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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NEW FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT ENABLES SOLID FINANCIAL FUTURE**

**OCTOBER 2, 2017 | CHARLOTTE, NC**—The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and the American Federation of Musicians, Local 342 negotiating committee, representing musicians of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, announced that musicians and board have ratified a new five-year contract.

By providing predictability of musicians' and other fixed costs over the next five years, the agreement allows the Charlotte Symphony to create a workable financial plan in order to achieve a balanced budget and financial stability.

"The musicians of the Charlotte Symphony are pleased to have reached a long-term contract agreement with our management," says Ellyn Stuart, CSO violinist and chair of the orchestra negotiations committee. "This five-year agreement provides stability for the musicians while affording our management greater flexibility to bring music to Charlotte in new and innovative ways. We believe the future is bright."

The new agreement presents nearly an 8 percent increase in salary for all full-time musicians over the five-year terms. The agreement gives the CSO more flexibility in work schedules to bring performances to audiences when they are most likely to attend, namely during holidays and on Sundays. The number of working weeks in the season remains at 37.

"Our musicians are our greatest asset and our true partners," says Chris Teat, chair of the CSO Board of Directors. "Together we commit to living within our means while never taking our eye off excellence and growth. This contract creates a new future, and my hat is off to each musician."

The new contract replaces the agreement that expired on August 31, 2017. The new contract was retroactive to September 30, 2017 and runs through 2021.

"We have great respect for the talent and commitment of our musicians," says Mary A. Deissler, CSO president and CEO. "Our new agreement sets up a great foundation, allowing us to focus on growth and resilience. We are very grateful for our musicians' support."

All 2017-18 single tickets are now on sale. For general information regarding upcoming programming, visit [charlottesymphony.org](http://charlottesymphony.org) or call the Charlotte Symphony ticket office at 704-972-2000.

**About the Charlotte Symphony**

Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony is a longstanding nonprofit organization committed to delivering exceptional musical experiences that connect and strengthen the Charlotte community. Led by internationally renowned Music Director Christopher Warren-Green, the Symphony upholds the highest artistic integrity and takes bold steps to engage the community through music that enriches the human spirit. We employ professional full-time orchestra musicians, support two youth orchestras and a volunteer chorus, and offer significant educational programming aimed at improving underserved sections of our community. The Charlotte Symphony is integral to the Charlotte area, serving its community through music that connects and inspires. [charlottesymphony.org](http://charlottesymphony.org)

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