



CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

CHRISTOPHER WARREN-GREEN
music director

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THE CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ENDS 2013 CLASSICS SEASON WITH RECORD-BREAKING NUMBERS



MOTHER'S DAY MATINEE LINE WRAPS AROUND 5TH AND TRYON OUTSIDE OF BELK THEATER

May 13, 2013 | CHARLOTTE, NC – The Charlotte Symphony's May 12 Mother's Day matinee marked the end of the 2013 concert season with record-breaking ticket sales and multi-generational memories.

Led by Music Director Christopher Warren-Green, the Orchestra and the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte presented three performances of Beethoven's monumental Ninth Symphony to full-houses on Friday and Saturday nights, and, if imaginable, an even fuller house at Sunday's special matinee. Tickets for the entire weekend grossed \$102,000 for the Symphony, and over 90% of the Belk Theater's seats were filled each night: both of these numbers are record-breakers for a Classics concert in the Symphony's 81-year history.

Topping the record numbers was the all-too appropriate joyful atmosphere (The Ninth Symphony is also known as Beethoven's "Ode to Joy"). Free admission for moms and complimentary carnations for all the ladies at the Sunday matinee, in honor of Mother's Day, contributed to the excitement as well as to the multitude of families funneling into the theater.

"I was thrilled to see so many families, mothers with a carnation and kids all dressed up. It was obvious that for many this was not a usual occasion and for some it was their first time at a Symphony," said Executive Director Robert Stickler. "Sitting in front of me during the concert I saw a mother with a small

child on either side lightly swinging her arms as if to help Maestro Warren-Green direct the orchestra. The excitement of our patrons was palpable," he added.

Warren-Green also noted his pleasure in performing to a multi-generational audience: "When I became music director I imagined concerts where three generations of families came together to the symphony - grandparents, parents, and children. Here we finally are."

About the Charlotte Symphony

Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony serves the whole community through music that educates, entertains and enriches. As the largest arts organization in Charlotte, the symphony plays to over 130,000 audience members each year in nearly 100 concerts featuring classical music to pops. The symphony also reaches more than 12,000 students throughout the area in pursuit of its mission to provide musical education. The symphony welcomes contributions; as with most performing arts organizations, ticket revenues cover only about one-third of expenses.

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