

Charlotte Symphony Patrons Represented at Conference in the Nation's Capital

Association of Major Symphony Orchestra Volunteers (AMSOV)

North American Biennial Conference held in Washington, D.C.

The Association of Major Symphony Orchestra Volunteers (AMSOV) 43rd North American Biennial Conference was held in Washington, D.C. on June 2-5, 2022. It marked the second time the Conference has been held in the nation's capital. The proud host of the conference was the Volunteer Council for the National Symphony Orchestra with the REACH at the Kennedy Center as the site of the conference sessions.

The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc. was represented by Debbie Abels.

Volunteer groups from all over North America who are passionate about supporting their symphony orchestras met for the three days of sessions discussing *The Power of Music Reimagined* and exploring what the future might hold for classical music in 2022 and beyond. Prominent speakers and exclusive venues were featured in the conference schedule.

The annual AMSOV Innovator Awards were presented to six volunteer orchestra groups. The Symphony Guild of Charlotte was a recipient of the award in recognition of their Music Major College Preparation Seminar Series. Led by a panel of Charlotte Symphony musicians, students of the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra received advice on preparation for the application process, types of repertoire to be practicing for the audition, and the importance of music theory, music history and aural skills in the process. Students also participated in mock auditions.

Volunteers augment a good staff and create life-long connections that have a positive impact on orchestras. Across North America, many major symphonies' board members and major donors started through the volunteer pipeline.

Conferences have always been an important component of AMSOV. They serve the purpose of bringing people together who share a passion and a concern for the continuing success of symphony orchestras and symphonic music. Conferences provide a time and a place for the sharing of ideas, learning about ways to engage volunteers, discovering and developing new methods of fundraising, and building leadership skills. Since 1937, conferences have played a sustaining role in the success of AMSOV.

The mission of AMSOV is to ensure the continued existence of major symphony orchestras in North America through volunteerism. Its membership consists of 23 orchestra volunteer groups throughout the nation which meet every two years. The next biennial conference will be held in Kansas City on April 18-21, 2024.