The Musical Legacy

Minneapolis Orchestra Usher Leads by Example

If you've attended many concerts at Orchestra Hall, you may well have been ushered to your seat by Laureate Society member Carol Peterson. Carol, a longtime 3M employee, now counts ushering among the joys of “retirement”—a clue to how lively she is in “retirement.”

She loves hearing live performances as part of her work for the Minnesota Orchestra, and as one who plays piano, organ and hand bells and has sung with noted local church choirs and choral ensembles, she knows how to listen. She still remembers what she heard when first introduced to orchestral music—as a sixth-grader listening to the then-Minneapolis Symphony led by Antal Dorati—Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue.”

Carol’s deep love for the Minnesota Orchestra led her to include it in her estate plans. “I believe in the power of good music,” she explains, “and I was ready to step forward and help further the experience for others.” While most people leave a gift through their wills or trusts, Carol opted to make the Orchestra the beneficiary of a retirement account. This is a particularly tax-savvy gift: The Orchestra, as a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, receives the full value of a gift from a retirement account, while the same gift made to an individual would be subject to taxes.

Carol’s gift for the future and her work as an usher and stage door guard demonstrate her special commitment to the Orchestra. She’s known as one of Orchestra Hall’s most upbeat ushers, one who always goes out of her way to give patrons an excellent experience.

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“Good music is totally uplifting, life-giving and life-sustaining.” With the legacy she has created, music will continue to sustain others for years to come.

If you would like to share your love of the Minnesota Orchestra with future generations, contact the Development Office at (612) 371-5600 or visit minnesotaorchestra.org/plannedgiving.
Extend Your Impact
Consider the Benefits of a Gift in Your Will or Trust

We are extremely grateful for your donations. Large or small—every dollar makes a difference. If you want to ensure that your support for our organization continues even after you are gone, you may be interested in the simplicity of a gift in your will or trust.

**Q** Why should I choose this approach?

**A** There are two key benefits in setting up a gift through your will or trust:

1. **You can change your mind at any time.** Since this type of gift does not go into effect until after your lifetime, you have the opportunity to update or revoke your gift at any time while you are alive. Plus, since you’re not actually parting with assets today, you don’t need to worry that you won’t have enough to live on in the future should you need your assets after all. This lets you balance your generosity with your concerns about living expenses, future medical costs and loved ones.

2. **You can be flexible in your commitment.** Most people do not know what the exact size of their estate will be; therefore, making a gift to us by using a percentage amount can be a more appropriate way to divide your assets. It allows you to benefit our organization and loved ones in relative proportion.

**Q** How does a gift through my will or trust work?

**A** With a gift in your will or revocable living trust, called a bequest, you can give a percentage of your estate or a certain amount of cash, securities or property. After your lifetime, our organization will use your gift to support our mission.

Your estate planning attorney can help you structure your bequest to meet your exact financial needs and charitable goals. We are happy to provide you with sample language to share with your attorney; simply contact us or return the enclosed survey.

**Q** How can I balance my commitment to family with a desire to help your organization?

**A** A survey of American residents reveals that the majority welcome the idea of sharing a piece of their inheritance with a nonprofit.* Of the adults surveyed, 72 percent felt it was reasonable to designate 5–10 percent to charity. Please keep that in mind when you are making your plans for the future. Even a small percentage can make a significant impact.

**Q** What if I have already made this type of gift?

**A** Let us know by returning the enclosed survey. That way we can ensure that your gift will be used exactly as you intend. Plus, it would be our honor to thank you for your gift. We will respect any wishes regarding anonymity, of course.

Free Guide!
As life changes, so should your will. Return the enclosed survey to receive our must-have guide 17 Reasons to Update Your Will.

*Source: “America Speaks: Scientific Research Reveals New Targets for Planned Giving”
Even a gift of 5–10 percent of your estate can make a big difference to us. Contact us to learn more about supporting us through your will or trust.

4 Ways to Make a Difference After You’re Gone
Tailor Your Gift to Meet Your Goals

A gift in your will or living trust, known as a bequest, can be crafted to meet your particular goals. Choose from these four options:

1. **Unrestricted bequest**
   This is a gift for our general purposes, to be used at the discretion of our governing board. A gift like this—without conditions attached—allows us to determine the wisest and most pressing need for the funds at the time of receipt.

2. **Restricted bequest**
   This type of gift allows you to specify how the funds are to be used. Perhaps you have a special purpose or project in mind. If so, it’s best to consult us before you execute your will or trust to be certain your intent can be fulfilled.

3. **Honorary or memorial bequest**
   This is a gift given in honor or memory of someone. We are pleased to honor your request and have different ways to grant appropriate recognition.

4. **Endowed bequest**
   This bequest allows you to restrict the principal of your gift, requiring us to hold the funds permanently and use only the income or a small percentage of the fund each year. Creating an endowment in this manner means that your gift can continue giving indefinitely.
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 Laureate Society membership:

• Invitation to annual Laureate Society event with Minnesota Orchestra musicians
• Invitation to an open rehearsal
• Backstage tour of Orchestra Hall
• Recognition in Laureate Society roster
• Special invitation to Orchestra events
• VIP ticketing services for Laureates who also donate to the Guaranty Fund

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.

Quick Actions to Take

1. Return the enclosed survey for the FREE guide 17 Reasons to Update Your Will.

2. Visit minnesotaorchestra.org/plannedgiving to learn more about our mission and how you can provide support.

3. Contact us if you have any questions about using your will to support the Minnesota Orchestra.

MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

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