



Listen Adventurously
2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

ALBANY
SYMPHONY

2017-18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND BOARD CHAIR



We are delighted to share with you our Annual Report and the highlights of the Albany Symphony's 2017-2018 season — on stage, in our schools, in the community, “from Albany to Buffalo,” and to our Nation’s Capital!

In addition to our mainstage performances (*pages 6-7*) at the Palace Theatre, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Proctors, and EMPAC, the Albany Symphony ventured forth right away in July with Water Music NY, a seven-concert and community collaboration tour in celebration of the Erie Canal’s bicentennial (*pages 4-5*). In April, the Albany Symphony had its Washington, D.C. debut as one of only four orchestras nationwide invited to participate in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts & Washington Performing Arts SHIFT Festival (*page 9*). In June, our season centerpiece, the American Music Festival (*pages 10-11*) branched out to downtown Troy with a free outdoor concert at the Troy Riverfront Park. Outside the limelight, but no less important, our Education and Community Engagement activities continued apace (*pages 12-13*).

LOOKING FORWARD. One important activity we pursued in 2017-2018 was a strategic planning process to chart a solid and meaningful course forward for the Albany Symphony. With thoughtful input from members of the Board, musicians, staff, volunteers, and the broader community, we articulated our guiding vision: **to transform the lives of the people of our community through the power of music.** We encourage you to consider our strategic priorities on page 14 and let us know your reactions, questions, and ideas. We look forward to sharing with you more about our strategic plan in the near future.

COLLABORATORS AND CHAMPIONS. The work of the Albany Symphony is the result of tremendous dedication from many talented and passionately caring people. We would like to thank the Albany Symphony musicians for their artistry and dedication; the administrative staff for their tireless hard work and creativity; the Vanguard volunteers for the myriad ways they enable our efforts; and the Board for their thoughtful governance, deep support, and great commitment to the Symphony and the community. You will also see throughout this report many other individuals and organizations without whom our work to enrich and celebrate the Capital Region would not be possible.

We thank you for your continued support, active participation, and being an Albany Symphony champion. We look forward to next year’s adventures with you in transforming lives through the power of music.

Jerry Golub
Chair, Board of Directors

David Alan Miller
Heinrich Medicus Music Director

Anna Kuwabara
Executive Director

2017-2018 ORCHESTRA ROSTER

SYMBOL KEY: ^ Stationary Chair + On Leave * New Hire

Violin

Jill Levy
CONCERTMASTER
LIFETIME CHAIR,
Goldberg Charitable Trust

Eiko Kano
ASSISTANT
CONCERTMASTER

Elizabeth Silver ^

Jamecyn Morey ^

Paula Oakes ^

Funda Cizmecioglu
PRINCIPAL
SECOND VIOLIN

Mitsuko Suzuki
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
SECOND VIOLIN

Barbara Lapidus ^
Endowed by Marisa
and Allan Eisemann

Gabriela Rengel ^

John Bosela

Brigitte Brodwin

Ouisa Fohrhaltz

Heather Frank-Olsen

Emily Frederick

Rowan Harvey

Margret E. Hickey

Christine Kim

Aleksandra Labinska

Yinbin Qian

Kae Nakano *

Bethany Stephan

Muneyoshi Takahashi

Harriet Dearden Welther

Viola

Noriko Futagami
PRINCIPAL VIOLA
Endowed in Perpetuity
by the Estate of
Allan F. Nickerson

Sharon Bielik
ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL VIOLA

Carla Bellosa

Daniel Brye

Ting-Ying Chang-Chien

Anna Griffis

Dana Huyge

Hannah Levinson

Cello

Susan Debronsky
PRINCIPAL CELLO
Sponsored by Al De Salvo
& Susan Thompson

Erica Pickhardt
ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL CELLO

Petia Kassarova ^

Kevin Bellosa

Matthew Capobianco

Marie-Thérèse Dugré

Catherine Hackert

Hikaru Tamaki *

Bass

Bradley Aikman
PRINCIPAL BASS

Philip R. Helm
ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL BASS

Michael Fittipaldi ^

Luke Baker

James Caiello

Jeffrey Herchenroder

Flute

Ji Weon Ryu *
PRINCIPAL

Jake Chabot

Oboe

Karen Hosmer
PRINCIPAL

Grace Shryock+

Nathaniel Fossner

English Horn

Nathaniel Fossner

Clarinet

Weixiong Wang
PRINCIPAL
In Memory of F.S. DeBeer,
Jr. - Elsa DeBeer
In Memory of Justine R.B.
Perry - David A. Perry

