

## Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra Announces 2015-2016 Season to Be Music Director Fouad Fakhouri's Final Season

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For Immediate Release

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Fouad Fakhouri, Music Director of the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, has announced that he would not be renewing his contract. Next season, 2015-2016, will be his last with the organization. His current contract expires in June 2016. Maestro Fakhouri states that he has accomplished his charge of building the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra from a volunteer community orchestra, to a professional orchestra that is recognized throughout the region and state and in doing so, he has accomplished the mandate given to him by the Board when he moved to Fayetteville ten years ago.

Board Chair Jim Konneker said, "The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra recently held a Gala event to mark its ten year anniversary with Maestro Fouad Fakhouri as our accomplished conductor. We celebrate all his accomplishments with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra. We will greatly miss him, we respect his decision and wish him well."

At the end of our next season, 2015 - 2016, Fouad will have been at the helm of the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra for eleven years. Those years have been transformative for both the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra and our entire community. We are truly grateful to him for his hard work here and look forward to next season as one of celebration of his many accomplishments with the FSO and for a job extremely well done."

Twelve years ago, the FSO board developed a vision to refashion our historic, mostly volunteer symphony into an outstanding musical force in North Carolina. Out of 106 applicants, Maestro Fouad Fakhouri rose to the top. He was young, energetic, and personable and our community enthusiastically embraced him. John Lambert, in *The Classical Voice of North Carolina* (John W. Lambert, April 5, 2014) clearly describes what we have enjoyed under Fouad's leadership..."Even the strong reputation of the orchestra and of its ten-year-veteran maestro, Fouad Fakhouri (who is a composer, too), had not adequately prepared us for the truly remarkable artistic experience we were to enjoy. ..if we were amazed to the point of being almost speechless, it was due to the fact that we had not previously realized what treasures there are in Fayetteville.

A transition committee is being formed to identify a new music director to take the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra into the future.

## About the FSO

Founded in 1956, the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra is a professional, regional orchestra whose mission is to educate, entertain, and inspire the citizens of the Fayetteville, North Carolina region as the leading musical resource. Praised for its artistic excellence, the Symphony leads in the cultural and educational landscape for Fayetteville and our southeastern North Carolina region. It is supported through individual and corporate donations, grants, and ticket sales.