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Nippert Gives \$85 Million To Cincinnati Arts

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Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in Rehearsal (Caryl Hefley, Copyright 2008 The E.W. Scripps Co. All rights reserved.)

CINCINNATI -- Louise Nippert announced Thursday the establishment of the Louise Dieterle Nippert Musical Arts Fund, an \$85 million fund to sustain classical music of the highest quality for the Greater Cincinnati community.

The fund will help maintain the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO) as a full-time orchestra presenting music at the world's highest professional level and will support the CSO's continued service as the resident orchestra for the Cincinnati Opera and expanded service to the Cincinnati Ballet.

Seventy five percent of the fund is designated solely for the CSO and will provide approximately \$3 million in annual support. The Cincinnati Opera receives 12 percent of the funding and the Cincinnati Ballet receives five percent. The remaining eight percent of the fund will go to various professional musical arts institutions.

The Fund was formally announced at a rehearsal of the CSO in the presence of leadership from the Symphony, Opera and Ballet.

"Without this transformational gift, the CSO would be diminished over time," CSO President Trey Devey said. "Grateful does not begin to express our appreciation to Mrs. Nippert."

"Louise Nippert has been a tremendous support and champion of our orchestra for many years and I thank her for this remarkable gift from the bottom of my heart," said CSO Music Director Paavo Järvi.

Nippert is a professionally trained singer, calls music her greatest love and received a lifetime achievement award for her contributions to the arts in Cincinnati in 1987.

Nippert is the wife of Louis Nippert, who together were the principal owners of the Cincinnati Reds in the 1970s.

The fund helps balance the CSO budget at the current level, which reflects expense cuts announced earlier this year.

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