



CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

CHRISTOPHER WARREN-GREEN

music director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jamie Wolf, 704-714-5112 or jamiew@charlottesymphony.org

CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY TO NAME KATE WHITNER MCKAY PRINCIPAL CELLO CHAIR *KATHERINE MCKAY BELK-COOK HONORS HER MOTHER WITH A GIFT TO THE SYMPHONY*

FEBRUARY 28, 2013 | CHARLOTTE, NC – Katherine McKay Belk-Cook and the Charlotte Symphony will name the Symphony's Principal Cello Chair in memory of Mrs. Belk-Cook's late mother, Kate Whitner McKay, during a short ceremony preceding the March 1, 2013 performance of Brahms' Symphony No. 3. Principal Cellist Alan Black, to hold the McKay Chair effective immediately, will join the Symphony's Interim President Robert Stickler and Board Chairperson Emily Smith in thanking Mrs. Belk-Cook.

The Kate Whitner McKay Principal Cello Chair celebrates Mrs. McKay's lifelong love of music, and recognizes Mrs. Belk-Cook's recent leadership gift to the Charlotte Symphony.

Katherine recalls that, from the beginning, her mother was a devoted patron of the now 82-year-old Charlotte Symphony. "Mother was a friend of Maestro de Roxlo [the Symphony's founder] and James Christian Pfohl [the Symphony's fourth Music Director]. I remember when she would put me to work in the ticket office, which was an exciting opportunity for a young girl. Our outings to the Symphony were a special part of growing up with my mother, so for me, the Charlotte Symphony will forever be an experience that I share with her. I hope there are others who have similar memories."

There are many opportunities to support the Charlotte Symphony, but choosing to name a chair carries with it a unique significance. First, by naming a chair, a donor helps the Charlotte Symphony continue to provide world-class music. Second, the chair is titled according to the donor's wishes and can serve to acknowledge a supporting institution, memorialize a family name, or celebrate an individual.

"Katherine Belk-Cook's decision to choose the Symphony as the place to honor her mother is truly gratifying," said Symphony Chairperson Emily Smith. "It is a privilege for us and we hope that the Kate Whitner McKay Principal Cello Chair will be an ongoing special memorial for the family."

Tickets to Classics V, Brahms Symphony No. 3, March 1 & 2

Tickets to Classics V on March 1 & 2 start at \$23.50 and can be purchased through the Charlotte Symphony ticket office at 704-972-2000 or online at www.charlottesymphony.org.

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