Bassoon

Stephan Walt
PRINCIPAL
Endowed in
Perpetuity by the
Estate of
Richard Salisbury

William Hestand

Horn

William J. Hughes
PRINCIPAL

Joseph Demko

Alan Parshley

Victor Sungarian

Trumpet

Eric M. Berlin
PRINCIPAL

Eric J. Latini

Trombone

Greg Spiridopoulos
PRINCIPAL

Karna Millen +

Bass Trombone

Charles Morris

Tuba

Derek Fenstermacher
PRINCIPAL

Timpani

Kuljit Rehncy
PRINCIPAL

Percussion

Richard Albagli
PRINCIPAL

Mark Foster

Scott Stacey

Harp

Lynette Wardle
PRINCIPAL

Personnel Manager

Susan Debronsky

Librarian

Elizabeth Silver

Union Steward

Nathaniel Fossner

2017-18 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Anna Kuwabara, Executive Director

MARKETING & PATRON SERVICES

Justin Cook, Marketing &
Patron Services Manager

Tia Anderson, Box Office & Marketing Coordinator

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Geoff Miller, Director of Development
Tiffany Wright, Development Assistant

FINANCE

Scott Allen, Finance Director
Erica Sparrow, Finance Assistant

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Derek Smith, Operations and
Programming Manager
Susan Debronsky, Personnel Manager
Liz Silver, Music Librarian

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Sophie Moss, Director of Education &
Community Engagement





WATER MUSIC NEW YORK

WATER MUSIC NEW YORK was the Albany Symphony's cross-regional celebration of the bicentennial of New York's Erie Canal, developed and presented in close collaboration with the New York State Canal Corporation. The Albany Symphony embarked on a week-long barge journey along the Erie Canal from July 2 to July 8, 2017, performing free concerts in seven canal communities. Led by Grammy® Award winning conductor David Alan Miller, the Symphony partnered with local arts groups to debut seven world premieres by emerging composers at stops in Albany, Schenectady, Amsterdam, Little Falls, Baldwinsville, Brockport, and Lockport. Five of the evening's festivities concluded with a firework display. Water Music New York was made possible by NYS funding through Market NY/Empire State Development and New York State Council on the Arts Regional Economic Development Councils and with corporate support from M&T Bank.



ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE

Albany | 2,000 people

Schenectady | 5,500 people

Amsterdam | 6,000 people

Little Falls | 1,000 people

Baldwinsville | 2,000 people

Brockport | 1,500 people

Lockport | 5,000 people

Estimated Total Audience | 23,000 people

WaterMusic New York

T H E I M P A C T

200 YEARS of Erie Canal history

288 MILES traveled from Albany to Lockport, New York

10 COMMUNITY ARTS GROUPS
in collaboration with the orchestra

7 FREE PUBLIC CONCERTS

7 WORLD PREMIERE COMMISSIONS

Water Music NY received national attention

with **OVER 140 STORIES** published by local, regional and national media outlets including the New York Times.

“ It all fits with Mr. Miller’s model for the Albany Symphony: community outreach, concerts that explore both places and history, and a devotion to new music. ”

- Michael Cooper, “Hell or High Water, an Orchestra Celebrates the Erie Canal” (The New York Times)

\$470,000 TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

Listen Adventurously

2017-2018 CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

OPENING NIGHT

The Albany Symphony opened the season with John Williams' *Star Wars* Suite with Darth Vader and storm troopers patrolling the Palace Theatre. The Symphony premiered Loren Loiacono's *Bossa Shift*. Simone Porter gave a beautiful performance of Korngold's Violin Concerto.



