Your Legacy

You step into the historic Warner Theatre. You see the array of plush orange seats, the golden glow from the chandeliers, the musicians of the Philharmonic taking the stage in concert black, testing their instruments and warming up. The lights dim, the crowd comes to a hush, and you hear the musicians of the Philharmonic tune to a unison ‘A’, and the house lights fall dim.

It’s Saturday night with the Erie Philharmonic. This group of musicians has brought an enormous level of personal commitment to honing their craft. After hours of private practice and ensemble rehearsals, they are ready to dive head first into the passionate music of Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Ravel, and Brahms. They will focus their intensity on the musical scores before them, and they will play with a sense of commitment and heightened emotion that can lead to the inspiring and transformative musical experiences we have come to expect from our Philharmonic.

You have been a critical part of this experience. When you lend your enthusiastic applause, your commitment in subscriptions, and your generous annual fund giving, you acknowledge that the Erie Philharmonic is an important part of your family’s life, and that you recognize the Philharmonic is something of which Erie can be deeply proud.

Thank you for being such an important part of the orchestra’s success. Please consider making the Philharmonic part of your legacy giving to insure that generations of Erie families will continue to enjoy the great musicians and great music-making for generations to come. Those amazing Saturday nights at the Warner Theatre will continue to inspire audiences and enrich people’s lives in ways yet to be told. Thank you for considering a commitment the future of the Erie Philharmonic and the ways in which we can enrich Erie through music.

~ Daniel Meyer, Music Director
Crescendo Society
The Crescendo Society is an association of music lovers whose legacies will sustain the growth and prosperity of the Erie Philharmonic well into our second century. The orchestra’s unprecedented commitment to excellence, world-class artists and impactful educational experiences for children of all ages makes the Philharmonic essential to the community’s quality of life.

Our Future
We want to confront the challenge of continued excellence with a strong and secure financial base. Through planned giving, encouraged by the Crescendo Society, we hope to increase the Philharmonic’s endowment fund to $4,000,000 by the end of the 2019-20 season as the culmination of our Beethoven 4/4 Festival. A planned gift has never been more important.

Benefits
Those who include the Philharmonic in their estate plans (minimum gift $10,000) and wish to be identified as members of the Crescendo Society will receive the following benefits:
- Annual appreciation event
- Ticket concierge service
  - Bypass the box office entirely
  - Speak directly to Lisa Herring, Director of Community Impact
- No service charge
- Access to the Encore Parking Lot and Lounge prior to Philharmonic concerts
- Your name listed in our program book and on our website

“The orchestra has given me countless hours of enjoyment, and I want to help make sure future Erie generations will have the same musical experiences.

For this reason, I have made a provision in my will for a donation to the Erie Philharmonic.”

~ Noel Burgoyne
100+ Years of History

Jascha Heifetz
soloist, 1949

First Review
1913

Emanuel Ax
soloist, 2017
Types of Planned Gifts

Wills or Living Trusts
A last will and testament reflects an individual’s most beloved people, values, and causes. Bequests to the Erie Philharmonic can specify a dollar amount, percentage of an estate, or piece of property. A bequest made through a will or trust is free of estate tax.

Gift Annuities
A charitable gift annuity provides the recipient with dependable fixed income for life, provides a charitable income tax deduction, can potentially reduce estate taxes and may enable capital gains tax savings. Charitable gifts can be funded with cash or marketable securities, and are designed for people of retirement age or older. Income provided through these gifts is based on age and remains fixed for life.
Remainder Trusts
Remainder trusts are versatile planned gifts that can provide for several loved ones, be customized to the donor’s needs, and can serve as vehicles for giving non-traditional assets such as land or real estate. The trust payout rate is determined at the time the trust is established. Payout percentage remains the same, although income may fluctuate depending on market performance.

Retirement Plans
Qualified retirement accounts such as an IRA, 401(k), Keogh, or SEP can be used to make a legacy gift to the Erie Philharmonic. While these assets are heavily taxed for heirs, 100% can be used to support a charity. Benefactors are frequently counseled to use tax-favorable assets such as cash or securities for family, and to consider using qualified retirement plans as planned gifts.

