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**CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY WELCOMES NEW VP OF DEVELOPMENT**

June 4, 2013 | CHARLOTTE, NC – The Charlotte Symphony today announced that Michelle Hamilton will join the Symphony as its new Vice President of Development on July 1. She comes from Crisis Assistance Ministry where she served as Chief Advancement Officer.

Hamilton brings more than twenty years of professional fundraising experience, including development roles with the Houston Symphony, the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Arts Council of Fort Worth, TX. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Symphony Guild of Charlotte, the volunteer fundraising group for the Symphony, since 2011.

"I am excited that Michelle has agreed to join our team," said Robert Stickler, president and executive director of the Charlotte Symphony. "Everyone I talked to in Charlotte said that attracting her would be a 'home run' for the Symphony. I am incredibly impressed with her experience, her energy, and her enthusiasm for our art. I look forward to our partnership."

"My passion for the arts runs deep, and so I am thrilled to be joining the Symphony leadership to help elevate the organization to a new level of stability and excellence that matches the Orchestra's thriving artistic quality," said Hamilton.

As vice president of development for the region's largest professional performing arts group, Hamilton will lead the development efforts to raise approximately \$6 million, or two-thirds of the Symphony's \$9.3 million annual budget, in contributions. Hamilton says, as a development professional, "My greatest thrill is to bring people closer to the things they care about and want to see thrive. I see my role as catalyst, helping donors and friends learn more about the impact of their giving and the many benefits a strong Charlotte Symphony brings to our community."

Hamilton holds a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Louisiana and is a Certified Fundraising Executive. She lives in Charlotte with her husband and son.

**About the Charlotte Symphony**

Founded in 1932 and led by internationally renowned Music Director Christopher Warren-Green, the Charlotte Symphony is the largest and most active performing arts organization in the Charlotte region. It also boasts the longest continuous history of any orchestra in this part of the country. In pursuit of a mission to serve the whole community through music that educates, entertains, and enriches the

human spirit, the Symphony plays to more than 140,000 audience members each year in nearly 100 concerts featuring classical music to pops, and serves 15,000- plus students annually through its education programs.

To learn more about the Symphony, purchase tickets to a concert, or make a contribution, go to [charlottesymphony.org](http://charlottesymphony.org).

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