



# FORT WORTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ROBERT SPANO, MUSIC DIRECTOR

KEVIN JOHN EDUSEI, PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR

KEITH CERNY, Ph.D., PRESIDENT AND CEO

## ### Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Receives a Transformative Gift from Mrs. Mercedes T. Bass Chairman of the Board

FORT WORTH, Texas (April 09, 2024) — The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra (FWSO) is thrilled to announce a transformative gift from their esteemed chairman of the board, Mrs. Mercedes T. Bass. In celebration of her 80th Birthday, Mrs. Bass has generously committed \$5 million to the FWSO, to be allocated over the course of five years. This exceptional gift will further support the orchestra's ongoing efforts to expand its philanthropic base and continue its mission of artistic excellence.

As part of this leadership gift, Mrs. Bass has also initiated a matching gift program, the Campaign for Artistic Excellence Matching Gift Program, aimed at inspiring the philanthropic community to rally behind the FWSO. This initiative will encourage even greater support for the orchestra's service to the community.

In recognition of Mrs. Bass' steadfast support and generosity, the FWSO will rename its popular Concerts in the Garden series as "The Mercedes T. Bass FWSO Concerts in the Garden Series" for a period of 15 consecutive years. This renaming will take effect upon the full-time return of the festival, with the exact date to be determined. Until then, the FWSO is delighted to recognize this donation by temporarily naming the new summer series as the "Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Mercedes T. Bass Sounds of the Summer Series."

The FWSO is deeply grateful for Mrs. Bass' continued dedication to the arts and her commitment to fostering artistic excellence in the Fort Worth community. Her philanthropic leadership has been instrumental in the orchestra's growth and success, including the recruitment of Music Director Robert Spano, enabling them to bring world-class performances to audiences year after year.

Keith Cerny, President and CEO of the FWSO, expressed his gratitude, stating, "We are immensely honored and grateful for Mrs. Bass' extraordinary gift. Her unwavering support allows us to continue our mission of enriching lives through the power of music. We are excited to embark on this new chapter and look forward to the future with great enthusiasm."

The FWSO invites music enthusiasts and the community at large to join them in celebrating this important occasion and to support the orchestra's ongoing efforts to bring exceptional musical experiences to the Fort Worth area.

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