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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES STRONG FINANCIAL YEAR-END**

**Organization has balanced budgets for the last 10 years; Record revenue and gains in audiences**

**Artistic highlights include well-received programs with Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann and the ASO Chorus; an Emmy; and a Pulitzer-award winning premiere**

**ATLANTA, GA** – The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra announced strong financial results for its 2023-24 fiscal year today, capping off a year of key accomplishments and a decade of positive year-end financial results.

“On all fronts, last season was a great one at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, with memorable musical moments, important new partnerships, and watershed financial achievements,” said Executive Director Jennifer Barlament. “Ten years in the black, record numbers of new audiences, a tour, recording, an Emmy and a Pulitzer are all big accomplishments—and to see them all in the same year is remarkable. We have a lot to celebrate.”

Board Chair Patrick Viguerie said, “The Atlanta Community is attending. They enjoy the music and like where we’re headed. We are deeply grateful for their support.”

**Audience Highlights**

Among the year’s highlights was a significant increase in attendance across all types of performances. The Orchestra surpassed revenue targets in every category, and ticket revenue for the Delta Classical Series hit an all-time high with a record number of new audience members and 13 sold-out performances. Overall, 86% of seats for all Delta Classical Series performances were filled and subscriptions for the coming season continue to rebound, tracking well ahead of last year. In addition, the ASO’s presenting arm, “Atlanta Symphony Hall LIVE,” offered a record 99 events and performances in a wide array of genres, from live podcast tapings to grand performances of classic films with orchestra.

“It’s not just ticket sales—but every area of our business. Even with inflationary adjustments, the volume of activity is still enough to show us that people are excited about Symphony Hall at levels we haven’t seen in some time,” said Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Susan Ambo.

**Artistic Highlights**

The 2023-24 season marked the second in the tenure of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the French conductor whose burgeoning career has boosted the ASO’s international profile. In March, the Orchestra

embarked on its first US tour with Stutzmann to rave reviews. Memorable performances in Atlanta included star soprano Renee Fleming, legendary pianists Maria Joao Pires and Daniil Trifonov, an all-Dvorak program recorded in concert for release on Warner Classics later this month, and strong programs with the world-renowned Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus. In addition, a work by composer Tyshawn Sorey, *Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith)*, which was commissioned and premiered by the ASO, won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for Music—a first for the ASO.

### **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus**

One of the great choruses in the world, the ASO Chorus, headlined several ASO programs, including works by Brahms, Verdi and a world premiere work by Jonathan Leshnoff. In addition, members of the ASO Chamber Chorus performed at the memorial service for First Lady Roslynn Carter and are set to perform at President Carter's 100th birthday celebration in September.

### **Festivals and Partnerships**

New in recent years, the ASO has established festivals and partnerships to expand the Orchestra's reach into the community and to celebrate Atlanta's diverse cultures. This year marked the ASO's first annual HBCU AccessFest, which brought recruiters from 35 HBCU's across the US to Atlanta to meet with prospective students and parents; its second annual "Dia de los Muertos" festival; a three-week German Romantics Festival; a two-week festival highlighting the work of visionary symphonist Anton Bruckner; and the "Visions of India" festival, which included performances of the celebrated Khan family with the ASO.

### **Fundraising Highlights**

The ASO has seen consistent growth in fundraising. It was led this year by a record-setting Gala, chaired by architect and ASO Board member Sheila Lee Davies, which raised over \$1 Million to support the ASO's education and community programs.

### **Education Milestones**

Last season the ASO celebrated milestone anniversaries of two of its key education programs, the Talent Development Program (30 years) and the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra (50 years). In addition, it launched its Orchestra Fellowship Program, welcoming two post-graduate fellows for on-the-stage training and performance with the ASO; and its Executive Management Fellowship.

### **Media Highlights**

In June, the ASO won its first Emmy Award for full-length arts and entertainment feature at the Southeastern Emmy Awards ceremony, for the docu-concert *My Bolero with Nathalie Stutzmann*. A live concert recording of works by Antonin Dvorak are set to be released later this month on the Warner Classics label, the ASO's first release on a major commercial label in over a decade.

"There's a new energy and excitement in the hall that is nothing short of magical," said Barlament. "The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have been shaped into world-leading ensembles over many decades. Now Nathalie Stutzmann has brought a new level of expressiveness and a fresh take on the classics, and as a result both new and existing audiences are coming back again and again."