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**For Immediate Release**

## **YOUTH FESTIVAL CONCERT APRIL 23 PAIRS YOUNG AND SEASONED MUSICIANS**

**Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra Present Special Program**

Charlotte, NC, Apr.11, 2014...The Symphony Guild of Charlotte and the Charlotte Symphony (CSO) join forces on Apr. 23, 7:30 p.m., at the Belk Theater to present the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Festival, a concert uniting young accomplished musicians of the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestras with renowned professional musicians of the Charlotte Symphony.

In this special showcase of outstanding classical music, the generations come together on a single stage. The program is divided into four segments:

- Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra (grades 8-12), Ernest Pereira conducting
- Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Roger Kalia conducting, and featuring pianist Hannah Wang, grand prize winner of the senior division of the 2014 Young Artists Competition
- Junior Youth Orchestra (grades 4-9), Ernest Pereira conducting
- The combined Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra performing side by side in the grand finale, Christopher Warren-Green conducting

"Youth Festival is an unparalleled rite of passage for these young musicians," said Sallie Moody, president of The Symphony Guild of Charlotte. "It's a testament to the

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importance both the Symphony Guild and the CSO place on youth music education, to nurture young talent and train them in a professional symphony atmosphere.”

The Symphony Guild helps further the CSO’s mission of assisting young musicians by sponsoring a number of educational programs. In addition to Youth Festival and Young Artists Competition, which the Symphony Guild established in 1956 in partnership with the CSO to enable students to compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to perform a concerto movement in an orchestral setting, the Guild provides need-based scholarships, tuition and grants, and funds a multi-day residential summer camp.

According to Moody, children are the focus at Youth Festival, both on stage and in the audience. Through the Symphony Guild’s sponsorship and with generous contributions from the community, children from various organizations throughout the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area will be able to attend.

“Many of the children have never heard a concert, and Youth Festival will help set a foundation for their musical education,” she said.

Tickets are \$20 reserved seating, \$15 general admission, and \$7 seniors and students, and are available in advance through the CSO box office at 704-972-2000, online at [carolinatix.org/events/detail/cso-csyo-jyo-27th-annual-youth-festival-concert](http://carolinatix.org/events/detail/cso-csyo-jyo-27th-annual-youth-festival-concert), or at the door.

### **About The Symphony Guild of Charlotte**

The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc., creates, develops, and promotes an interest in symphonic music in Charlotte and the surrounding metropolitan area.

The nonprofit organization also provides financial and volunteer support to the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, the Charlotte youth symphonies and symphonic education. The organization was founded in 1950 as the Charlotte Symphony’s Women’s Association. Through proceeds from its fundraisers, The Symphony Guild of Charlotte has given more than \$5.1 million to the Charlotte Symphony, and contributed over \$800,000 since 2000 for youth music education programs. For more information, visit [symphonyguildcharlotte.org](http://symphonyguildcharlotte.org).

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**About the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestras**

The Charlotte Symphony Youth and Junior Youth Orchestras represent the future of classical music. Founded in 1961, the Youth Orchestras have been nurtured by the Charlotte Symphony for more than fifty years and are an integral component of the Charlotte Symphony artistic family. The Youth Orchestras provide training in a professional symphony atmosphere for nearly 200 fourth through twelfth grade musicians from across the Charlotte area. They rehearse weekly under the guidance of their Music Director Dr. Ernest Pereira, a Charlotte Symphony violinist, culminating in several public performances each year.

**About the Charlotte Symphony**

Founded in 1932 and led by internationally renowned Music Director Christopher Warren-Green, the Charlotte Symphony is a non-profit organization that serves the whole community through music that educates, entertains and enriches the human spirit. We are world-class musicians, music teachers and music lovers. We put violins in the hands of Charlotte's youth and actively nurture the next generation with our programs in music education. We bring artistic excellence to Charlotte's parks and hospitals, schools and places of worship, stadiums and concert halls. The Charlotte Symphony is a cornerstone of the cultural community, connecting people and adding value to their lives through music.

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