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**HUGH L. MCCOLL TO RECEIVE 2015-2016 SPIRIT OF THE SYMPHONY AWARD**

**APRIL 20, 2016** | CHARLOTTE, NC – In recognition of his unprecedented support of the Charlotte Symphony over many years, Hugh L. McColl has been named the recipient of the 2015-2016 [Sally Ann Hall Spirit of the Symphony Award](#).

The award will be presented on Friday, April 29 at Belk Theater at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center at the Symphony's next Classics series concert featuring the works of Ravel, Bruch, and Vaughan Williams.

"I cannot think of a more deserving recipient of this award," said Robert Stickler, Charlotte Symphony president and CEO. "Without Hugh McColl, the Charlotte Symphony would not be here. Few people know the extent of his efforts. Multiple times he has found the means for our orchestra to continue and to grow into the excellent ensemble it is today. His passion for Charlotte has been demonstrated in many ways and we are proud that making sure the city has a quality symphony is one of them."

McColl and his wife Jane have sponsored Charlotte Symphony piano soloists for many years. McColl also was instrumental in the Symphony's recapitalization campaign following the financial crisis. He then organized an initiative that raised more than \$20 million. The result was a 10-year investment in the Charlotte Symphony of \$2 million annually as the Symphony continues to work towards sustainable financial viability.

The Sally Ann Hall Spirit of the Symphony Award was created in 2007 to honor the memory of one of its most committed patrons, Sally Ann Hall. Devoted to classical music, Sally Ann Hall (1939-2005) was a member of the Charlotte Symphony Board of Directors and served as the president of the Charlotte Symphony Chorus, formerly Oratorio Singers of Charlotte board.

In 2004, she and her husband Joseph Kirkland Hall III established the Sally Ann Hall Chair for the directorship of the then Oratorio Singers of Charlotte. Recipients of the annual award demonstrate a commitment to the Charlotte Symphony, show a profound respect for its music and musicians, and motivate and encourage others to become involved actively with the Symphony family.

Winners are chosen from an open slate of nominations by a committee that represents the Charlotte Symphony board, staff and musicians, and the Charlotte Symphony Chorus. Past recipients are David Mills (2007), Dr. George Stegner (2008), Richard J. Osborne (2009), Patricia A. Rodgers (2010), Mark R. Bernstein (2011), Deena Outwater Surphlis (2012), Frank Gentry (2013), and Scott Allen Jarrett and Cheri Martin (2014).

**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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