

**EMBARGOED UNTIL APRIL 21 AT 9PM**



## **FAYETTEVILLE SYMPHONY RECEIVES NEW ENDOWMENT TO BENEFIT THE FAYETTEVILLE SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM**

At the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra (FSO) concert on Saturday, April 21, 2018, a new endowment was announced to benefit the Fayetteville Symphony Youth Orchestra. The endowment will provide need based financial scholarships for youth orchestra tuition allowing more students to participate.

The Fayetteville Symphony Youth Orchestra (FSYO) was founded several years ago with a start-up grant from the Cumberland Community Foundation. It has grown to more than 75 students participating and includes students from several surrounding counties as well as Fayetteville and Cumberland County. Dr. Larry Wells is the director of the Fayetteville Symphony Youth Orchestra and Mrs. Monica Thiriot is the coach for the students who play string instruments.

FSYO has three components – a string orchestra, a concert band, and a full orchestra. It is open to students ages 13-21 who have experience playing any of the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, french horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, and percussion. The students benefit from playing alongside students from other schools, receiving instruction from professional musicians, and performing a joint concert alongside the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra.

The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra Endowment at Cumberland Community Foundation was established in 2004. Berte Howell, a founding FSO musician, created the first endowed chair for the Assistant Concertmaster. The FSO now has fourteen endowed chairs and has grown to almost \$2 million in assets. The goal of the endowment program is to raise \$5 million for the long term support of the symphony and its programs. Endowment gifts are permanent and only the income they produce is allowed to be spent by the organization. This sustainable support allows the orchestra to weather fluctuations in income while still maintaining the programs they provide in the community.

Cumberland Community Foundation manages the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra endowments. The Foundation was established in 1980 and has more than \$77 million in assets and 500 funds under its management. Cumberland Community Foundation is audited annually and has been confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. The Fayetteville Symphony is a proud partner of the Cumberland Community Foundation.

The FSO was founded in 1956 with a mission to Educate, Entertain and Inspire the citizens of the Fayetteville, NC region as its leading musical resource. Praised for its artistic excellence, the Symphony leads in the cultural and educational landscape for Fayetteville and the southeastern North Carolina region. The symphony performs 8 concerts a year and provides education programs for preschool through high school in addition to having its own youth orchestra.

*For more information, please contact:*

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