

# NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

Dear Patron,

To say that the last year has been a rollercoaster is indeed litotes. (I have always wanted to use that word, ever since the high school English class in which we learned that litotes--understatement, is the opposite of hyperbole--overstatement). You have no doubt been regaled with the gory details of budgets, shortfalls, challenge grant etc. etc. etc. and I have no intention here of dwelling further on that here.

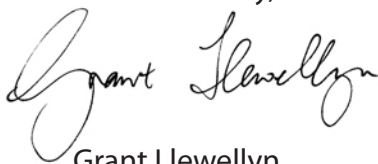
My job as Music Director is to ensure that the musical product is first class. This is the great intangible in the world of the arts. What constitutes a fine product? Perhaps one great performance does not make a great orchestra, but I contend that I have already been present at many such performances with the North Carolina Symphony. We possess a fount of talented and committed musicians such as you will not find in many places. Their dedication to their work is unsurpassed, and their loyalty to this place is very special. They have all made a considerable sacrifice to preserve what we have collectively created with the North Carolina Symphony.

The subtle chemistry and fragile dynamics of an orchestral ensemble are built very gradually over many years and lifetimes. I am powerfully reminded of this when I reflect on the recent death of Maxine Swalin who over her 106 years contributed more than most to the growth and preservation of our orchestra and to music in North Carolina. We are her legacy and have a duty to all those who, like Maxine, have battled over the years to build this great orchestra.

We have just released our second major CD with BIS Records, showcasing the wonderful young Russian pianist Yevgeny Sudbin in concertos by Rachmaninoff and Medtner. These international releases, together with our broadcasts on WUNC-FM and the word of mouth on the grapevine that is the music world, continue to inform the public that this orchestra is fit and well. This momentum has been hard to achieve and must not be lost. It cannot be maintained by merely standing still, artistically, and so I am encouraging everyone to continue to be creative both on and off the stage. For this we simply need your continued and extended support.

As I write this letter, we are approaching \$3.5 million toward our \$8 million State challenge. Your gift before December 31, 2009 will help us reach our first financial milestone of \$4 million which will be rewarded with a \$500,000 matching gift from the State of North Carolina. This much needed infusion of cash will allow your North Carolina Symphony to start 2010 strong, which is news very worthy of celebration. Thank you for your investments of time and resources, past, present and future.

Yours sincerely,



Grant Llewellyn  
Music Director

P.S. Please take a few moments to learn about how [artists are giving back](#) to the Symphony and explore our [statewide education concerts with John Dancy](#).

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