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CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2015-2016 POPS SERIES

MAY 22, 2015 | CHARLOTTE, NC – Legendary singer-actress Bernadette Peters, a collaboration with R&B sensation Boyz II Men, and award-winning composer and songwriter Randy Newman highlight the Charlotte Symphony's 2015-2016 Pops Series beginning in September.

Conductor Albert-George Schram says, "The best way for me to tell you that the Charlotte Symphony's upcoming Pops season will be dynamite, is that if I weren't conducting, I'd be sitting in the front row!"

The 2015-2016 Pops Series will open with one of the most loved and celebrated musicals of all time, *Singin' in the Rain*. Audiences will enjoy the award-winning performances of Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, and Debbie Reynolds on the big screen with the film's iconic score presented live by the Charlotte Symphony.

The season will continue with A Tribute to Frank Sinatra, in celebration of 100 years since the timeless crooner's birth, plus Super Diamond, the Neil Diamond Experience.

November brings A Salute to America's Heroes, a concert featuring the U.S. Naval Academy Men's Glee Club on Veteran's Day weekend. The group has achieved international prominence as one of America's premier men's choral groups. The group will perform a wide range of sacred music and American spirituals, plus "Navy Hymn," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "America the Beautiful," and "Anchors Aweigh."

The Symphony continues the Magic of Christmas concert tradition in early December, packed with family-friendly singalongs and holiday classics.

After the new year, the Symphony welcomes singer, songwriter, and composer Randy Newman. In addition to his acclaimed solo recordings, such as *12 Songs*, *Sail Away*, *Good Old Boys*, and *Harp and Angels*, Newman has composed many film scores, including *Awakenings*, *Ragtime*, all three *Toy Story* pictures, *Seabiscuit*, *A Bug's Life*, *Monsters Inc.*, and more.

Newman's many honors include six Grammys, three Emmys, two Academy Awards, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and membership in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Following a successful weekend last season, A Symphonic Valentine returns the weekend before Valentine's Day. This year's special guest star is Charlotte's own Eva Noblezada, who has been starring in London's West End production of *Miss Saigon*.

March brings American R&B group Boyz II Men. The group redefined popular R&B with its smooth harmonies and timeless hits, including "Motownphilly," "End of the Road," "One Sweet Day," and more.

In April, Schram conducts a special Bond and Beyond program, featuring the "James Bond Theme" and a handpicked selection of music from spy-fi classics, including *Mission Impossible*, *Peter Gunn*, and *Austin Powers*. Vocalist Hilary Kole will be the guest soloist of the two-night concert, performing "Nobody Does It Better" and more.

The 2015-2016 Pops Series concludes in May with a return appearance by Bernadette Peters. Across her career, the Golden Globe and Tony award-winning actress has impressed audiences and critics with her performances on stage and television, in concert, and on recordings. This very special Pops season finale will include songs from Broadway to timeless pop hits.

The Pops Series is presented to the community by Bank of America.

Season subscriptions are on sale starting at \$198. For more detailed information about the series, visit charlottesymphony.org.

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 children and actively nurture the next generation with our music education programs. 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. charlottesymphony.org

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