

## Boca group promotes, performs classical music

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Molly Foreman Kozel (Photo by Marlene Roberts)

By Marlene Roberts, Special Correspondent  
September 28, 2012

**Name:** Molly Foreman Kozel

**Birthplace:** Detroit

**Residence:** Boca Raton

**Family:** One daughter; two granddaughters

**Career:** Principal at advertising, marketing and public relations agencies

**Organization:** Boca Raton Symphonia, a nonprofit organization formed to provide professional classical music through

performances, educational and outreach programs. The symphonia's inaugural season started in July 2004.

### Q: Why do you volunteer?

A: During middle, high school and college, I did extracurricular activities, so volunteering was a natural extension.

When I use the marketing skills I originally developed for businesses to help nonprofit groups, it gives me a great deal of personal satisfaction. And I truly enjoy helping others.

### Q: How did you choose this organization?

A: I was active in the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra in the '80s and '90s and was dismayed when it closed. When I heard about the new chamber-sized orchestra group that was forming in Boca Raton, I became an immediate supporter. Four years ago, I was asked to join the board. I saw a void in South Florida that needed to be filled, and I wanted to do something about it.

### Q: Describe your volunteer role.

A: I sit on the symphonia board as the vice president of marketing.

### Q: What goals do you have?

A: To have more free concerts aimed at families with children and community members who otherwise couldn't afford to attend performances. People tend to view the "underserved" as only low income, but it's middle income, too. Another goal is to have more members of the business community join our board and lend their support. Lastly, I'd like to see Boca Raton earmark funding for the cultural arts. The per capita amount would be minimal, but it would allow the numerous cultural arts groups to better serve our entire community.

### Q: What challenges have you faced?

A: Getting our name out to the public. Previously, we relied on newspapers, but in the age of electronic media, that no longer works. And our name doesn't tell who we are or what we do. So, mainly through word of mouth, we're explaining that the symphonia is a chamber-sized group of world-class musicians.

### Q: What have you accomplished?

A: Two years ago, the Allegro Society was formed to develop our exposure. We had our Lunch and Learn series, and this year we're initiating Tea and Symphony at the top of the Bridge Hotel. On Saturdays, we have free rehearsal programs. And we're holding unique events, like having the symphonia play while a film like "Casablanca" is shown. Go to our website and be surprised.

### Q: What have you gained?

A: When I watch the faces of young people experiencing the pleasure that fine music brings, I think, "Hearing this music played by symphonical musicians, being allowed to touch the instruments, maybe they will want to become a musician, they'll want to bring music to children," and I'm filled with hope — for me and for them.

For more information, visit <http://www.bocasymphonia.org>, call 561-376-3848 or email [info@bocasymphonia.org](mailto:info@bocasymphonia.org).

If you know a Palm Beach County resident who deserves recognition for volunteer work, fax the information to 954-429-1207 or e-mail to [robertsanet@gmail.com](mailto:robertsanet@gmail.com). Nominations should include volunteer's name, city of residence, a contact name and phone number, and a brief description of why this person deserves special recognition.

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