

## AGREEMENT REACHED: BIRMINGHAM'S ORCHESTRA WILL RETURN

from the Alabama Symphonic Association, March 6, 1997:

Mr. David Pandolfi, President of the Birmingham Musicians' Protective Association, Local 256 - 733 American Federation of Musicians and Dr Charles a. McCallum, President and CEO of the Alabama Symphonic Association, Inc., today announced ratification of a new, two year, agreement that provides for a nucleus of forty eight (48) full-time musicians to form the basis for the return of a professional symphony orchestra to Birmingham. The **nucleus of 48** will be augmented by additional, per-service musicians as needed to provide a full-range of symphonic, "Pops" and other musical services throughout the region (See Below for Details)

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors, Dr. McCallum expressed pleasure at the outcome of the ratification vote and the process that led up to it. "We are delighted to have reached accord with the musicians and very pleased with the negotiating process. The musicians negotiators, led by David Pandolfi, were very professional and, while diligently representing their memberships exhibited a sincere commitment to assure the success and future of this new musical association. "Together we approached the process positively and agreed that there would be no problem that we could not resolve. We shared all of our financial projections with the musicians and they shared their thoughts with us. The musicians exhibited candor and a passion for the art form that leads me to believe we are about to embark on a new era of collaboration in providing a wide range of musical services for Birmingham and an ever-widening community."

Speaking for the musicians, David Pandolfi, too, expressed optimism about the future, "We believe this is a great start in many ways. The Board of Directors of the new Alabama Symphonic Association seems clearly dedicated to the return and long-term development of a top-quality musical organization to serve Birmingham and all of Alabama. We are also delighted they recognized the hardships undergone by members of the former Alabama Symphony Orchestra when it ceased operations and are offering contracts to those individuals first. "I believe we have reached the basis for a long-term and productive relationship -- one that holds the promise of serving a wide variety of community musical needs, that sees growth consistent with that of Birmingham and the state of Alabama and recognizes that we all need to progress in a fiscally responsible manner.."We look forward to the arrival of Doug Gerhart, the Association's first Executive Director, and the development of a solid working relationship with him, We're anxious to begin playing -- especially in the new Alys Stephens Center -- and eagerly look forward to this September ."

Highlights of the Agreement:

**Length of Season:** thirty-four (34) compensated weeks within a 36 week period.

**Minimum scale salary:** \$600 per week/\$20,400 for the year.

**Fringe Benefits:** Include statutory benefits of Social Security, Unemployment Insurance Workers' Compensation Insurance plus Medical Insurance, Instrument Insurance, **Pension** payments of 5% of full-time musician's salary to the Union's Pension Plan and access to a "Cafeteria" Plan through which musicians may purchase additional benefits.

**Services:** An average of seven (7) services per week (a service is either a rehearsal or a performance) with a maximum of 238 services per season. There is a maximum of nine (9) services per week that the Association can schedule. The Agreement permits service averaging (a week with more than 7 Services must be balanced within the season, by a week with commensurately fewer than 7 services.)

# ALABAMA SYMPHONY

**Range of Services:** From full orchestra to, under the tents of an innovative "Community Outreach, Individual and Small Ensemble Services" program, provisions for individual members of the orchestra to provide musical services in a variety of educational, promotional and community service settings.

**Outline of the first Season:** Advanced planning is underway that calls for the orchestra to begin concert operations in September 1997 and present a complete, 34-week season of concerts between then and early May 1998. There will be eight or nine "Master Works" subscription programs (with each concert offered on Friday and Saturday evenings) scheduled at the new Alys Stephens Center on the campus of UAB; nine, single-performance "Pops" concerts at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center, six "Champagne" concerts at the Alys Stephens Center; and three "Family" concerts spread between the BJCC and the Wright Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of Stamford University. Details of artists, program, subscription and single ticket sales are being finalized and will be announced shortly.

Additionally, the Association intends to present and make available to area public and private schools a comprehensive, educational program designed to enhance students knowledge and enjoyment of music. An announcement of this program is expected in early to mid-April.

The Board of Directors of the Alabama Symphonic Association is dedicated to the development of a musical organization that will compliment and cooperate with other organizations in the community to continually Improve the quality of education, business, arts and cultural life. It invites the community to join ASA to help make Birmingham an even better place to live, work and raise children. The Board believes the presence of a symphony orchestra in Birmingham makes the city and the state even more attractive to its citizens and to potential residents who may be considering relocation to Alabama.

# ALABAMA SYMPHONY