

EMBARGOED UNTIL MARCH 10 AT 9PM



**FAYETTEVILLE SYMPHONY RECEIVES NEW ENDOWMENT:
THE MARION CUSACK VONNEGUT & NORBERT JOSEF VONNEGUT CHAIR**

At the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra (FSO) concert on Saturday, March 10, 2018, a new endowment was announced to benefit the FSO. The chair was given by FSO board chair Joseph Vonnegut and his siblings in memory of their parents, Marion Cusack Vonnegut & Norbert Josef Vonnegut. The endowment is for the second trumpet chair which is currently held by Dr. Larry Wells. Dr. Wells has performed with the FSO for over 10 years and is also the director of the Fayetteville Symphony Youth Orchestra. Dr. Wells is a Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Studies/Trumpet at Methodist University.

The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra (FSO) is pleased to announce that as a result of this endowment gift we have met the challenge grant from The Ashton W. Lilly Fund for Philanthropy of Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc. This grant matches funds donated to the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra Endowment up to \$25,000 beginning in November 2017.

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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