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NEWS RELEASE

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## PIANOS DONATED TO AUGUSTA SYMPHONY'S KNOX MUSIC INSTITUTE

**Augusta, GA** – The Augusta Symphony was recently awarded one baby grand piano and two upright pianos from Pianos for Education, an Atlanta-based nonprofit. Founded and funded in 1999 by David England, Pianos for Education seeks out institutions and organizations which don't have the resources to purchase pianos for music education and appreciation purposes. Technically a piano-lending program, the early beneficiaries of Pianos for Education were the Georgia Tech Music Department, Oglethorpe University, and The Atlanta Opera. Just last year, Pianos for Education agreed to loan two grand pianos to the Uptown and Downtown Veterans Hospitals in Augusta.

Augusta Symphony Executive Director Anne Catherine Murray noted, "It was because of our collaboration with the music therapists at the VA that Pianos for Education sought us out. They heard about the Community Chords outreach programs we are doing at the Knox Music Institute and suggested we apply." Murray shared that her staff submitted an application, and once approved, she, Maestro Dirk Meyer and Artistic Operations Director Don Edmunds were invited to come to the piano warehouse, meet England, and sample pianos that would suit their needs. "I was in awe of the tremendous inventory of high quality, donated pianos and was overwhelmed to learn that we would not only receive the baby grand, but two uprights as a bonus loan," added the Maestro. "It seemed too good to be true, but Mr. England's mission is genuine and we are now the proud caretakers of three pianos for which we did not have to fundraise." The pianos will be used for music education, music therapy, chamber concerts, rehearsals and lessons.

Now in its sixty-fifth season, the Augusta Symphony is the primary professional orchestra for the Central Savannah River Area and pursues its mission "to share the joy of great musical performance with our community – together we are music" through annual symphonic, pops, and family concerts that reach approximately 20,000 people each year. Via its Community Chords education and outreach programs, the Symphony further strives to foster broad accessibility to live classical music performance and a lifelong appreciation of the art form among people of all ages, backgrounds, and means. The Symphony's Community Chords programs currently serve thousands of youth and adults in communities within a seventy-five mile radius of Augusta.

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*Our mission is to share the joy of great musical performance with our community.  
Together, we are music.*

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