

WSO, INC.  
5032 RANDALL PARKWAY  
WILMINGTON, NC 28403  
(910) 791-9262  
MARKETING@WILMINGTONSYMPHONY.ORG

CONTACT:  
LIZ SCANLON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
(910) 791-9262  
LIZ@WILMINGTONSYMPHONY.ORG  
WILMINGTONSYMPHONY.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WILMINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES PNC BANK AS  
PRESENTING SPONSOR FOR ITS “MUSIC FOR YOUTH” EDUCATION AND  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

Aug. 1, 2021, Wilmington, N.C.—The Wilmington Symphony Orchestra (WSO) is pleased to announce PNC Bank as the presenting sponsor for the WSO’s 2021-2022 “Music for Youth” education and community outreach programs.

*“We are excited about this collaboration that will allow the WSO to continue developing this crucial aspect of our organization, which has grown from one to four ensembles since the inception of the Wilmington Symphony Youth Orchestra in 2001. WSO is thankful PNC Bank recognizes our program’s importance to the young musicians of the Cape Fear region.”*

*– Liz Scanlon, Wilmington Symphony Orchestra executive director*

Through its “Music for Youth” programs, the WSO provides a set of nine education and community outreach programs that broaden the reach and accessibility of symphonic music to children and their families. The WSO’s “Music for Youth” programs give children and young adults access to excellent performances, cultural experiences and educational opportunities. These programs include the Wilmington Symphony Youth Orchestra, Junior Strings, the Richard R. Deas Young Artists Concerto Competition, and two new youth ensemble programs: a Rockestra ensemble and a Chamber Ensemble program. The WSO also offers a free family concert, which will be open to the public and is scheduled for April 2022.

Additionally, the WSO is proud to announce a new program for the 2021-2022 season called “WSO’s Classical Kids,” offering local educators a comprehensive 10-week lesson plan that culminates with an interactive and fun WSO education concert at the Wilson Center at Cape Fear Community College (CFCC). The “WSO’s Classical Kids: Beethoven Lives Upstairs” concert is scheduled for April 3, 2022. Families will receive free children’s tickets and discounted tickets for parents.

In addition to the flagship education programs listed above, the WSO offers complimentary master classes with special guest artists, free private lessons with WSO musicians, need-based scholarships for its youth ensembles, and free student tickets to WSO and WSYO concerts at CFCC’s Wilson Center and UNCW’s Kenan Auditorium. Each year, approximately 2,500 students in the Cape Fear region experience the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra live.

“All of us at PNC recognize the value of the arts and the role music plays in youth education and enrichment,” said Jim Hansen, PNC regional president for Eastern Carolinas. “We are delighted to help the WSO deliver this robust and creative programming to youth and families throughout the region.”

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The Wilmington Symphony Orchestra provides symphonic music at the highest degree of excellence through performance opportunities for regional musicians and educational programs for our community’s youth. For information about WSO, Inc., visit [www.wilmingtonsymphony.org](http://www.wilmingtonsymphony.org).