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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY COLLABORATION PROMOTES UNITY

April 5, 2017 | CHARLOTTE, NC – The Charlotte Symphony, in partnership with the Levine Museum of the New South and A Sign Of The Times of the Carolinas, invites the community to a free event employing music and storytelling to tackle issues of discrimination and inequality.

Listen Up, Charlotte! will take place on Friday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church-West and on Sunday, April 30 at 6 p.m. at Providence Day School.

This event is a continuation of the Symphony's commitment to serve the relevant needs of the Charlotte community and follows its September 2016 *One Charlotte: A Performance for Peace*, a free uptown concert aimed at promoting peace and healing following the unrest in uptown after the police shooting of Keith Lamont Scott.

"Music is a good way to practice active listening," says Charlotte Symphony President and CEO Mary A. Deissler. "We hope this shared musical experience will help our community to first start listening to each other, and then start talking."

By weaving personal stories of the local African-American experience and historical context provided by Dr. Brenda Tindal, staff historian at the Levine Museum, with musical selections from Bach to Bill Withers, this collaboration aims to provide the community with a shared experience promoting unity.

Led by Tyrone Jefferson, A Sign Of The Times of the Carolinas ensembles perform music from the African diaspora, including Jazz, Latin, Rhythm & Blues, and Funk.

"The desired outcome for A Sign Of The Times of the Carolinas is to musically demonstrate how different cultures, namely black folks and white folks, have more in common than their differences," Jefferson says. "We want to create a model for real conversations to occur between diverse groups - where people really listen to each other."

One of the Symphony selections features spoken word performed by Quentin Talley of On Q Performing Arts.

“By combining music and history, together we will create an experience that builds community and prompts an important dialogue discrimination and equality,” adds Kathryn Hill, President and CEO of Levine Museum.

There is no cost for this event, but registration is encouraged. To register, and for more information, visit charlottesymphony.org.

Listen Up, Charlotte!

Friday, April 28, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church-West, Sanctuary
1801 Oaklawn Ave.

Sunday, April 30, 2017, 6 p.m.

Providence Day School, McMahan Fine Arts Theater
5800 Sardis Rd.

About 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 community through music that educates, entertains, and enriches the human spirit. We are 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 and outreach programs. The Charlotte Symphony is a cornerstone of the cultural community, unifying people and adding value to their lives through music. www.charlottesymphony.org

About Levine Museum of the New South

Levine Museum of the New South is an interactive museum housing the nation's most comprehensive interpretation of post-Civil War southern history. Through the award-winning exhibit, Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers, changing galleries and complementing programs, the Museum tells the stories of the diverse people who have reinvented and shaped the region since 1865. Over 50,000 people visit the Museum each year, including 10,000 students who enrich their understanding of North Carolina history and enhance critical thinking skills through their experience at the Museum. www.museumofthenewsouth.org

About A Sign Of The Times of the Carolinas

A Sign Of The Times of the Carolinas was formed as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in 2006 with a mission to preserve the legacy of the African Diaspora through music, dance and the spoken word. The music, rhythm, and stories of the “A Sign Of The Times” bands are the primary mechanisms used to help the non-profit achieve its mission - i.e., every A Sign Of The Times of the Carolinas production and community program tells a story from the African-American experience and is meant to be both educational and entertaining. www.asignofthetimes.org

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