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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND THE GIFT OF MUSIC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE
TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP**

Atlanta, GA — The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) and The Gift of Music Foundation are proud to announce a new educational partnership designed to expand access, opportunity, and excellence in music education for students across metro Atlanta and the greater Southeast.

This collaboration will create meaningful pathways for elementary, middle, high school, and collegiate students to engage directly with professional musicians through masterclasses, concerts, and immersive learning experiences connected to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s artistic and educational ecosystem. Central to the partnership is shared engagement within the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Talent Development Program, strengthening a pipeline that nurtures young musicians at every stage of their journey.

In addition to performance-based learning, the partnership will broaden community access through the Instrument Exploration Station, an interactive, hands-on educational experience featured during ASO Family Concerts at Atlanta Symphony Hall, as well as at Piedmont Park and Ameris Bank Amphitheatre concerts. These experiences invite students and families to explore instruments up close, sparking curiosity and deepening musical understanding in welcoming, accessible environments.

“This partnership reflects our shared belief that music education is a vital investment in young people and in the cultural future of our region,” said Sarah Grant, Vice President of Education and Community Engagement at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. “By working alongside The Gift of Music Foundation, we are expanding access to high-quality musical experiences and strengthening our Talent Development Program in ways that will impact students for years to come.”

David Starnes, Chief Academic Partnerships Officer at The Gift of Music, emphasized the broader impact of the collaboration: “The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra represents artistic excellence at the highest level. Partnering together allows us to connect students with world-class musicians, meaningful mentorship, and transformative experiences that can shape both academic and artistic trajectories. This is a powerful model for what music education can look like across the Southeast.”

Jeanne Carere, Chief Artistic Education Officer at The Gift of Music, added, “We are especially excited to engage deeply within the ASO Talent Development Program. Supporting students through hands-on exploration, professional masterclasses, and performance opportunities reinforces our shared commitment to equity, access, and artistic excellence.”

Together, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and The Gift of Music Foundation aim to establish a regional model of music education excellence, demonstrating how strategic partnerships can open doors, inspire creativity, and create sustainable opportunities for young musicians throughout metro Atlanta and beyond.

This partnership affirms the belief that when institutions align around a shared mission, music education becomes a powerful catalyst for community impact, artistic growth, and lifelong opportunity.

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate and enrich our community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to experience the power of live orchestra music.

The Orchestra’s range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Movies in Concert, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday series, and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs regularly with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO’s 27 GRAMMY® Award-winning recordings.

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