



## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 NEWS RELEASE

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### **AUGUSTA SYMPHONY AWARDED GRANT FROM BANK OF AMERICA**

**AUGUSTA – September 19, 2024** — The Augusta Symphony is proud to accept a grant from Bank of America for its *Community Chords Education Outreach* programming. The Augusta Symphony and Bank of America have had a rich history of partnership and support lasting over 30 years. Through a grant from Bank of America, the Augusta Symphony will be able to continue its education and outreach programs throughout the CSRA.

*Community Chords* brings performances and demonstrations by Symphony musicians directly to learners in Richmond, Columbia, McDuffie, Edgefield, and Aiken Counties. In each *Classroom Concert*, Symphony musicians offer engaging and interactive performances for CSRA students. Based on the needs of the educator and the size and age of the group, *Classroom Concerts* may feature small ensembles, duets, or soloists.

“We are committed to the arts and continuing our partnership with the Augusta Symphony,” said Ora Parish, president, Bank of America Augusta-Aiken. “By supporting programs like *Community Chords*, we provide access to art and culture that offer social and educational benefits for the region.”

Through this education outreach program, the Symphony plays a vital role in offering children throughout the CSRA exposure to classical music and access to quality music programs that in many cases would otherwise be inaccessible. *Classroom Concerts* offer experiential learning that supplements and enriches the work of local educators in the classroom. These engagements are key to inspiring a lifelong appreciation of the arts and cultivating the musicians and audiences of the future.

Augusta Symphony 2<sup>nd</sup> Trombone, Justin Isenhour stated that he believes it's essential for orchestral musicians to engage with the community beyond the concert hall. “Initiatives like *Community Chords Education Outreach* help build meaningful connections with the local community and make the concert-going experience more accessible. Many of the students we visit lack the resources or family support to attend performances like those at the Augusta Symphony in the Miller Theater. By bringing the music to them, we plant seeds that might blossom into a lifelong appreciation of the arts. It's encouraging to also see teachers and administrators actively listening, smiling, and observing how we engage with their students.”

The Augusta Symphony's annual *Discovery Concert* is also an integral part of *Community Chords Education Outreach*. This concert provides over 1,000 elementary, middle, and high school students, including homeschoolers, with opportunities to experience a free live symphonic performance. The 2024-25 *Discovery Concert* will take place on Friday, November 8, 2024, at 10:00 am at the historic Miller Theater. This season's concert will feature Disney World Epcot's Mariachi Cobre, an 11-piece ensemble playing alongside the Augusta Symphony. As ambassadors for Mariachi music, Mariachi Cobre musicians will not only keep learners engaged in the music experience, but also increase their knowledge and understanding of this unique style of folk music.

To learn more about *Community Chords Education Outreach*, go to [AugustaSymphony.com/School-Outreach](http://AugustaSymphony.com/School-Outreach) to find out how you can have Augusta Symphony musicians perform in your classroom or a local library at no cost. To learn more about the Augusta Symphony's upcoming *Discovery Concert*, go to [AugustaSymphony.com/Discovery-Concert](http://AugustaSymphony.com/Discovery-Concert) to find out how you can apply for a ticket request for your learners at no cost. Both free initiatives are thanks to supporters like Bank of America.



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