THE RITE OF SPRING | DAVID DEL TREDICI

Master composer David Del Tredici began his residency with the Albany Symphony with his work, *Rip Van Winkle*, featuring actor Charles Busch. Displaying the orchestra's rich palette and virtuosity, the program opened with Dukas' *Sorcerer's Apprentice* and closed with Stravinsky's masterpiece, *The Rite of Spring*.

1786: MOZART'S MIRACULOUS YEAR

In one remarkable year, masterwork after masterwork would flow from Mozart's pen. The Symphony performed three piano concertos with David Fung (No. 23), Wei Luo (No. 24) and 15-year old virtuoso Felicia He (No. 25), the Horn Concerto No. 4 with principal horn, William Hughes, and selections from *The Marriage of Figaro* with Bard College Graduate Vocal Arts students before closing with a rousing Symphony No. 38, "Prague."



BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH | THEOFANIDIS VIOLA CONCERTO

Christopher Theofanidis' Viola Concerto received a stunning world premiere by the Albany Symphony and soloist Richard O'Neill, on a program with the timeless Beethoven Symphony No. 5.

PROKOFIEV SYMPHONY NO. 7 | ROUSE CELLO CONCERTO

The Valentine's Day weekend concert opened with Tchaikovsky's *Romeo & Juliet*, followed by a masterful performance of Rouse's thorny work by cellist Inbal Segev. David Alan Miller led the orchestra in a moving performance of Prokofiev's Symphony No. 7.



FUN FACT: *The Grand Erie Canal* was commissioned by the Albany Symphony and composed in partnership with elementary students from the Averill Park School District.

BON VOYAGE | THE GRAND ERIE CANAL

The Albany Symphony feted its Capital Region audience with the program it would take on tour to the 2018 SHIFT Festival in Washington, D.C. (see page 9). The program featured water-themed works by Michael Torke, Joan Tower, and Michael Daugherty. The showstopper was the performance of Dorothy Chang's *The Grand Erie Canal* with 100+ young chorus members from the Troy City Schools.

SAINT SAËNS "ORGAN" SYMPHONY | FISHER TUPAIA

Guest conductor Gemma New led the Albany Symphony in Saint Saëns' thundering work featuring "Goldie," the Wurlitzer theatre organ at Proctors in Schenectady and *Tupaia*, an Albany Symphony commissioned work by Salina Fisher. Arnaud Sussman performed the Beethoven Violin Concerto.



GERSHWIN IMMERSION

Pianist Kevin Cole made a triumphant return to the stage and performed Gershwin's complete works for piano and orchestra including *Rhapsody in Blue*, all the more miraculous following his recent brain surgery.

AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL CONCERT

Explore the 2018 American Music Festival concert on pages 10-11.

Listen Adventurously

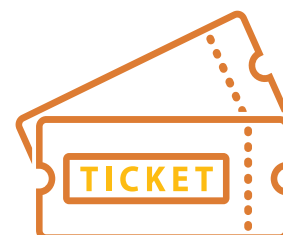
2017-2018 SEASON | BY THE NUMBERS



30
CONCERTS

INCLUDING 4 FAMILY,
7 TINY TOTS,
1 DOGS OF DESIRE,
AND 8 FREE OUTDOOR
PERFORMANCES.

**42,987 CONCERT
ATTENDEES**



16 VENUES

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall | EMPAC | Palace Theatre |
Proctors | Zankel Music Center at Skidmore College |
Saratoga Museum of Dance | Congregation Ohav Shalom |
Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Albany | 8 Waterfront Parks

44,000

SYMPHONY LISTENERS
ON WMHT
CLASSICAL FM



**2,612 NEW
PATRONS**

and 327 new
subscribers



25 WORLD
PREMIERES

including 21 works commissioned
by the orchestra.



152,673

SPOTIFY STREAMS
123,854 Spotify Listeners



2017-18 CD RELEASES

- Aaron Jay Kernis with Talise Trevigne - *Simple Songs*
- George Tsontakis with Eric Berlin, Luosho Fang, Eunice Kim, David Krakauer- *True Colors*,
NPR Classical Top 10 Album of 2017
- Michael Daugherty with Evelyn Glennie, Amy Porter, Carol Jantsch - *Dreammachine*,
Nielsen Soundscan Top 100 Classical Album

SHIFT FESTIVAL

ALBANY SYMPHONY MAKES ITS KENNEDY CENTER DEBUT

The Albany Symphony was one of four ensembles nationwide selected to participate in SHIFT, a national festival in Washington D.C. celebrating the artistic vitality and artistry of the nation's most innovative orchestras.

