



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ANNUAL GALA
AN EVENING WITH RHIANNON GIDDENS
Celebrating the Arts in North Carolina**

**Led by Resident Conductor CHRISTOPHER JAMES LEES
Featuring Acclaimed Musician and North Carolina Native RHIANNON GIDDENS**

**Gala Will Honor Community and Business Leaders Charles Bowman and Michael Marsicano
Post-Concert Reception To Feature Wilmington's PORT CITY SHAKEDOWN**

Saturday, November 5, 2022

August 3, 2022 | Charlotte, NC – Acclaimed singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Rhiannon Giddens will join Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees and the Charlotte Symphony for the CSO's annual Gala on Saturday, November 5, 2022. The evening will celebrate North Carolina's diverse and burgeoning arts scene, featuring local artists and honoring two community leaders and long-time advocates for the arts: Charles Bowman and Michael Marsicano.

Rhiannon Giddens — a North Carolina native and recipient of the MacArthur “Genius” Grant — most recently won a Grammy for Best Folk Album for *They're Calling Me Home*. A classically trained opera singer, Giddens's music explores America's folk traditions and sheds light on the shared history of a variety of musical traditions throughout the world.

Among her many diverse career highlights, Giddens has performed for the first family at the White House, served as a Carnegie Hall Perspectives curator, and received an inaugural Legacy of Americana Award from Nashville's National Museum of African American History in partnership with the Americana Music Association. She recently wrote the libretto and music for an original opera, *Omar*, based on the autobiography of the enslaved man Omar Abn Said, co-produced by Spoleto Festival USA and Carolina Performing Arts at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

The Gala will honor community and business leaders Charles Bowman and Michael Marsicano for their long-time dedication to ensuring the success of the Arts in North Carolina. In addition to the concert, the Gala evening will include an elegant pre-concert cocktail reception, dinner, and post-concert reception with Wilmington's Port City Shakedown Band. More information about the Gala can be found [here](#).

Biographies

[Rhiannon Giddens](#), [Christopher James Lees](#), [Port City Shakedown](#)

Tickets

Single tickets to the concert start at \$25 and are available for purchase now at charlottesymphony.org. For information about the Gala — which includes a pre-concert reception, dinner, concert, and post-concert reception — and sponsorship levels, please visit charlottesymphony.org/gala.

For press tickets, contact Deirdre Roddin at 704-714-5112 or droddin@charlottesymphony.org

About the Charlotte Symphony

Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is committed to uplifting, entertaining, and educating the diverse communities of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and beyond through exceptional musical experiences. A cornerstone of Charlotte's arts and cultural landscape, the CSO is the oldest continually operating symphony orchestra in the Carolinas and connects with more than 100,000 music lovers annually through live concerts, broadcasts, community events, and education programs. The CSO employs 62 professional full-time orchestra musicians, serves three youth orchestras, and offers significant educational programming aimed at improving areas of our community with the greatest need. The Charlotte Symphony plays a leading cultural role in the Charlotte area and aims to serve the community as a civic leader, reflecting and uniting our region through the transformative power of live music.

CSO Gala Host Committee: Drs. Ruth and Richard Ault, Lauren and Taylor Batten, Margarita and Nick Clements, Sally and Derick Close, Robin Cochran, Catherine and Wilton Connor, Donna and Alvaro de Molina, Linda and Bill Farthing, Heather and Tom Finke, Karen Fox, Kathryn and Luke Kissam, Barbara Laughlin, Jane and Hugh McColl, DeDe and Alex McKinnon, Ulrike and Alex Miles, Judy and Derek Raghavan, Kathy and Paul Reichs, Sherry and Tom Skains, Marsha and Bob Stickler, Drs. Jennifer and Matthew Sullivan, Andromeda and John Williams

Event Listing

Charlotte Symphony Orchestra Gala Concert: An Evening With Rhiannon Giddens

Belk Theater
Saturday, November 5, 2022, at 8:00 p.m.

Christopher James Lees, conductor
Rhiannon Giddens, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist

Acclaimed singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Rhiannon Giddens joins Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees and the Charlotte Symphony for a special one-night-only event. Giddens, a North Carolina native and recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Grant, most recently won a Grammy for Best Folk Album for *They're Calling Me Home*. A classically

trained opera singer, Giddens's music explores America's folk traditions and sheds light on the shared history of a variety of musical traditions throughout the world.

ALL PROGRAMS AND ARTISTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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