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For Immediate Release

SYMPHONY GUILD'S FESTIVAL OF TREES NOV.16-DEC. 8 KICKS OFF WITH NEW CHILDREN'S FASHION SHOW AT NORDSTROM

Fundraiser Auctions Decorated Trees to Benefit CSO, Symphonic Music

Charlotte, NC, Oct. 14, 2013... The Symphony Guild of Charlotte will kick off its third annual Festival of Trees holiday fundraiser, scheduled for Nov. 16-Dec. 8, with the new Breakfast at Nordstrom – A Holiday Children's Fashion Show at SouthPark Mall on Nov. 16.

Festival of Trees is a real-time and online silent auction of tabletop artificial trees exquisitely decorated by renowned interior, floral and landscape designers, businesses, retailers, nonprofits, and community organizations. As a prelude to the debut of the trees, the fashion show, featuring styles for women and children, will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the children's department of Nordstrom.

"Festival of Trees has become a holiday tradition for the community, and the fashion show adds another element of fun and excitement to celebrate the season," said Sallie Moody, president, The Symphony Guild of Charlotte.

The 13 trees will be on display for bidding in the luxury wing of SouthPark Mall outside of Nordstrom from Nov. 16-Dec. 3. The trees will relocate to Blumenthal Performing Arts Center from Dec. 5-8, and be on display for bidding prior to and during the Charlotte Symphony Pops Series performances of "Magic of Christmas." Bidders also can vie for

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the trees online via the Symphony Guild's website at www.symphonyguildcharlotte.org/FOT.htm from Nov. 16 until Dec. 8, when the winners will be announced.

Tickets for the fashion show will go on sale in mid October via the Guild's website at www.symphonyguildcharlotte.org/FOT.htm. Prices are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children ages 12 and under, and \$40 for VIP. As a special gift, attendees of the fashion show will receive 15% off their in-store purchases at Nordstrom that day.

Proceeds from both the fashion show and Festival of Trees benefit the Charlotte Symphony (CSO), Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestras (CSYO and JYO), and youth music education.

Peppermint Forest Christmas Shop is donating the pre-lit, three-foot-tall trees. The designers will decorate the trees according to their own themes, using such adornments as ornaments, bows, garlands, and flowers. The designers are: Blackhawk Hardware; Charlotte Yarn Shop; Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra Parents Association; Frontgate; Invitations by Lee; Marketplace at Cotswold; Melissa Melvin; Nordstrom; Peppermint Forest; Jill Seale; UMAR; Susan Vadnais; and Terry Vedder.

While the trees are on display at SouthPark Mall, members of the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestras will perform holiday music at select times to entertain the shoppers.

About the Symphony Guild of Charlotte

The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc., creates, develops, and promotes an interest in symphonic music in 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 education. 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 \$5.1 million to the Charlotte Symphony. For more information, visit symphonyguildcharlotte.org.

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