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NEWS RELEASE

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AUGUSTA SYMPHONY'S WILL HOST ANNUAL DISCOVERY CONCERT FOR OVER 1,200 AREA STUDENTS THIS FRIDAY



Augusta, GA – The Augusta Symphony will hold its annual *Discovery Concert* on Friday, November 8, 2024, at the historic Miller Theater. The Discovery Concert provides area elementary, middle, and high school students with the opportunity to experience a live symphony orchestra; this is the 37th year of this annual concert. This year's Discovery Concert will introduce CSRA students to the world of Mariachi through its guest artists – Mariachi Cobre. These world-famous traditional folk musicians have entertained millions of visitors at EPCOT for more than four decades. Founded in 1971, Mariachi Cobre have performed with nearly 50 symphony orchestras across the United States and Mexico.

The Augusta Symphony holds the *Discovery Concert* near to its heart because of its relationship to its mission: “to share the joy of great musical performance with our community – together we are music.” In recent years one-third of students who attend have never seen a symphony perform or been exposed to orchestra instruments before this experience. The Augusta Symphony's Community Chords Program Director and Music Therapist, Veronica Andreassen-Barker, sends out surveys for qualitative and quantitative feedback before and after the concert to determine the full reach of this program to area students and schools.

“This concert gives public and private schools, as well as the homeschool community in the CSRA, an opportunity to ‘go to the symphony’ and engage in orchestral music in meaningful and exciting ways. Through the Discovery Concert, Augusta Symphony and Community Chords are supporting area music educators with a field trip experience and resources to supplement classroom learning – and inspiring learners to be the next generation of musicians and audiences,” said Andreassen-Barker.

Now in its 70th 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 about 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 youths and adults in communities within a 75-mile radius of Augusta.

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The Augusta Symphony Inc is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity and is supported in part by an award from the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Georgia Council is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. The Augusta Symphony is also supported in part by the Columbia County Community and Leisure Services and by the Greater Augusta Arts Council through appropriations from Augusta-Richmond County.

