

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2025

Press contact: Deirdre Roddin

[droddin@charlottesymphony.org](mailto:droddin@charlottesymphony.org)

Office: 704-714-5112

**THE CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES  
THE SPRING GALA: A *HOMECOMING*  
AT THE HISTORIC CAROLINA THEATRE**

**Renée Fleming To Perform at the Newly Reopened Venue,  
The Site of the Symphony's Inaugural Concert 93 Years Ago**

**Friday, March 28, 2025 | Carolina Theatre**

**February 18, 2025 | Charlotte, NC** – The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO) will make a historic return to the newly reopened Carolina Theatre at Belk Place on Friday, March 28, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. for the Spring Gala, *A Homecoming*, featuring world-renowned soprano Renée Fleming in a performance inspired by her Grammy Award-winning album, *Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene*. This event holds special significance, as the Charlotte Symphony will be among the first to perform in the beautifully restored theatre — where the Symphony gave its inaugural performance on March 20, 1932.

In *Voice of Nature*, Renée Fleming explores humanity's relationship with the natural world through a program that blends classical and contemporary works. Accompanied by a stunning National Geographic Society film, the performance features an eclectic selection of songs by Björk, Handel, Kevin Puts, and Nico Muhly, as well as "Twilight and Shadow" from *The Lord of the Rings*. For the second half of the concert, Fleming will be joined by members of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra in an intimate program of chamber orchestra works and songs.

"Returning to the Carolina Theatre, the birthplace of the Charlotte Symphony, for our Spring Gala is an incredibly meaningful moment for us," said David Fisk, President and CEO of the Charlotte Symphony. "This celebration honors not only our rich history and deep ties to our city, but also how far we've come and the exciting future ahead. We are thrilled to share the evening with Renée Fleming, whose performance will undoubtedly make this historic venue come alive."

First opened in 1927, the Carolina Theatre served as a vibrant cultural hub on Tryon Street for decades before closing in 1978. Now, after an extensive restoration, the Carolina Theatre is reopening and ready to welcome back audiences. Together, with the Foundation For The Carolinas' headquarters and event venues, the Carolina Theatre will anchor Belk Place civic campus, named in honor of the families of Katherine Belk and the late Thomas M. Belk, and the late Claudia and John M. Belk.

The Charlotte Symphony's connection to the Carolina Theatre dates back to March 20, 1932, when the Orchestra gave its inaugural performance there under the baton of its first Music Director, Guillermo S. de Roxlo. Learn more about the founding of the Charlotte Symphony on [Google Arts & Culture](#).

“As a community-first nonprofit theatre, it’s no coincidence the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra will be among the first to take the stage at the Carolina Theatre,” Sean Seifert, the theatre’s executive director said. “We’re ecstatic to welcome the CSO back to its inaugural venue!”

### **Tickets**

Tickets for the Spring Gala Concert are available now at [charlottesymphony.org](http://charlottesymphony.org). For tickets and information about the full Gala experience, which includes pre- and post-concert receptions in the Sonia and Isaac Luski Gallery at Foundation For The Carolinas, visit [charlottesymphony.org/springgala](http://charlottesymphony.org/springgala).

For press tickets, contact Deirdre Roddin at [droddin@charlottesymphony.org](mailto:droddin@charlottesymphony.org) or 704-714-5112.

### **About the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra**

The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is one of the premier music organizations in the Southeastern United States and the oldest continuously operating symphony orchestra in the Carolinas. As Charlotte's most active performing arts group, the CSO presents around 150 concerts each season, reaching more than 130,000 music lovers. The CSO is committed to its mission of uplifting, entertaining, and educating the diverse communities of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and beyond through exceptional musical experiences. Led by Music Director Kwamé Ryan, the CSO employs 65 professional full-time orchestra musicians, fosters four youth orchestras, and offers significant educational support aimed at serving the under-resourced areas of our community. Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony plays a leading cultural role in the Charlotte area and serves the community as a civic leader, reflecting and uniting our region through the transformative power of live music.

### **About the Carolina Theatre at Belk Place**

Originally built in 1927, the Carolina Theatre in Uptown Charlotte has been restored to its original glory by Foundation For The Carolinas to serve as a dynamic civic hub. The Carolina has sat vacant since 1978, but it plans to reopen in March 2025 to reclaim its space as a crown jewel in the Queen City’s cultural crown.

---

### **All Programs and Artists are Subject to Change**

\*\*\*

*Hi-res photography is available in the Charlotte Symphony's [photo gallery](#) or by contacting Deirdre Roddin at [droddin@charlottesymphony.org](mailto:droddin@charlottesymphony.org)*