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CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY NAMES MARY DEISSLER PRESIDENT AND CEO

APRIL 1, 2016 | CHARLOTTE, NC – The Charlotte Symphony announced today that Mary Deissler will succeed Robert Stickler as its president and CEO. Deissler is transitioning from her role as president of the Chicago Academy for the Arts in Chicago and will join the Charlotte Symphony team on June 1, when Stickler will retire.

Deissler brings extensive experience in performing arts development.

“We are honored to announce that Mary is joining our Charlotte Symphony family, and we are confident that she will further the positive momentum our organization is seeing, including the financial stability Bob Stickler has established for two consecutive seasons,” says Brian Cromwell, chairman of the Charlotte Symphony Board of Directors.

After beginning her career in the corporate sector, Deissler left for a position with the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston, which she led as CEO for nearly 25 years. There, she helped achieve budgetary stability by working strategically to eliminate an accumulated debt and establish cash reserves and a substantial permanent endowment.

Other posts have included a major gifts and trusts directorship with Save the Children in London, interim vice president of development with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and a chief advancement officer role with Artis-Naples, southwest Florida’s largest cultural center.

“I’m excited to join the CSO team and to partner with Maestro Christopher Warren-Green to build on the reputation of this great orchestra,” says Deissler. “Special thanks to Bob Stickler for his capable leadership over the last four years.”

As an independent consultant, Deissler has developed strategies and designed implementation plans for clients including London Music Masters and the Monteverdi Choir.

She also brings with her a collaborative spirit and worked to raise the Handel and Haydn Society’s profile by partnerships with large non-profits, including the English National Opera and the Peace Corps.



Mary Deissler will become president and CEO of the Charlotte Symphony on June 1.

Her honors include awards for innovative action and entrepreneurial zeal, as well as a lifetime contribution award for Chorus America. She was also given the distinguished service medal at the Handel and Haydn Society.

Deissler holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts Boston and a master's of business administration from Babson College, with a focus on entrepreneurial leadership.

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.

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