New World Symphony on track for 2011 building opening

BY SCOTT E. PACHECO

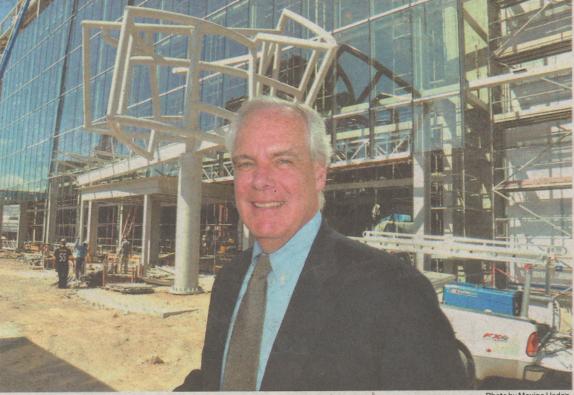
The New World Symphony's new home continues to sprout up on Miami Beach and is about a year from completion, its president says.

"We will complete the building and we intend to receive a temporary certificate of occupancy at the end of next summer," said Howard Herring, symphony president and chief executive officer.

Throughout fall 2010 the symphony is to test the facility, which Mr. Herring called a "very complex building technologically." After that, it's expected to open during the final two weeks of January 2011.

"All of those performances will be demonstrating the new capabilities of the new space," he said. "[It has] extraordinary acoustics so that will be demonstrated," as well as the flexibility of the performance project. spaces.

The 109,000-square-foot, \$154 million project, designed by noted architect Frank Gehry, is set to receive \$27 million more from Miami-Dade County hotel bed taxes. How- ring said. ever, with the economic downmillions committed to a new Florida Marlins stadium, there is concern whether enough will be left for the symphony



The New World Symphony facility is to be a '21st century musical meetinghouse,' Howard Herring says.

tion to come from Dade money. County - they already directed \$3 million of the \$30 million reached. we've requested," Mr. Her-

turn, plunging room rates and board chairman, said "there's acoustical deficiencies and pabilities.

"We expect that last portion is "on budget" and moving for- vation - whether in new perof the funding of the construc- ward with plans to receive the formance formats, expanded

According to the New World Neisen O. Kasdin, symphony rent "building has severe upgrades in technological casome concern with the eco-technological limitations. nomic downturn," but he pointed These challenges, coupled tain wall, made of glass, was out that the county commission with a sheer lack of space, recently completed. adopted a resolution to pay the keep NWS from pursuing the

money. He said the symphony next steps in orchestral innoeducational programs, dis-County officials couldn't be tance learning, or community outreach."

The new building is about Symphony's Web site, the cur- 2.5 times larger, with major

Mr. Herring said the east cur-

"It is designed to create a like it in the world."

new transparency - something that musical institutions have rarely known," he said. "Rather than be a fortress that surrounds the music, we are creating pathways and enticements for our audience."

And once the facility can be air-conditioned, "we will begin the creation of the acoustic baffles in the primary performance space," Mr. Herring said of the sound-regulating pieces.

Work should begin on the sound baffles in early November, he said. They are to be composed of six layers of wood and drywall and then covered with special paint that will receive projection and make it vivid.

It will be a "a 21st century musical meeting house - a laboratory for the exploration of the way music is taught, performed and experienced, and it will enable this orchestral academy to blossom in ways that we can't even imagine," Mr. Herring said.

Mr. Kasdin pointed to the multidimensional symphony hall, an exterior projection screen and the internal atrium as a few of facility's "real gems."

He said the facility itself will be the best marketing tool once it gets up and running.

"There is no other building