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## For Immediate Release

### **Mark R. Bernstein Named as Recipient of the 2011 *Sally Ann Hall Spirit of the Symphony Award* for Outstanding service to the Charlotte Symphony**

**November 3, 2011** – The Charlotte Symphony (CSO) has named Mark R. Bernstein the recipient of the 2011 *Sally Ann Hall Spirit of the Symphony Award*. The award will be presented on November 11 at the Charlotte Symphony and Oratorio Singers of Charlotte performance of Mozart Requiem at the Belk Theater.

In 2007, the Charlotte Symphony created the Sally Ann Hall Spirit of the Symphony Award to honor the memory of one of its most committed patrons, Sally Ann Hall. Devoted to classical music, Sally Ann Hall (1939-2005) was a member of the Charlotte Symphony Board of Directors and served as President of the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte Board. In 2004, she and her husband Joseph Kirkland Hall, III established the Sally Ann Hall Chair for the directorship of the Oratorio Singers, now held by Scott Allen Jarrett.

Recipients of the annual award demonstrate a commitment to the Symphony as an organization, show a profound respect for its music and musicians, and motivate and encourage others to become actively involved with the Symphony family. Past recipients are CSO Principal Tubist David Mills (2007), longtime CSO patron and program annotator Dr. George Stegner (2008), former CSO Board of Directors Chair and Interim Executive Director Richard J. Osborne (2009), and CSO Immediate Past Chair Patricia A. Rodgers (2010).

Mr. Bernstein has been a constant and effective advocate for the Charlotte Symphony for 50 years. He has repeatedly made a difference in concrete ways that have permitted CSO to sustain, and continues to be a patron, subscriber and friend, advocating for the Charlotte Symphony's best interests in public and private.

While on the Board of CSO, Mr. Bernstein was a primary driver behind the conception and development of the plans for the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center (PAC), serving on the original PAC Study Group, the PAC Architecture Committee and the PAC Task Force that raised funds to build this home for CSO. Mr. Bernstein also co-chaired the Blue Ribbon Panel that developed the Cultural Facilities Master Plan which resulted in \$7MM and a new venue, the Knight Theater, for the CSO.

Of Counsel to Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, Mr. Bernstein currently serves on the boards for the Wildacres Foundation, the Turner Family Foundation, the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, and the UNC Press

Advancement Council. He has served on the boards of many other organizations to include the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, the Foundation For The Carolinas, and Arts Advocates of North Carolina. Awards received include Arts & Science Council Vanguard Award, Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award, National Conference of Christians & Jews Silver Medallion Award, Israel Humanitarian Award, the North Carolina Bar Association Brent H. McKnight Renaissance Award, and the 2010 Greater Charlotte Cultural Trust and Mint Museum Spirit Award.

“We are honored to have been able to count this man among one of our Board members for decades,” said CSO President and Executive Director Jonathan Martin. “It is impossible to overstate the impact that Mark has had not only on the Charlotte Symphony, but to the broader arts community in Charlotte.”

The recipient of the Sally Ann Hall Spirit of the Symphony Award is chosen annually from an open slate of nominations by a committee that represents the CSO Board, Staff, and Musicians and the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte.

This award will be presented at the Friday, November 11 performance of MOZART Symphony No. 41, “Jupiter”, and MOZART Requiem conducted by Christopher Warren-Green, at 8 p.m. at the Belk Theater. Tickets are available at [www.charlottesymphony.org](http://www.charlottesymphony.org) or 704-972-2000.

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*Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony aspires to serve the whole community through Classical music that educates, entertains and enriches the human spirit. The Charlotte Symphony is a cornerstone cultural organization in the Charlotte region and the largest employer of professional artists in the Charlotte area, with 62 full-time musicians. The Charlotte Symphony is supported by ticket sales, performance fees, generous individuals, The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc., corporate sponsors, foundation grants, the North Carolina Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and by a basic operating grant from the Arts & Science Council-Charlotte/Mecklenburg. In September 2010, Christopher Warren-Green became the orchestra’s 11th Music Director.*