“ Nevertheless, in some ways the most adventurous program of all came from the Albany Symphony Orchestra, an all-American quartet of pieces written in a conservative style within the past few years, all thematically associated with water...[The Albany Symphony] musicians may well be showing bigger cities and more high-powered orchestras the way toward the future. ”

Toronto Star

Top Left: Dogs of Desire made its D.C. debut at Blind Whino, an Arts Club; Bottom Left: “Arguably stealing the show, was an endearing piece for youth chorus and orchestra about the Erie Canal, which filled the stage with Washington-area kids singing wholeheartedly,” (Washington Post); At Right: Albany Symphony musicians, invited by Senator Chuck Schumer, performed on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. The performance was streamed online to a nationwide audience.



AMERICAN MUSIC *Festival*

MAY 31- JUNE 3, 2018 | TROY, NEW YORK



THE AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL, the capstone of our season, is the core activity of our mission to bring the best new music by living artists to the Capital Region. Taking place over five days in late May and early June at the end of our season, the 2018 Festival featured concerts by the full orchestra and our Dogs of Desire new music ensemble; a reading session of new works by young composers; and a variety of recitals, performances, education activities, and community events that showcase an array of cross-genre creativity. The Festival gives our community meaningful access to our resident composers not only through presentation of their music, but also through activities woven into our regular subscription season as well as the Festival weekend, including talk-back sessions, pre-concert talks, outreach activities, school visits and residencies, recording projects, and online content.

*This magical work is a magnificent and
extravagant orchestral tour-de-force*

based on Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. We are thrilled to perform this work before the Albany Symphony makes the first-ever recording of this work."

David Alan Miller on Del Tredici's "Adventures Underground"

Music you can feel...

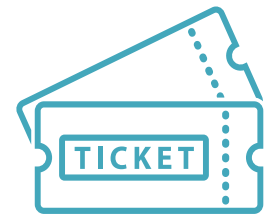


Top Left: Composer Derrick Spiva before *Dogs of Desire* premiere. Bottom Left: David Alan Miller coaches composer Baldwin Giang before *First Draughts* Reading Session. Lucy Fitz Gibbon & Lucy Dhegrae perform with *Dogs of Desire*. Sali Oak and Lucy Fitz Gibbon premiered "My Sisters Voice" by Reena Esmail. Above Left: Sop. Heather Jones premiered a new work by Evan Mack with the *Dogs of Desire*. Above Right: Joan Tower celebrated her 80th Birthday at the Festival.

5 DAYS
16 UNIQUE
CONCERTS,
EVENTS AND
ARTISTIC
HAPPENINGS



159
FESTIVAL
PASSES SOLD



16 WORLD
PREMIERES

75 GUITARISTS

JOINED THE COMMUNITY GUITAR
MOB AT THE RIVER SINGS CONCERT

32
COMPOSERS
IN RESIDENCE
OVER 30
FEATURED GUEST ARTISTS



3,000+ PEOPLE
ATTENDED THE AMERICAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL

2017-2018 EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Providing hands-on, engaging learning experiences through the creation and performance of music.



LITERACY THROUGH SONGWRITING

16 STUDENTS from Giffen and New Scotland Elementary Schools worked with Composer-Educator Loren Loiacono during **6 IN-SCHOOL VISITS** to create original compositions, focusing on building skills in storytelling, teamwork, and communication. The final performance was held in June 2018 for an audience of approximately **250 TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND PEERS.**

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL AND MONDAY MUSIC

MORE THAN 1,500 STUDENTS participated in our Adopt-a-School and Monday Music programs, which provided in-school musician visits to the Albany, Troy, and Averill Park public school districts and a free, interactive education concert for **17 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS** in those districts. *At right: "Ship Captain Dave" meets with aspiring musicians at a Monday Music concert.*



ORCHESTRATING THE 21ST CENTURY ORCHESTRA

12 EMERGING COMPOSERS participated in our inaugural year of this composition workshop with Christopher Theofanidis, resident composer and program leader. Over **7 INTENSIVE LEARNING DAYS** during our 2018 American Music Festival, participants explored techniques in orchestration, studied scores, received mentorship in group masterclasses, and attended rehearsals, concerts, and other Festival events.

