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**BSO RECEIVES \$1.2 MILLION GIFT FROM PATRICIA AND MARK K. JOSEPH
TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO THE ORCHESTRA
FOR BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

***Music Education Fund Established by the Josephs for City Schools Students
Will Provide Increased Access to BSO Education Concerts***

BALTIMORE, MD (June 27, 2016)—BSO Board Chair Barbara Bozzuto announced today that Patricia and Mark K. Joseph have donated \$1.2 million from their foundation, The Shelter Foundation, to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) to support access to the orchestra's education programs for students in Title 1 Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS). \$1 million of this transformative gift will endow **The Patricia and Mark K. Joseph Music Education Fund for City Schools Students**. An additional \$150,000 will provide bridge funds so that the BSO can start bringing more students to Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall as soon as schools are back in session this fall. The remaining \$50,000 of the gift is directed to the BSO's groundbreaking OrchKids program.

"Pat and I are dedicated to supporting programs that educate and enrich the lives of Baltimore City's schoolchildren," said Mark Joseph. "This grant will triple the number of students going to concerts. It reinforces our focus on education going back to when I chaired the city school board. We love the BSO. It greatly enriches Baltimore."

In 1924, the BSO was the first American orchestra to establish a series of educational concerts performed explicitly for an audience of children. Today, thousands of students from all over Maryland and neighboring states travel to the Meyerhoff annually to experience the orchestra's Midweek Concerts. Designed for PreK-3rd Grades, 4th-6th grades, and high school students, Midweek concerts provide interactive, STEAM-Activated, arts-integrated live orchestral experiences and resources for teachers and students. The Josephs' gift will go directly toward providing tickets, curriculum resources, and transportation for the students.

"Pat and Mark Joseph are deeply committed to making sure Baltimore children are exposed to music and art," said Barbara Bozzuto. "Given their limited resources, schools today struggle to provide quality arts programs for their students. Our Midweek concerts connect the dots between music and curriculum and inspire creativity and learning. The Josephs' gift will enable far more children in our city access to the BSO than ever before."

The gift will also continue in perpetuity the commitment the BSO specified in its Certificate of Incorporation in 1942 when the orchestra included education as a key component of its civic mission to the citizens of Baltimore: "To sponsor, hold or promote concerts for the education of children in the field of music and related arts."

\$1.15 million of the gift is given in honor of longtime Baltimore art philanthropists Rheda Becker and Robert E. Meyerhoff, and the gift to OrchKids is given in honor of Music Director Marin Alsop.

Mark and Patricia Joseph have a deep history of supporting education programs in Baltimore's cultural institutions. Recent examples include a \$3 million gift to the Baltimore Museum of Art in 2015 to fund the Patricia and Mark Joseph Education Center, and in 2011, they donated \$1 million to the Baltimore School for the Arts to support their TWIGS program. They have been longtime contributors to the BSO, supporting the annual Gala, and most recently, the orchestra's Centennial concert. Both Mark and Patricia are passionate about education, and have dedicated their careers and their philanthropy to academic institutions, educational causes, cultural concerns, and public service in Baltimore.

About the Josephs

Mark Joseph is founding chairman of The Shelter Group, which began developing multi-family housing in 1975. Prior to founding Shelter, Mr. Joseph was a member of the Community Legal Services law reform unit, serving as co-counsel in the U.S. Supreme Court case nullifying residence requirements for public assistance. His leadership in Baltimore City includes serving as Deputy Housing Commissioner and its Development Coordinator, heading the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, and chairing the board of Baltimore's Public Health Hospital. He is also a founder and lead donor of the Baltimore School for the Arts and has served on the boards of the Greater Baltimore Committee, Walters Art Museum, Associated Jewish Charities, Union Memorial Hospital, the Baltimore School for the Arts and the Board of Visitors of The University of Maryland Law School. Mark's wife, Patricia Joseph, is the current chair of the Shelter Foundation. In her academic career, she was on the faculty and a dean at Stevenson University, served as special assistant to the Provost at UMBC, and later was a member of the university's Board of Visitors. She is past chair of the Board of Overseers of the Baltimore School for the Arts, is the past co-chair of the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle and is a trustee of the Baltimore Community Foundation and the Baltimore Museum of Art. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Art Seminar Group and a member of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's Women's Leadership Council Steering Committee.

About the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

Celebrating its Centennial in 2016, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) is recognized as one of America's most important and innovative orchestras and as one of Maryland's most significant cultural organizations. Led by the dynamic and visionary Maestra Marin Alsop, the Orchestra is internationally acclaimed and locally admired for its outstanding concerts, recordings, broadcasts, touring, and for its groundbreaking education and community outreach initiatives. The BSO annually performs for more than 350,000 people throughout the State of Maryland. Since 1982, its Baltimore home has been the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, and in 2005, the BSO became the nation's first orchestra with year-round venues in two metropolitan areas with the opening of The Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Maryland. The BSO boasts trailblazing education and community programs designed for audiences of all ages, from a Music Box Series for toddlers and concerts for schoolchildren and families, to comprehensive programs for aspiring young musicians and amateur adult musicians. The award-winning OrchKids™ program, launched by Marin Alsop and the BSO in 2008, provides education resources and fosters social change through the power of music for children in the city's neediest communities.

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra is funded by an operating grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra is supported in part by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra is also supported by the Citizens of Baltimore County and Baltimore City.

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