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NBSO Receives \$150,000 Challenge Gift

(New Bedford--) The New Bedford Symphony Orchestra (NBSO) announced today that it has received a \$150,000 Challenge Gift. The NBSO will receive a 2 to 1 matching gift for donations made in the month of July and a 1 to 1 match for donations in August. The Symphony's immediate goal is to raise \$75,000 in July so that it will receive the entire \$150,000 matching gift for a total of \$225,000 in philanthropic support for the NBSO's educational programs and concerts. The challenge gift donor wishes to remain anonymous.

NBSO President and CEO Dave Prentiss stated that "our success in this effort will transform the NBSO's financial standing and establish a solid fiscal foundation for the future. We will end our fiscal year in a strong financial position, be able to retire our accumulated operating debt, and establish a program investment fund that will allow us to strengthen our concert series and continue the expansion of our educational programs in the community." NBSO educational programs currently serve over 28,000 children annually and the Symphony's concert series is attended by nearly 10,000 people. All told, NBSO's concerts and educational programs serve 41 communities in and around the South Coast.

Chair of the NBSO Board of Trustees, David Wilson, stated "on behalf of everyone associated with the Symphony, I would like to express my deepest thanks for this wonderful act of generosity. The donor told us that the motivation for the gift is the strong belief in what the NBSO is doing in the community and the impact we are having in the lives of thousands of children and adults. Our job now is to spread this word so we can realize the full potential of the NBSO to build a community of music in the South Coast."

Donations to the Symphony can be made online at www.nbsymphony.org or by calling the NBSO office at (508) 999-6276.

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More About the NBSO:

The NBSO is a professional orchestra performing a 7 concert series of classical and pops music. The Symphony regularly performs with prize-winning guests artists from around the world.

(more)

The NBSO is dedicated to building a *Community of Music* in the South Coast: an orchestra that is responsive, accessible and vital to the community it serves; one that celebrates and fosters music and music-making, and one that collaborates robustly with other music groups and cultural and educational organizations.

The NBSO's Music in the Morning program brings classical music into the lives of 18,000 children every day of the school year, including children in all New Bedford and Fall River elementary schools.

The *SchoolsMusic!* programs sends a trio of NBSO musicians to South Coast schools for an interactive concert experience that integrates music with academic subjects such as reading and math.

The Young People's Concerts brings over 2,000 children to the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center to hear a live performance of the NBSO.

Other NBSO educational programs include the New Bedford Symphony Youth Orchestra, Master Classes, the After-School String Ensemble, Symphony Tales and "Be Our Musical Guest" (visits to local schools by NBSO guest artists).

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