

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRANK & ELLEN REMAI FOUNDATION

Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra's Matching Campaign Exceeds Goal "Beyond Expectations."

SASKATOON - The Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra's coffers are nearly a half-million dollars fuller today, thanks to the Frank and Ellen Rемаi Foundation and donors to the orchestra's Sustain the Music Matching Challenge campaign, including new music director, Victor Sawa.

Sawa was in line at Affinity Credit Union this afternoon with a cheque for the Saskatoon Symphony from the Foundation. He also made his own personal donation. Joining the line was noted composer Dr. Monte Keene Pishny-Floyd and other corporate and individual donors with their cheques for the campaign. The sound of the teller's stamp as the deposits were made was "music to our ears," said Sawa afterwards.

Campaign total triggers unexpected generosity from local foundation

Bev Drew, president of the Saskatoon Symphony Society board of directors, announced that donations from supporters totalled at least \$244,000.00, exceeding the goal by nearly twenty-five percent. "In a generous move," she said, "the Frank and Ellen Rемаi Foundation has matched the entire amount, well beyond their original commitment." Their cheque brings the total raised to at least \$488,000.00.

"The response has been very gratifying," according to Drew. "The challenge to the community from Ellen Rемаi, of the Frank and Ellen Rемаi Foundation—to ensure that we always have the symphony in the city—was the catalyst for others to show their support, and we cannot thank her enough." A portion of the funds raised up to the end of the organization's fiscal year (\$31,117.00) has been earmarked for the Symphony's endowment fund held by the Saskatoon Community Foundation. "This addition to our endowment fund will help 'sustain the music' for years to come. The success of our campaign provides momentum for ongoing and much-needed fundraising to ensure the Symphony remains financially healthy" added Drew.

New music director's cheque a surprise

Sawa's donation for the fund was unexpected. "Victor Sawa has done so much to invigorate the orchestra already," said Jill Reid, general manager of the SSO, "but his donation shows his confidence in our future." Sawa replied "it's so great to see that Saskatoon cares about the symphony and I want my family to be a part of what's happening. To say thank you, the SSO is presenting the city with an exciting season of orchestral events; there will be well-loved classics and dazzling guest artists."

Corporate, business, and individual donors who were in the teller's line today included Dr. Monte Keene Pishny-Floyd, Doug Gillespie of Saskatoon Fastprint, Sandra Svenkeson of Cava Secreta, and Brian Smith of Articulate Eye. They join a host of others who opened their wallets to say "thank you for the music" and managed to push the total beyond expectations.

2010 – 2011 season opens soon

The SSO season begins September 12 with the first Music for a Sunday Afternoon “musical adventure” at the Delta Bessborough. *Mostly Mozart*, on September 29 at Third Avenue United Church, opens the chamber concert series with performances of compositions by the youthful genius. Sawa takes the podium as conductor of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra at its first Masters Series event, *Feelin’ Good*, October 9 at TCU Place, with acclaimed pianist Angela Cheng. Singer and pop superstar Chantal Kreviazuk performs live with the Symphony November 2 at TCU Place—the first of three Pops events.

Background on the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra

The Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO) is a professional, non-profit orchestra, founded in 1927, to foster and promote classical music to enhance the artistic, intellectual and social life of the community. Victor Sawa, recently appointed Music Director of the orchestra, holds similar positions with the Regina and Sudbury Symphony Orchestras.

In addition to producing and presenting four diverse series of live music events, the SSO offers beautiful orchestral music in large and smaller settings throughout the community during the year. The symphony and its musicians can be heard at book stores, flower shops, City Hall, hospitals, seniors’ residences, schools, and colleges in various free performances.

The Saskatoon Symphony conducts a performance program in schools, connecting classical music to the curriculum and engaging students in cultural experiences they might otherwise not have, fostering creative thinking and interest in music and other arts. The orchestra is currently accepting bookings for the 2010 - 2011 school program.

Tickets for all four Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra series are available at www.tcutickets.ca or by calling the TCU Place Box Office (306) 975-7799.

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