

*For Immediate Release*



**FWSO Surpasses Goal for \$1.5 Million Challenge Grant from  
Amon G. Carter Foundation  
Three-Year Campaign Generates \$3 Million over Three Years**

**FORT WORTH, TX – January 2, 2018** – The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to announce that the *Play Your Part: 3 Steps to \$3 Million* matching challenge, generously made possible by the Amon G. Carter Foundation, has reached its goal. Through the challenge, the Foundation is matching up to \$500,000 per year in new and increased contributions, resulting in a potential three million dollars of additional revenue for the Orchestra over the course of the three-year campaign.

The challenge launched in February 2017, and has encouraged increased giving from new, reinstated, and current donors. To date, a total of 1,160 donors have made three-year pledges totaling \$870,000 annually. Eligible funds for the match have exceeded the \$500,000 goal by more than \$20,000 and, combined with the match, total \$3,060,000 in increased giving through 2019.

“The Carter Foundation is delighted with the response to the Play Your Part challenge by first-time donors as well as existing donors willing to increase their giving above previous support levels. We commend the creative approach taken by the Symphony to market this incentive grant and maximize its potential,” stated John H. Robinson, Executive Vice President- Grant Administration of the Amon G. Carter Foundation. “These new commitments along with the Foundation match will make a significant impact on current and future operating budgets of the Symphony. It is our hope these initial three-year pledges will continue well past the challenge period and help the Symphony permanently broaden and deepen its patron support and attendance base.”

“I am absolutely thrilled that we have met the Carter Challenge goal!” stated FWSO Chairman of the Board Mercedes T. Bass. “This accomplishment is a testament to the community’s support of the FWSO, and it represents nearly 1,200 donors who made three-year pledges to help ensure our financial stability and continued artistic excellence. It would never have been

possible without the generosity of the Amon G. Carter Foundation, and I am forever grateful to John Robinson for his vision and dedication to our great orchestra. I sincerely thank everyone who played their part to make this campaign a resounding success.”

“We are so thankful to the Amon G. Carter Foundation for this extraordinary opportunity and are grateful for the wonderful response from our community -- patrons, board of directors, musicians, and those who have never made a gift to the Orchestra,” stated FWSO Music Director Miguel Harth-Bedoya. “We hope to bring the joy of music to Fort Worth for many more years to come.”

Ed Jones, FWSO Principal Tuba stated, "The Musicians of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra are delighted that the Carter Challenge goal has been met and are looking forward to the future of the Orchestra. We are grateful to our many patrons and supporters who have made three-year pledges to make this goal a reality."

Intended to create an upsurge in grassroots giving, the ***Play Your Part*** challenge has been promoted collaboratively by the FWSO staff, board, and the orchestra’s musicians, who were deeply involved by assisting with efforts to promote the challenge, contacting their support base on behalf of the FWSO, and by personally making a pledge to the campaign.

For more information, visit [www.fwsymphony.org](http://www.fwsymphony.org) or call (817) 665-6500.

### **About the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra**

Since 1912, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra has educated, entertained and enhanced the cultural life of Cowtown. The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra performs a broad range of symphonic and pops concerts from August through May. In addition to its own concert series, the Orchestra also collaborates with the Texas Ballet Theater, Fort Worth Opera, Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Southwestern Seminary Master Chorale, and the Children’s Education Program of Bass Performance Hall. Concerts In The Garden, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra’s summer music festival, was launched in 1990 and takes place each June - July at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. For more information about Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, visit [www.fwsymphony.org](http://www.fwsymphony.org).

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