Music Was Always a Priority for Orchestra Devotee
Marion Welton’s Strong Connection to Orchestra Lives on Through Her Generous Gift

“Aunt Marion could have left an estate gift to any number of beneficiaries, but her first choice was wholeheartedly the Minnesota Orchestra.”

—Mary Sigmundik, niece of Marion Welton

Last year the Minnesota Orchestra received a generous gift from a charitable remainder trust established by Laureate Society member Dr. Marion Welton and her husband, Dr. George Welton.

Marion was a longtime teacher and school psychologist in a variety of locations, from Texas to California and Hawaii. Music always played a prominent role in her life—not surprising, given her parents’ musical abilities: her mother played piano for silent movies early in the last century, while her father loved to gather the family around the piano to sing.

This strong connection to music drew Marion to become acquainted with, and then dedicated to, the Minnesota Orchestra. She found a kindred soul in George, who had also grown up singing. They frequented Minnesota Orchestra concerts and, after retiring to a cabin up north and a winter home in Hawaii, they made a point of spending weekends in Minneapolis so they could still hear the Orchestra.

In Marion’s later years, especially after George’s passing, her sister-in-law Clarice Swisher continued to arrange trips to Orchestra Hall every two months. Clarice remembers of those times: “It became the highlight of her week when she had a concert to attend, and she enjoyed it immensely.”

Marion’s niece Mary Sigmundik also knew how her aunt and uncle would feel about making a significant contribution to the Orchestra. “They would be very pleased,” she affirmed, “to know that their gift is deeply appreciated and that it will benefit the Orchestra as well as concertgoers.”

To learn more about how you can support the Minnesota Orchestra with a planned gift, please contact us at (612) 371-5600.
Tidying Up Your Year-End Plans

Small Moves That Can Pay Off

The end of the year is an opportune time to be tax-savvy with your finances. By having a plan in place to protect your wealth with valuable and often overlooked tax deductions, you can help eliminate the tax bite in 2012. Following are four moves you can make this year to help reduce the potential tax hit or even boost your income while receiving a tax break.

Make an Immediate Cash Gift
When you support our mission with a simple donation of cash, you not only make a difference, but you also receive a tax deduction. If you itemize, you can write off the amount you’re donating, resulting in lower taxable income. If you are unsure whether your gift is tax-deductible, you can always check with us.

Benefit From a Life Income Gift
Whether you’re still working or retired, you may decide after assessing your finances that you need more income. Consider setting up a life income gift to benefit a charitable organization such as ours. In exchange for your gift of cash, securities or possibly real estate, you can receive income for life. Plus, you get a partial charitable tax deduction the year you make the gift. After your lifetime or once the payment period ends, the remaining value of your gift goes to us.

Provide Support Using A Tax-Smart Strategy
If you give us property that you have owned for more than a year that has increased in value, you pay no capital gains tax on the

Did You Know?
If you itemize deductions, the IRS allows you to claim charitable deductions for cash gifts up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI). If you make a charitable gift of appreciated assets, you may deduct up to 30 percent of your AGI in any one year. A five-year carryover period is available for gifts in excess of these percentage limitations.
Thank You!
Your donations—large and small—make a big difference in our ability to carry out our mission.

transaction and you are entitled to a charitable deduction for its full fair market value.
If the property’s value is now below your original purchase price, however, you should sell it to take a capital loss to the extent allowed by law and then donate the cash to us. This helps reduce your taxable estate.

Watch the Calendar
All gifts must be completed by Dec. 31 to qualify for an income tax deduction this year. Cash contributions sent by mail are deductible if they are mailed by midnight on Dec. 31.

Gifts of securities are deductible on the date they are transferred to the charitable organization’s books—not the date you ask your broker to make the transfer. In most states, real estate gifts are considered completed on the date a properly executed deed is delivered to the organization.

If you have any questions, we are always here to help. Contact us to learn more about smart ways to support our mission this year while providing tax benefits for yourself.

FREE Guide!
Many gifts offer tax benefits in addition to the heartfelt satisfaction that comes from giving at year-end. To learn more, send for the FREE guide Top 5 Year-End Gift Ideas by returning your enclosed survey.

Remember Your Estate Plans...
Year-end tax planning prompts many people to also assess their estate plans. You’ll want to pay particular interest to your plans if you experience:

- Major life events, such as a change in marital status, births or deaths.
- A rise or fall in income or net worth.
- A move to another state, as each state has its own laws about valid wills.

When going over your estate plans, be sure to take advantage of immediate ways to reduce your taxable estate using the following methods:

- Use your annual gift-tax exclusion. You can give your children or grandchildren gifts of cash or stock, and as long as you keep the value of the gift at or below $13,000 ($26,000 for gifts you split with your spouse) per recipient, there will be no tax on the gift.
- You can also pay certain medical bills and tuition fees for someone else—as long as you pay the hospital or schools directly for the incurred costs.
The Laureate Society
Honoring Those Who Are Committed to the Minnesota Orchestra’s Future

The Laureate Society was established to recognize and express appreciation to those individuals who have remembered the Minnesota Orchestral Association in their estate plans through wills, living trusts or other deferred gift vehicles.

Benefits of the Laureate Society:
• You will be invited to the annual Laureate Society luncheon.
• Complimentary digital subscription to Showcase magazine.
• You will receive regular communications from the Minnesota Orchestral Association related to estate planning topics as well as information about the Orchestra’s activities and events.

Members of the Laureate Society may remain anonymous, and all information is kept strictly confidential. There is no minimum commitment required for membership.

To join the Laureate Society, please contact the Development Office at (612) 371-5600 or visit minnesotaorchestra.org/laureatesociety.

Action List: Your Next Steps

1. Request the FREE guide Top 5 Year-End Gift Ideas by returning the enclosed 30-second survey.
2. Visit minnesotaorchestra.org/plannedgiving to discover effective ways to make a lasting difference.
3. Contact us if you have any questions about supporting the Minnesota Orchestra today or in the future.

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