

Classical IDOL

MUSIC TRANSFORMS US

April 12, 2013—McGlohon Theater A Benefit for the Charlotte Symphony

Contact: Linda Weisbruch, VP of Marketing
Symphony Guild of Charlotte
704 502 5678 lweisbruch@carolina.rr.com

NOTE TO MEDIA: PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

For Immediate Release

CAROLINA PANTHER JONATHAN STEWART TO SHARE HIS LOVE OF MUSIC AT CLASSICAL IDOL BENEFIT FOR CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

No. 28 Attributes Restorative Power of Music to Aiding Success as Running Back

Charlotte, NC, Mar. 26 ,2013... While Jonathan Stewart's prowess as a star running back for the Carolina Panthers is legendary, it's his passion for music off the field that helps fuel his success at football and enriches his everyday life.

"Without music, I wouldn't have had the focus, discipline and dedication for football," Stewart declared of his dual talents. "Music is my outlet and refuge. I use it to relax and provide balance after a long, tough game."

Stewart, a keyboard artist and aspiring music producer, will tell his story of how music has transformed his life during a special celebrity appearance at Classical Idol, a fundraising concert for the Charlotte Symphony (CSO) and music education, produced by the Symphony Guild of Charlotte. The benefit show will be held Fri., Apr. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at Spirit Square's McGlohon Theater. Tickets are \$60 for general admission, which includes a pre-concert reception at 6:30 p.m. Reserved tickets are \$125 and include both the pre-concert reception and a post-concert celebration. Tickets are available from the CSO box office at 704 972 2000 and through CarolinaTix at www.carolinatix.org.

Stewart's musical path began in early childhood when, at three, his mother gave him a yellow Fisher Price toy piano with colored keys. At age eight, he received a real keyboard with programmable drumbeats. He amazed his family with how well he played. Growing up, music also helped him refrain from indulging in irresponsible behaviors. Stewart never had formal music lessons nor learned to read music – he plays entirely by ear.

Based on his own experience with music as a life-affirming influence, Stewart believes strongly in providing children with exposure to music, which prompted his participation in Classical Idol. The concert will feature



338 South Sharon Amity Road, PMB 308 | Charlotte, NC 28207 | 704 525 0522 | www.symphonysguildcharlotte.org



Lead Sponsor



A service of Davidson College, supported by listeners like you.



Media Partners





page two

performers, both children and adults, playing a variety of musical genres to convey the profound impact music has on individuals and the Charlotte community. Personal testimonies from the performers and video tributes will further show the importance of music as a driver of social, cultural and economic change.

Stewart expects his music to transcend his days with the NFL. "I love music and play it every day, whether it's my piano, or making a song," Stewart said. "Music will be with me long after my football career ends."

For more information about Classical Idol, contact 704 525 0522, office@symphonyguildcharlotte.org or www.symphonyguildcharlotte.org/classical_idol.htm.

For more information about Jonathan Stewart, contact Legacy Talent and Entertainment: 704 334 7727, www.legacytalentandentertainment.com or www.jstew28.com.

About Symphony Guild of Charlotte

The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc., creates, develops and promotes an interest in symphonic music in the community of Charlotte and the surrounding metropolitan area. The nonprofit organization also provides financial and volunteer support to the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, the Charlotte youth symphonies and symphonic educational activities. The organization was founded in 1950 as the Charlotte Symphony's Women's Association. Through its fundraisers, the Symphony Guild of Charlotte has given more than \$4.6 million to the Charlotte Symphony. For more information, visit www.symphonyguildcharlotte.org.

About the Charlotte Symphony

Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony aspires to serve the whole community through music that educates, entertains and enriches. As the largest arts organization in Charlotte, the symphony plays to 200,000 audience members each year in 90 concerts featuring classical music to pops. The symphony also reaches more than 12,000 students in 55 schools throughout the area in pursuit of its mission to provide musical education. As the largest employer of individual artists in Charlotte, the symphony generates an annual economic impact exceeding \$15 million. The symphony welcomes contributions; as with most performing arts organizations, ticket revenues cover only about one-third of expenses. For more information, visit www.charlottesymphony.org.

#