

## **THE VOLUNTEER COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS**

### **The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc. Wins Gold Award of Excellence**

Charlotte, North Carolina – January 10, 2022 – The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc. is one of six volunteer organizations chosen by The Volunteer Council of the League of American Orchestras to receive the coveted Gold Award of Excellence for its Beat Beethoven Race. The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc.’s project was a virtual 5K race with over 200 participants across the Charlotte area and other states including as far as Germany!

The Volunteer Council’s annual award program recognizes outstanding projects done by volunteer associations from around the country that help ensure the success of their orchestras. The Gold Award of Excellence recognizes best-in-class projects that have had a significant impact. Winning projects were selected by Council members based upon originality, volunteer involvement, adaptability by other volunteer organizations, and the overall success of the project in meeting its stated goals.

“We were thrilled to initiate such a creative, successful way to continue our fundraising efforts with this virtual race, particularly with the pandemic preventing our organization from holding its annual fundraising Heart of the Home Tour,” says Elizabeth Connor Stewart, President of The Symphony Guild of Charlotte. “We are proud that this event enabled us to maintain our financial commitment to support the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and their music education initiatives.”

The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc. will present its project as part of the Volunteer Track of the League’s 2022 National Conference. The project will also be featured in an upcoming special issue of *Volunteer Notes*, on Facebook and on the League’s website.

“The League’s Volunteer Council knows firsthand the rewards and challenges of planning and executing volunteer projects. Our goal is to inspire and educate volunteers by acknowledging and sharing innovative volunteer-driven projects from across the country in categories including Audience Development/Community Engagement, Communication/Technology, Education, Leadership/Organizational Structure, Membership, Fundraising, Flexibility/Adaptability, and Service Projects,” said Julie Meredith, president of the Volunteer Council and a member of the Utah Symphony Guild.

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#### **About the Volunteer Council of the League of American Orchestras**

The Volunteer Council is a national leadership group of recognized volunteer leaders who have demonstrated outstanding support for their symphony orchestras. Our Council members represent nineteen volunteer associations affiliated with orchestras from coast to coast and across the entire spectrum of budget tiers.

### **About the League of American Orchestras**

The League of American Orchestras leads, supports, and champions America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of more than 1,800 organizations and individuals across North America runs the gamut from world-renowned orchestras to community groups, from summer festivals to student and youth ensembles, from conservatories to libraries, from businesses serving orchestras to individuals who love symphonic music.

The only national organization dedicated solely to the orchestral experience, the League is a nexus of knowledge and innovation, advocacy, and leadership advancement. Its conferences and events, award-winning Symphony magazine, website, and other publications inform people around the world about orchestral activity and developments. Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League links a national network of thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, managers and administrators, board members, volunteers, and business partners. Visit [americanorchestras.org](http://americanorchestras.org).