



CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

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RETIRED CSO PRINCIPAL VIOLIST ALI KAVADLO TO NAME PRINCIPAL VIOLA CHAIR IN MOTHER'S HONOR

April 30, 2013 | CHARLOTTE, NC – The Principal Viola Chair at the Charlotte Symphony will be named in memory of Zoe Bunten Merrill, the mother of Ali Kavadlo; Kavadlo retired in 2011 as principal violist for the Orchestra after 36 seasons.

The naming will occur during a short ceremony preceding the Saturday, May 11, 2013 performance of Beethoven's monumental Ninth Symphony.

Ali Kavadlo, Ali's sister Yvonne Merrill, and Ali's husband Gene Kavadlo (the Symphony's principal clarinetist), will be joined on-stage by Charlotte Symphony leadership to officially recognize the occasion and thank the many generous friends whose support made the naming possible. Mrs. Kavadlo led the effort to raise funding for the chair naming.

The Zoe Bunten Merrill Principal Viola Chair celebrates Zoe's lifelong love of the arts and her unwavering inspiration and support of her daughters' musical pursuits.

"She always sang in our church choir and encouraged my sister and me to do the same. We always had a piano in our home, on which my mother would accompany us in singing and later in playing the clarinet and violin," recalled Ali. "Music was so important to my mother that, when the Santa Fe Opera opened in the mid-50's, she would make the ten-hour round trip to Santa Fe (all in the same day) so that we could experience live opera," she said.

Zoe never heard her daughter Ali play professionally. In fact, Zoe never even heard her play the viola because Ali was a violinist until after she graduated college, at which point Zoe had passed away. "There exists no other memorial for my mother, so I felt it would be entirely appropriate to honor her memory in this way and I'm thrilled that this dream has become a reality," Ali said.

In addition to the contributions from friends and family, the Kavadlos made a gift to the Symphony and donated the revenue from the sale of Ali's William Carboni viola in order to name the Charlotte Symphony's Principal Viola chair for Ali and Yvonne's mother Zoe.

“We are thrilled that Ali and Gene have chosen to honor her mother by naming the chair that Ali so capably filled for so many years. Not only does this naming provide a lasting memorial, but it also helps support the Symphony financially in our efforts to continue to provide world-class music and music education to Charlotte,” said Interim President and Executive Director Robert Stickler.

The Charlotte Symphony will share the live Beethoven No. 9 experience with audiences at the Belk Theater at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11. A special Mother's Day Matinee will be offered at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 12. The Zoe Bunten Merrill chair will be acknowledged at the Saturday concert. At the Sunday Mother's Day Matinee, in the spirit of the holiday and the newly named principal viola chair, the Symphony is offering free admission to all moms with the purchase of a ticket by a companion.

Tickets to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony start at \$27.50 and can be purchased at charlottesymphony.org or by calling 704-972-2000. To make sure that Mom gets in free at Sunday's Mother's Day Matinee, enter promo code MOM online, call 704-972-200. Walk-ups are also available the day of the concert.

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