



Governing Board

Meredith Snow, Chair
George Brown, President
Laura Ross, Secretary
Michael Moore, Treasurer
Peter de Boor, Editor *Senza Sordino*
Paul Austin, Member-At-Large
Paul Gunther, Member-At-Large
Dan Sweeley, Member-At-Large
Kimberly Tichenor, Member-At-Large
Kevin Case, General Counsel

Member Orchestras

Alabama Symphony Orchestra
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
Charlotte Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
The Cleveland Orchestra
Colorado Symphony Orchestra
Columbus Symphony Orchestra
Dallas Symphony Orchestra
Detroit Symphony Orchestra
The Florida Orchestra
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra
Grand Rapids Symphony
Grant Park Orchestra
Hawaii Symphony Orchestra
Houston Symphony
Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra
Jacksonville Symphony
Kansas City Symphony
Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra
Los Angeles Philharmonic
Louisville Orchestra
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
Minnesota Orchestra
Nashville Symphony
National Symphony Orchestra
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
New York City Ballet Orchestra
New York City Opera Orchestra
New York Philharmonic
North Carolina Symphony
Oregon Symphony Orchestra
The Philadelphia Orchestra
Phoenix Symphony
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
Orquesta Sinfónica de Puerto Rico
Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra
Saint Louis Symphony
The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra
San Antonio Symphony
San Diego Symphony Orchestra
San Francisco Ballet Orchestra
San Francisco Opera Orchestra
San Francisco Symphony
Symphoria
Utah Symphony
Virginia Symphony Orchestra

March 20, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Alexander,

The International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians represents musicians in 52 orchestras across the United States, from Massachusetts to Hawaii. We are writing on behalf of our 4000 musician members to ask you to resist efforts to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts. It is crucial that Congress preserve this vital institution.

The NEA is a critical part of funding for our nonprofit orchestras. Programs like Art Works and Challenge America allow us to expand our arts education programs, reach underserved communities with our concerts, and support the efforts of our musicians, composers and conductors, preserving the great classics and promoting the creation of new works.

Such programs also provide an economic boost many times greater than the investment reflected in this relatively small part of the federal budget (\$148 million last year). According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the arts and culture sector contributed \$704.2 billion to US gross domestic product in 2013. Further, each single NEA dollar generates another nine dollars in state, local, and private giving from foundations, corporations and individuals, resulting in a total of \$500 million in matching support for the arts in 2016. These monies are essential to the viability of nonprofit arts institutions across the country—including our orchestras.

Music and the arts unite audiences in a shared experience, encourage civil discourse, and celebrate diverse American perspectives. In exploring our commonality through music, we connect to our past, understand our present and imagine what our future will be. We ask that you support the National Endowment for the Arts as a vital part of our cultural inheritance.

The ICSOM Governing Board
Meredith Snow, Chairperson (Los Angeles Philharmonic)
George Brown, President (Utah Symphony)
Laura Ross, Secretary (Nashville Symphony)
Michael Moore, Treasurer (Atlanta Symphony Orchestra)
Peter de Boor, Editor (Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra)
Paul Austin, Member-at-Large (Grand Rapids Symphony)
Paul Gunther, Member-at-Large (Minnesota Orchestra)
Dan Sweeley, Member-at-Large (Buffalo Philharmonic)
Kim Tichenor, Member-at-Large (Louisville Orchestra)