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NEWS RELEASE

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## KARAOKE SHOWCASES RETURN TO THE MILLER THEATER



Augusta, GA – As Disability Pride Month comes to a close, the Augusta Symphony’s Community Chords Music Therapy will host three Karaoke Showcases at the Miller Theater on July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>.

These Karaoke Showcases are planned, produced, and performed by Community Chords Music Therapy participants, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the community partners that serve them. Karaoke may seem like an unusual music therapy intervention, but during the pandemic, groups began incorporating karaoke when using telehealth platforms. Community Chords Music Therapist, Veronica Andreassen-Barker has continued to use karaoke in groups because participants report increased in self-esteem, confidence, and expression as well as more support in coping with anxiety.

In weekly music therapy groups, each performer establishes specific goals for their performance like memorizing lyrics, hitting target words, working with or supporting a colleague, adding some expressive gestures, standing independently for x number of minutes and the list goes on. As well, karaoke is an activity that adults living independently in the community can participate in without barriers; however, disabled adults may encounter roadblocks to participation. In this way, Community Chords Music Therapy is providing a space for inclusion for disabled adults at the community level.

Participants have been working throughout the spring and summer on their selections and are looking forward to sharing their performances with family and friends at the Miller Theater. **Please note, these Karaoke Showcases are NOT open to the public.**

Community Chords Group Music Therapy is made possible through the generous support of the Presenting Sponsor for Music Therapy, Piedmont Augusta.



Now in its seventy-first 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. Through 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 seventy-five-mile radius of Augusta. To learn more about the Augusta Symphony, visit [AugustaSymphony.com](http://AugustaSymphony.com).

Season subscriptions for the upcoming season, “Come As You Are,” are now on sale. The upcoming season showcases artists from a variety of backgrounds and talents while telling stories of celebration and triumph with music by composers spanning centuries. Subscriptions are available online at [AugustaSymphony.com](http://AugustaSymphony.com) and at the Miller Theater Box Office. The Box Office is open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, and purchases can be made in-person or via phone at 706.842.4080 ext 1.

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