



**GIA MAIONE PRIMA
FOUNDATION, INC.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Gia Maione Prima Foundation Awards \$90,000 Gift to Support
Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra's Music for Life Program**

Prima Foundation's generous gift will facilitate musician mentorship and development opportunities for underserved communities in the New Orleans area.

(NEW ORLEANS, LA) -- The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) is proud to announce the Gia Maione Prima Foundation's generous support of its Music for Life mentoring program for youth. The award, to facilitate high-quality music education programming for disenfranchised and underprivileged youth in the New Orleans community, totals \$90,000 to sustain this initiative over the course of three years.

The endowment will allow the LPO's Music for Life program to continue to provide music education for 100 under resourced youth at five sites in Treme, Mid-City, Central City, Seventh Ward, and New Orleans East. Engagement through the program goes beyond the concert hall and standard educational concerts to provide weekly one-on-one- out-of-school mentoring from orchestra musicians, developing life skills, musicianship, and relationships with positive role models for an underserved segment of the community. Program curriculum includes : full orchestra, small ensembles, sectionals, musicianship, music theory, technique classes,

performance opportunities, and academic tutoring. All instruments and program costs are free to all participating students.

“We are extremely grateful for the generous support of the Prima Foundation which will help to maintain the momentum this program has gathered over the years, and continue to allow us to focus our efforts towards instilling a love of music and musicianship in these students that will benefit our mission of transforming people and communities through music,” said LPO Chief Executive Director, James Boyd.

“The Foundation was introduced to the LPO when the Orchestra did a performance at the 2016 Gala dedicated to the music of Louis Prima. From that, we wished to continue our partnership; advancing the Music for Life program not only accomplishes the LPO’s goals, but also furthers the Prima Foundation’s interest in providing musical education opportunities to young people in New Orleans,” said Anthony J. Sylvester, Trustee to the Gia Maione Prima Foundation.

High-quality music education programming has been shown to positively affect children’s academic, social-emotional, and future professional lives, and as music documentarian Richard Barber notes, New Orleans music programs are “one of the traditions that hold schools and communities together.”

For more information on the LPO’s Music for Life program, visit LPOmusic.com

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MUSIC FOR LIFE is a mentorship program that provides low income, underserved students with the opportunity to study music intensively in one-on-one and small-group settings with both LPO musicians and peers. Throughout the school year and during summer session, LPO mentors and helps students to learn music theory, instrument technique, and other ways to connect with music and harness the mental, physical, and creative prowess critical to healthy youth development.

Gia Maione Prima Foundation, Inc. was established by the late Gia Maione Prima with the assistance of long-time friend and counsel, Anthony J. Sylvester of Sherman Wells Sylvester & Stamelman, LLP. Gia was a singer and widow of famous jazz musician, singer, and composer Louis Prima. Gia was also an artist and a devotee of the fine arts. The Foundation’s purposes include, but are not limited to, making donations to other tax-exempt organizations that support and encourage an appreciation for American jazz, American popular music and jazz performance, as well as the fine arts.

The LPO is dedicated to maintaining live orchestral music and a full-scale symphonic orchestra as an integral part of the cultural and educational life of the New Orleans area, the entire state of Louisiana, and the Gulf South region. Formed in 1991, the LPO is the oldest full-time musician-governed and collaboratively-operated orchestra in the United States.

The LPO offers a full 36-week season with more than 120 performances, including classics, light classics, pops, education, family, park and community engagement concerts in New Orleans and across multi-parish areas. In addition, The LPO collaborates with and provides orchestral support for other cultural and performing arts organizations, including New Orleans Opera Association, New Orleans Vocal Arts Chorale, and Delta Festival Ballet.