CONCERT PREVUES AND ON-STAGE PRE-CONCERT TALKS

ASO offered **MORE THAN 18** educational lectures about our classics concerts, including our "Prevues" series at the Albany Public Library and on-stage pre-concert artist talks. An estimated **2,000 PEOPLE** attended one or more of these talks, which featured "deep dives" into the history and theory of the music with composers and guest artists.



2017-2018 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Creating accessible new ways of utilizing music for the common good in our greater region.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Community engagement is at the forefront of the Symphony's new strategic plan, which provides a road map for the orchestra to strengthen and diversify our programs and relationships in service to our Capital Region. For more information about our strategic plan, see page 14.

RAGA MEETS SYMPHONY

The Symphony's **FIRST-EVER COLLABORATION WITH THE HINDU CULTURAL CENTER** featured a partnership with composer Reena Esmail and Hindustani vocalist Sails Oak, who performed Indian-Western fusion compositions with a Symphony string quartet for **OVER 200 GUESTS**.



MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

MORE THAN 60 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES More than 60 children and families attended a "make-your-own" tea party co-presented by the Symphony and **THE ARTS CENTER OF THE CAPITAL REGION**, featuring crafts, music, and

readings from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* based on David Del Tredici's *Adventures Underground*.

"THE RIVER SINGS" FREE PUBLIC CONCERT

Featuring **THREE WORLD-PREMIERE COMMISSIONS** in collaboration with **4 PERFORMING GROUPS AND A STUDENT CHORUS FROM TROY CITY SCHOOLS**, this **FREE PUBLIC CONCERT** also included participation by a **COMMUNITY GUITAR CHOIR**, family activities, local food and beverages, and fireworks.



2017-18 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Albany Berkshire Ballet
The Albany Institute of History & Art
Albany Public Library
The Arts Center of the Capital Region
Bard College Graduate Vocal Arts Program
Capital District Youth Chorale
City of Albany
City of Troy
The College of Saint Rose
Discover Albany
Discover Schenectady
Fort Orange Club
Hindu Temple & Cultural Center of Albany
John Keal Music
The Music Studio
National Museum of Dance
Palace Performing Arts Center
Proctors Theatre
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Schenectady County Community College
Skidmore College
St. Lawrence University
Troy Savings Bank Music Hall

2017-18 K-12 SCHOOL PARTNERS

Albany School of Humanities
Arbor Hill Elementary School
Carroll Hill Elementary School
Delaware Community School
Eagle Point Elementary School
Giffen Memorial Elementary School
Miller Hill – Sand Lake Elementary School
Montessori Magnet School
New Scotland Elementary School
North Albany Academy
Philip J. Schuyler Achievement Academy
Pine Hills Elementary School
Poestenkill Elementary School
Sheridan Preparatory Academy
Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology
Troy School 2
Troy School 14
Troy School 16
Troy School 18
West Sand Lake Elementary School

ALBANY SYMPHONY STRATEGIC PLANNING

Over the course of nine months, a strategic planning task force comprising representatives from the board, staff, musicians, volunteers and the broader community, analyzed the Albany Symphony's challenges and opportunities and developed a strategic plan informed by the perspectives, dreams, and concerns of the Symphony's many stakeholders and the latest thinking in the industry.

Our Vision: To transform the lives of all people of the Capital Region through the power of music.

