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### **For Immediate Release**

## **Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra Members to Perform in France**

***Trip a part of Charlotte International Cabinet Initiative***

**December 6, 2011-** Seven Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra members will travel to Limoges, France, to perform in an international collaborative concert organized by the Charlotte International Cabinet. A bi-annual event, the concert combines musicians from each of Limoges' sister cities in the *Concert des Cités Unies* Festival.

Hosted by the Limoges Conservatory of Performing Arts and The International Relations Department of Limoges, the young musicians will perform with other students from Japan, Belarus, the Czech Republic and Germany.

The students will perform four concerts over the course of three days this month at various venues in Limoges, including the Limoges Opera Theatre and the Mégisserie cultural center.

Annika Bowers, Olivia Burns, Tyler Hawk, Tatiana Krzsecki, Miranda Mahanes, Katherine Stevens and Jessica Turcotte will represent Charlotte as one of the sister cities of Limoges, France. While in Limoges they will stay with host families, experiencing French culture and engaging with other young musicians.

The program was established in 2003, when several Youth Orchestra members traveled to Limoges to perform as part of the *Concert des Cités Unies* Festival. Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra students have represented Charlotte in each concert.

“This program is unique because it offers so many opportunities for cultural understanding. Not only do the student musicians get to interact with counterparts from several nations, but they also have a great source of common ground: the music,” said Charlotte International Cabinet Program Director Alexis Gordon. “Not only is music a common interest, in this case, it is also a common language for the students and really sets the tone for true international collaboration.”

“Travel, particularly foreign travel, is an eye-opening and mind-expanding activity, and especially important for young people. It was certainly that for me when I was young, and I continue to be amazed at how large and yet how small the world is. Trips such as this can change a person's life,” said Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra Conductor Dr. Ernest Pereira.

The Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestras are core components of the educational program of the Charlotte Symphony. These orchestras offer students a unique performing experience, through which nearly 200 talented young musicians obtain exceptional training in a semi-professional ensemble setting that includes monthly coaching with members of the Charlotte Symphony.

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