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Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra contact:

Mimi Kruger | mimi.kruger@lpomusic.com | 504-523-6530

GIA MAIONE PRIMA FOUNDATION AWARDS LOUISIANA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA \$90,000 GRANT FOR MUSIC FOR LIFE PROGRAM

Program brings Orchestra musicians into schools to for music instruction and mentorship

NEW ORLEANS — The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO), Louisiana’s largest self-producing arts organization, has received a three-year, \$90,000 grant from the Gia Maione Prima Foundation to support the continuing development and expansion of Music for Life, the Orchestra’s flagship education and community engagement program for New Orleans under-served youth. The LPO partners with predominantly low-income Title 1 schools to offer or expand their orchestral instrument instruction. This gift follows a previous three-year gift that provided infrastructure support for program growth outlined below.

LPO musicians use individualized instrument instruction (private and small group lessons) as a tool to teach music theory, instrument fundamentals, technique, and other ways to connect with music and to harness the mental, physical, and creative prowess critical to healthy youth development. The goal of the Music for Life program is to use music education as a tool to build community, teach problem solving and inspire confidence in young New Orleans musicians. The program is currently operating in the following area schools: Warren Easton, Anna’s Place NOLA, Homer A. Plessy School, and Bricolage Academy.

“The Music for Life Program exemplifies the mission of the Foundation in supporting music education to under-served youth”, states Anthony J. Sylvester, Trustee to the Gia Maione Prima Foundation. “The sponsorship will allow the music mentorship program to offer students the opportunity to have access to individualized instruction with LPO musicians and the ability to participate in collaborative concerts with their peers which is needed to foster social and academic success.”

Funding from the Prima Foundation will enable Music for Life to continue to serve over 100 students annually in elementary, middle, and high schools across the Greater New Orleans community. Building on success from the 2021/2022 school year, New Orleans native and LPO Creative Partner Courtney Bryan will work with students on composition skills. The students working with Bryan will be teaching their compositions to their peers as a part of their collaborative curriculum. Bryan will also introduce principles of conducting with the students building the frameworks for them to consider what it can mean to follow and to lead.

“The LPO is incredibly grateful for support from the Gia Maione Prima Foundation, Inc.”, states Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra Executive Director, Anwar Nasir. “Music for Life is the premiere educational initiative by the LPO, and this support accelerates our ability to impact the youth of greater New Orleans through orchestral music”.

The students in the program will have two opportunities to perform this year with the final performance taking place in New Orleans City Park for thousands as a part of the annual Swing in The Oaks.

Support for Music for Life

Lead support for the Music for Life program comes from the Gia Maione Prima Foundation, Inc., Carnegie Hall Weill Music Institute, Classics for Kids, the D’Addario Foundation, Hancock Whitney, and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, Inc.

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About Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra

Steeped in history yet focused on innovation, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) is the only full-time collaboratively governed and operated orchestra in the United States. Under the leadership of Music Director, Carlos Miguel Prieto, the LPO is rooted in a culturally diverse community with a two-hundred-year orchestral music tradition, the LPO sets the standard for orchestral programming and performance in Louisiana. For our 67 musicians, achieving the highest level of artistry is integrally linked with a personal investment in our organization and our community.

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