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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES NEW THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH MUSICIANS**

**Trajectory of Success in Atlanta Continues**

**Atlanta, GA** – The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO), together with its musicians, members of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM) Local 148-462, are proud to announce a new three-year collective bargaining agreement. This historic agreement demonstrates a true investment in the orchestra; the terms reflect the growth and stability of the organization over the last decade. The ASO has balanced its budget for the last 11 years and continues to enjoy strong support from both audiences and donors.

"I believe we have a fair new contract that both preserves the ASO's financial stability and recognizes how much we value our musicians," said Executive Director Jennifer Barlament. "This organization is stronger than ever, and in partnership with our musicians, we will continue to serve our community and reach new artistic heights."

Jessica Oudin, President of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Players' Association, shared, "The musicians are united in our unwavering commitment to our audiences and to our art—and in our clear vision for the future of the world-class Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. We are thankful to have ratified a progressive and multifaceted contract that speaks to all aspects of our work—and in so doing, honors the legacy and protects the future of the ASO. We are thankful for the collaborative spirit that has enabled us all to reach this day, and we look forward to the continued work ahead."

Important themes of the new contract include:

- Wage increases of 15% over three years
- The addition of two positions to the orchestra, growing the complement to 90 musicians in year three
- A shared commitment to protecting the health and safety of musicians through the preservation of existing health insurance benefits
- Additional improvements to working conditions and work rules
- A comprehensive overhaul of our audition and tenure review procedures that seeks to protect the integrity of each process, while empowering the voices of the musicians, consistent with industry standards

Bruce Kenney, President of Local 148-462 added, “Our union’s history of collaboration with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra dates back to 1946, when Henry Sopkin sought guidance to grow this orchestra. Now, we have a new agreement that honors and builds upon decades of effort and ensures the status of the ASO and the city of Atlanta as a destination for music lovers and musicians alike.”

#### **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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