Real Estate
Real estate is an excellent and sometimes overlooked type of planned gift. Property can be given to the Erie Philharmonic outright, deeded as a gift, or sold below market value. Benefactors may give residences or vacation homes while retaining the right to living in them for the remainder of their lives. People giving real estate are entitled to income tax deductions, as well as potential reductions in their taxable estates.

Life Insurance Policies
Gifts of insurance policies can be arranged by simply naming the Erie Philharmonic as a beneficiary. This form of planned giving is particularly appropriate when policies have outlived their initial purposes. It also enables benefactors to make significant gifts without negatively affecting cash flow.
Concertmaster Ken Johnston
Erie’s Philharmonic to
Pierce Iron Curtain

Erie Times-News, 1950

Erie, PA; Erie has been singled out by the U.S. State Department as a model of musical culture in American cities, it was learned Saturday. State Department aides will make on-the-spot recordings of conductor Fritz Mahler leading the Erie Philharmonic Orchestra at a Young People’s Concert in the Gannon auditorium on Dec. 9.

Egon Stadelman, editor of the State Department’s Education Division for Germany and Austria, will arrive in Erie on the evening of Dec. 8. He and his staff will spend Saturday recording the concert and making tape records of interviews with persons interested in the musical education of Erie’s youth. Behind the state department visit here, it was learned, is a desire to demonstrate to Germany and Austria, via the Voice of America broadcasts, the progress being made in America in the field of musical education.

The records of the Erie Philharmonic will be used to counteract Soviet propaganda dedicated to the proposition that this nation’s sole concern is with money and its acquisition.

Much about the history of the Erie Philharmonic has reportedly been impressive to Voice of America producers - particularly the orchestra society’s stress on education in addition to sheer entertainment.

All new Crescendo Society members receive a CD and commemorative LP of this historic recording!
Gift Designations

Endowment
A gift to our endowment fund guarantees the continual presentation of the finest orchestral music through our inspirational and innovative programs, Music Director Daniel Meyer and the musicians of the Erie Philharmonic. Gifts to this fund perpetuate your support of the orchestra for many years to come. The principal of your gift remains secure while a portion is withdrawn each year.

General Operating
As a more immediate way to help the financial stability of the Erie Philharmonic, gifts in this category will be used to cover musicians’ costs and other concert-related fees each season. Additional expenses include the renting of the Warner Theatre for each concert ($6,000 per concert) as well as the cost of runout concerts to Meadville, Allegheny, Titusville, etc.
Educational Outreach
Reaching over 7,000 children each year, our educational outreach initiatives are a powerful way to influence the next generation of potential classical music lovers. Your designated gift will be used to fund our annual Youth Concerts, instrumental petting zoos, music director visits, master classes from guest artists, community performances, piano donations, and more!

Guest Artists/Special Events
Want to help us continually bring world-class soloists and concert experiences to Erie? Choose to have your legacy gift support our continued artistic excellence. All funds in this category will be used to help cover expenses for around guest artists, movie presentations with live orchestra, special events, etc. Specific examples include presentations like Casablanca with live orchestra, residencies with artists such as Emanuel Ax or Yo-Yo Ma, and special collaborative events like the joint presentation of My Fair Lady with the Erie Playhouse.

Junior Philharmonic
Help secure the future of the Junior Philharmonic by designating your gift to this fund. In existence since 1953, this storied organization has been training young professional musicians, many of whom have gone on to careers in music across the country.

Philharmonic Chorus
Since 1952, the Erie Philharmonic Chorus has been proudly performing alongside the orchestra, presenting some of the finest choral works in the classical and pops repertoire. These include Carmina Burana, La Traviata, the music of Queen, soundtracks from Danny Elfman and John Williams along with requiems from Verdi, Mozart, and more. Your gift here will ensure that the Philharmonic Chorus continues to flourish for decades to come.
Steve Weiser, Executive Director
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