

# THE RESOUNDING CAMPAIGN



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### Paul and Amy Sponseller

From their first date at a jazz concert, music has always played an integral part in Paul and Amy Sponseller's lives.

**P**aul, Chief of Pediatric Orthopedics at Johns Hopkins Hospital was introduced to music early. Growing up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, classical music was prevalent and highly valued. He fondly recalls his parents taking the family to concerts; of special note was a performance by pianist Vladimir Horowitz. Additionally, he studied violin, voice and piano for many years.

Amy, a retired Johns Hopkins communications specialist, who studied flute, credits her musical appreciation to her family who prioritized the arts. Being raised in New York, there was an overabundance of musical opportunities. "My parents felt that my sibling and I should attend cultural experiences, such as a Broadway show or a New York Philharmonic concert, as often

as possible. They also took us to camps and performances at and around Tanglewood in the summer." This appreciation was reinforced in other ways too. "My favorite chore growing up was setting the dinner table because if that was your job for the week, you got to choose the composer that everyone listened to—I always picked Tchaikovsky."

Although they have attended concerts in every city they have lived in, it was a classical performance conducted by former BSO Music Director David Zinman, that began their musical journey with the BSO and they have been attending ever since.

The Sponsellers enjoy sharing their musical passion with others and often bring friends, colleagues and students to concerts. "I've been taking my medical students and

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residents to the BSO's Classical and Off The Cuff performances for years now. It's always exciting to see the concert through their eyes. For many, this is their first time hearing a live symphonic performance."

While subscribers for many years, it was Joseph Meyerhoff II's call to action in the endowment fundraising drive and news of the financial challenges facing the Orchestra that encouraged them to step forward." I said to Amy, "we know that the financial challenges are serious and that we can't solve them on our own, but maybe we can stretch a little to help."

The Sponsellers immediately thought about endowing a position in the Orchestra. As the holder of an endowed chair at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Paul knew first-hand the impact of these commitments. "Ten years ago, friends and colleagues endowed a chair in my name. At the time, I couldn't have imagined the effect it would have on me professionally and psychologically. When someone endows a position in your name, it instills confidence and demonstrates that your work is valued. We wanted the opportunity to give that to someone and to show that we value the musicians' commitment to the BSO and our community."

"Our hope is that the BSO remains healthy and vibrant for many years to come, and building a strong endowment is the first step. The time to give is now. We already have one of the finest orchestras in the country. It's time we let them flourish and give them a future that they can depend on."