Our Strategic Priorities:

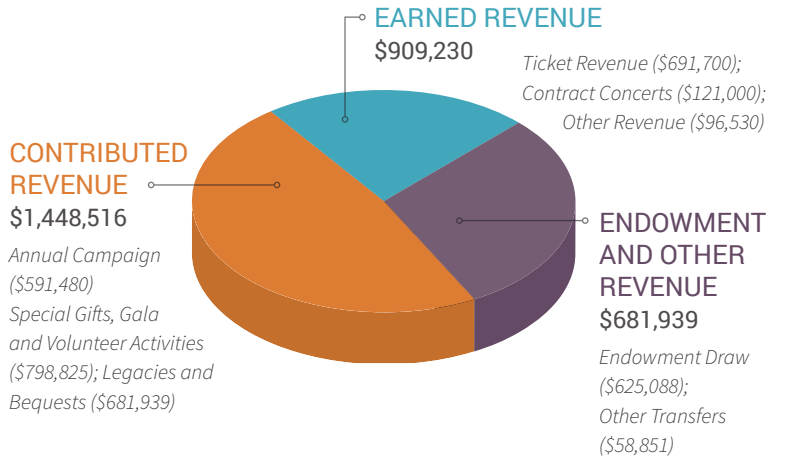
- Provide bold, meaningful, and superb experiences through music
- Enrich and celebrate the people and history of the Capital Region
- Champion the music of our time and its creators in innovative ways
- Ensure the Albany Symphony is serving the community through its 100th anniversary (2030) and beyond.



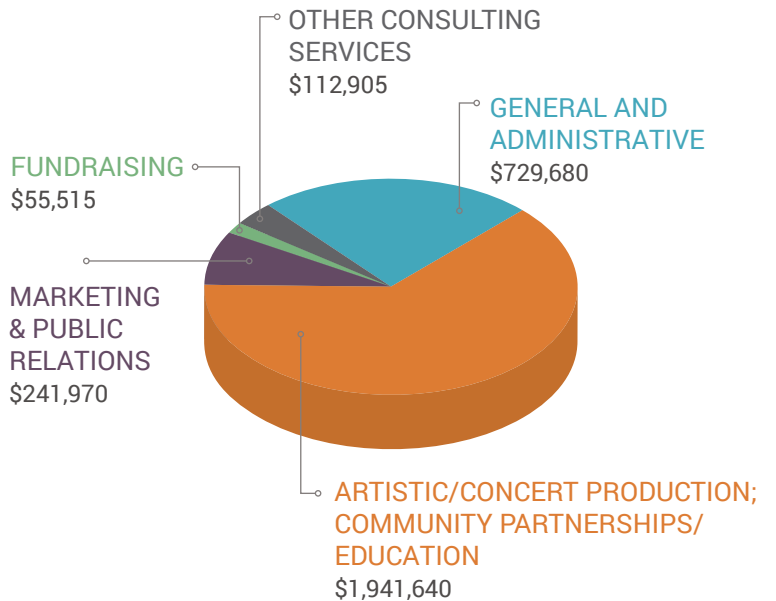
2017-2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Results: Fiscal Year 2018* | July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

REVENUE TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE = \$3,039,685



EXPENSES TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES = \$3,081,710



*Unaudited Results



HONORING HEINRICH MEDICUS (1918-2017) A LEGACY OF MUSIC

*B*orn on Christmas Eve 1918 in Zurich, Switzerland, Heinrich Medicus was an accomplished physicist and a well-loved professor at RPI. He was a great art and music lover, a connoisseur of wine and fine food, and his sense of humor was legendary – especially his elaborate April Fool’s jokes. At the same time, his philanthropic spirit supported a broad spectrum of organizations, with a special commitment to hospitals, music programs in Troy, and the Albany Symphony.

Dr. Medicus, who passed away in February 2017, made a significant endowment gift to the Albany Symphony. His wish was for his bequest to inspire others also to give more generously. Dr. Medicus’ endowment helps ensure the Albany Symphony will be here providing inspiration and musical enjoyment for generations to come.

Thank You
TO ALL OUR CHAMPIONS

*T*he Albany Symphony’s work to bring artistic excellence and meaningful encounters with music to the community would not be possible without the support of its donors, sponsors, and champions at all levels. Thank you for your great generosity and being a partner in transforming lives in the Capital Region and beyond through the power of music.

For a current listing of our donors and sponsors, please see our concert program book or contact the Albany Symphony at 518-465-4755, ext. 151.

ALBANY SYMPHONY



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