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Jacksonville Symphony receives record-breaking \$15 million gift from anonymous donor



Image: James Gilbert/Jacksonville Symphony

Conductor Courtney Lewis conducts the Jacksonville Symphony orchestra in "Adelya Plays The Lark Ascending" on May 17, 2024 at the The Jacoby Symphony Hall in Jacksonville.

JAMES GILBERT



By [Matt Denis](#) – Reporter, Jacksonville Business Journal
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The Jacksonville Symphony announced a historic \$15 million gift on Thursday – the largest single gift in the orchestra's 75-year history.

The anonymous benefaction is dedicated to the Symphony's approximately \$1.3 million yearly [endowment](#), which funds music education and community engagement programs and performances.

"This generous gift stands as a testament to the love and support that drives us forward, affirming that our work and presence matter to those we serve," Symphony President and CEO Steven Libman said in a press release.

According to the release, the gift will empower the orchestra's future economic and cultural impact through attainment and retention of the "very best" symphonic musicians, application of new works and delivery of artistic partnerships.

The Symphony employs 100 full-time staff members to pull off these productions, including 60 musicians.

This includes music director and conductor Courtney Lewis who has been with the Symphony for 10 seasons.

It also includes artists like pianist Joyce Yang and composers Brittany J. Green and Angel Lam, pianist Barry Douglas, the Marcus Roberts Trio and guest conductors Robert Spano and Michael Stern.

And acclaimed pianist Conrad Tao will remain in town through the end of the season as has joined as the Symphony's artist-in-residence.

This talent plays for the present and for the next generation of Symphony donors, Jacksonville Symphony Board Chair Matthew Marcin said in the release.

"Together, we can ensure that the Symphony thrives and continues to enrich the cultural fabric of our community for generations to come."

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