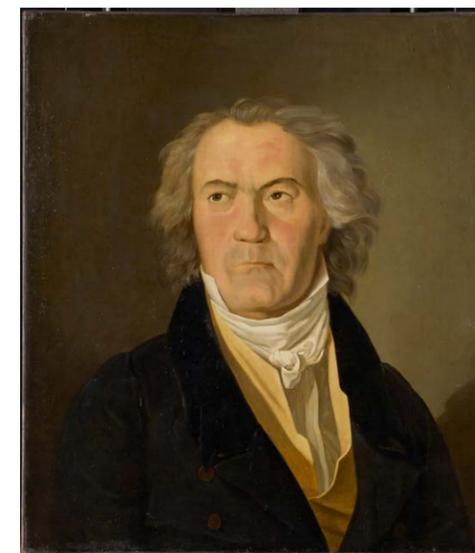
Next Time...Rosa Flores, Reporter for CNN

Rosa is the consummate storyteller and will share with us how she left a career as a CPA in a Big 4 accounting firm to become a documentary filmmaker and reporter accompanying popes and presidents around the globe for CNN.

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*The Art of
Business*

In Tune with his Market
Antoine Plante, Artistic Director of Mercury

October 10, 2019
Etoile Cuisine et Bar
Houston



About Antoine Plante



Mercury started as a group of friends from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University who loved to perform works from the Baroque Period. Among them was Antoine Plante, a native of Montreal, Canada and scion of a musical family, who came to Houston to pursue a graduate degree in performance at Shepherd as a double bass player. His musical interests, however, ranged far and wide, including a passion for tango dancing that led him to perform and record the music of Astor Piazzolla and to a chance meeting with his future wife, Lori Muratta. The ensemble that began as a grassroots effort over lunch at a local restaurant almost two decades ago has blossomed into a lively chamber orchestra beloved by the community.

In 2013, Mercury rebranded and expanded its repertoire to include works outside of the Baroque Period. In this evolution, the goal remains the same—bringing music to life and to people across Houston and beyond. Experienced in directing orchestral pieces as well as staged works, Antoine has conducted several operas and ballets. He collaborated with noted French director Pascal Rambert to produce a modern staged version of Lully's *Armide*, which was performed to critical acclaim in Paris and Houston. This season, Mercury will perform more than 50 concerts throughout our community.

From the beginning, Antoine has never lost his focus on the business side of running an orchestra, a commitment valued by organizations who have contributed to its funding, by the individuals who have served on Mercury's board, and by its audiences who clamor for more.

With Antoine Plante at the helm, Mercury's mission remains "to serve the community by celebrating the power of music—Baroque and beyond—through teaching, sharing and performing with passion, intimacy and excellence."

The 2019-2020 season began this past weekend with performances of the violin concertos known as *L'Estro Harmonico* by Antonio Vivaldi and will continue with works by Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, and more.

For information and to purchase tickets go to <https://www.mercuryhouston.org/>

About the Cover Art

Portrait of Ludwig van Beethoven by Waldmüller

Although German by birth, Ludwig van Beethoven spent most of his life in and around Vienna, Austria. His publisher, however, was based in Berlin. Breitkopf & Härtel requested a portrait of the composer to help in promoting the sale of his compositions and it is believed that this one served in that capacity. The painting is attributed to Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller and is housed in the Musical Instrument Collection of the Kunsthistorisches Museum at the Neue Burg in Vienna. As the musician who liberated himself from the patronage system in which composers were little more than liveried servants, Beethoven epitomizes the Art of Business as entrepreneur and master of his own commercial destiny. Two of his works are featured in Mercury's concerts next month.

<https://www.khm.at>

About *The Art of Business*

The Art of Business is a luncheon series featuring business people presenting a topic of interest highlighting how commercial enterprise spurred artistic endeavors and how their creative spirit led to business ventures. Emphasis is on the history of Europe from Ancient Greece to the mid-20th century with topics at the crossroads of culture and commerce, such as --

- Looted, lost, and stolen art and legal steps to get it back
- Commercial art and design as valuable intangible property protected from counterfeiters
- Commissioning new operas and attracting the businesses who sponsor them
- Managing and planning for private collections of works of art, wines, cars, and stringed instruments
- The business of being an international opera star
- Digitally preserving films and TV programs using technology developed for the oil business

Have an idea for a presentation?

Contact Meril Markley at 832.876.7895 or mbmarkley@mmarkley.com

About RSM



Nancy Wakefield
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RSM is a leading provider of audit, tax and consulting services in Houston. We guide our clients through today's complex business environment by understanding their needs and bringing together the right teams to address them.

We are a world leader in providing audit, tax, and consulting services to middle market enterprises. Our motivation is to help them think ahead and prepare for the future of their business as they grow and expand domestically and abroad. At RSM, we build strong relationships based on deep understanding of what matters most to our clients. www.rsmus.com

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