



Contact: Debbie Abrams
Debbie@thebuzzagency.net
561-289-1378

**LOCAL PHILANTHROPIST DONATES \$300K TO SYMPHONIA
'The Marleen Forkas Connoisseur Concert Series' Debuts Next Season**

Boca Raton, FL (May 2, 2018)--The SYMPHONIA (thesymphonia.org), South Florida's world-class chamber orchestra, has announced that the 2018-19 Connoisseur Concert Series has been renamed to reflect a generous gift from well-known Boca Raton philanthropist, Marleen Forkas. The series will be named 'The Marleen Forkas Connoisseur Concert Series,' in appreciation of the gift.



"We are beyond humbled and so grateful that Marleen Forkas recognizes the importance of providing world class classical music to our community," Carole Boucard, President of The Symphonia Board of Directors, said. "Her gift will help us share world-class orchestral music with new audiences across South Florida."

The gift will also enable The Symphonia to establish its first endowment fund, which will help support the continued growth of the organization and allow it to expand its offerings for years to come.

"I'm delighted to enable more people to be able to hear our world class Symphonia," Marleen Forkas said. "I encourage the community to support classical music by subscribing to next year's exciting concert series now!"

Boca Raton has been fortunate to have Marleen Forkas and her late husband, Harold, as a major force for good in the community.

Active at Florida Atlantic University, their gift enabled The Marleen & Harold Forkas Alumni Center to open on FAU's Boca Raton campus. The couple was jointly awarded the FAU President's Distinguished Service Medallion in 2008. Marleen previously served as a member of both the FAU Foundation Board and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine Advisory Board.

Marleen has been integrally involved with a number of local organizations, including the Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation, B'nai Torah Congregation, Boca Ballet Theatre, the American Heart Association, Boca Raton Museum of Art and the Marleen

Forkas Camps at the Jewish Community Center, including the Marleen Forkas Camp Kavod, which provides a year-round camp for children with special needs.

Marleen Forkas graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology's Management Engineering Division and had a successful 40-year career as an embroidery designer, with clients around the world.

For more information, visit thesymphonia.org, call 1-866-687-4201 or email tickets@thesymphonia.org.

About The SYMPHONIA

The SYMPHONIA, South Florida's world-class orchestra, provides high quality classical music for the enjoyment and benefit of the South Florida community. The SYMPHONIA'S performances and educational outreach programs feature nationally and internationally acclaimed conductors and soloists, enhancing the cultural lives of area residents, with a special emphasis not only on adults, but also on its younger citizens.

###