Laureate Society members Carol and Mike Milligan are huge fans of the Minnesota Orchestra’s “Inside the Classics” series. “I really like the way Sarah Hicks and Sam Bergman weave the historical perspective into their discussions about the music,” Mike says.

Says Carol, “Then, when the music starts, it’s wonderful to close my eyes and have everything else in the world evaporate.”

For Carol and Mike, real-world concerns aren’t simply metaphors, but their life’s work. Carol administers a program through the state agriculture department that provides fresh, locally grown produce from farmers markets to low-income seniors and families with young children.

Mike helps young men in Ramsey County Community Corrections access services to address alcohol and drug addictions.

The Milligans’ commitment to community extends to their philanthropy. Their entire estate is earmarked for the charities they love. “We want to foster a community that will be well-rounded, interesting and culturally rich,” Mike says. “So providing an estate gift for the Orchestra’s future is a natural choice.”

Says Carol, the Orchestra “benefits everyone in the community, even those who may not attend concerts.”

The Milligans made their decision to make this donation before writing their will, so it was easy for them to create an estate plan that fits their goals perfectly.

“We always joke that it would be fun to have a foundation so we could give money away all day,” Carol says. “Until that happens, planning our estate is as close as we can get.”

“The Orchestra is a great investment that pays unique dividends. You carry its sound in your memory.” —Mike Milligan

Mike and Carol Milligan
Help Shape Our Future

3 Easy Decisions to Make

If you’re like many of our supporters, you hold our charitable mission close to your heart and want to keep supporting our work far into the future. But what if, because of life’s ups and downs, you don’t know how much you can afford to part with today?

You can play an important part in the future of those we serve by planning a gift to us after your lifetime. This type of charitable gift is perfect for supporters who love our cause but need the flexibility to change their minds at any time and keep their current assets intact.

Referred to as a bequest, a gift in your will can take many forms. Make these three decisions before asking your estate planning attorney to add the legal language to your will.

1. Choose what to give. Pick from one of these four options.
   - A specific bequest gives us a particular piece of property. If you dispose of the property before your death, we cannot claim any other property.
   - A general bequest gives us a stated sum of money. If there is insufficient cash in your estate to cover the bequest, other assets must be sold for cash to pay the stated amount.
   - A residuary bequest gives the “rest, residue and remainder” of your estate or, more commonly, a percentage of the residue after all other bequests, debts and taxes have been paid.
   - A contingent bequest requires a certain event to occur before the
Can happen. For example, you could bequeath funds to a family member provided that person survives you; if not, the funds would then go to us.

Decide how you would like us to use your gift.
Choose from one of these three options.

- An unrestricted bequest allows us to use the assets in the most beneficial way.
- A restricted bequest allows you to specify how we are to use the funds. Contact us in advance to be certain your intent can be fulfilled.
- An endowed bequest allows you to restrict the principal of your gift so we can use only a small portion each year, allowing the fund to last forever.

Determine if you would like to commemorate someone with your gift.
If so, please let us know of your intentions. Whatever your choices regarding what to give and how you would like your gift used, you can make your bequest in honor or in memory of someone special.

Did You Know?
You can amend or even revoke your bequest to us at any time. As your circumstances change, so can your gift to us.

One Person Can Make a Difference
A Story of Commitment and Determination

If you doubt that you are the type of person who would leave a charitable gift in a will, keep in mind that bequests can be made whether you are young or old, have a little money or a lot. Consider the true story of Rose Guepfer:

Rose was born on Oct. 22, 1902, deaf and mute, to a farm family from rural Wisconsin. Working in the sewing room of a hospital in Wisconsin for 31 years, she mended surgical gowns and linens, never earning more than $6,100 a year before her retirement in 1988.

With faltering prose, Rose once scribbled this note to an administrator: “I want to give money to hospital for sick people to come here to get well.” When she died in 1997, Rose left the hospital her entire estate, worth more than $160,000. The money funded an endowment for the hospital’s grief support center.

Let Us Know
We hope that you will let us know of your intentions, but if you prefer to remain anonymous, we respect that wish as well—and express our sincere gratitude. You can be certain your gift will make a lasting impact on our future and help us continue our important work.

The needs of your family are always first. That’s why a planned gift is ideal—you can support our work and ensure that assets will always be available to provide for you and your loved ones.
The Laureate Society
Honoring Those 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.
• You and your guests will be invited to attend patron receptions in the green room during the intermissions of all Classical and Coffee Concerts. Refreshments are complimentary.
• With your permission, you will be recognized in Showcase, the Minnesota Orchestra’s program magazine.
• You may opt to receive Showcase mailed directly to your home.
• You will receive periodic 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.

Action List: Your Next Steps

STEP 1 Return your 30-second survey to request a copy of the FREE guide Make Your Final Wishes Come True.

STEP 2 Schedule a time to meet with your estate planning attorney to make sure your estate plans reflect your current wishes and needs.

STEP 3 Contact the Minnesota Orchestra for other gift ideas that can help you protect your family’s financial future.

Minnesota Orchestra
Osmo Vänskä Music Director

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