



Happy Birthday, Winston-Salem Symphony!

One of the Southeast's most highly regarded regional orchestras, the Winston-Salem Symphony originated as a civic orchestra in 1946, became incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1952 and hired its first full-time conductor in 1955. The 2011-12 season marks the 65th anniversary of the Symphony, which is celebrating the occasion with a Concert for Community on March 17 at 2 p.m.

The Concert for the Community is free to the public and will take place at Wait Chapel on the Wake Forest University campus. Although the concert is free and advance tickets are not required, please visit wssymphony.org/4community to reserve your seat. What's a birthday party without cake? Not to worry. The Symphony will serve free cake donated by Dewey's on Hearn Plaza in front of Wait Chapel following the Concert for Community.

Merritt Vale, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Symphony, said the organization is particularly proud of its track record of artistic growth, financial success and community outreach programs in recent years. "As a result of our marketing efforts and the wonderful talents of Maestro Moody, Maestro Troy and the incredible musicians, the Winston-Salem Symphony is enjoying an increase of more than 50 percent in season ticket packages sales over last year." Vale also pointed to the financial guidance that Butler + Burke provides to the Symphony during its annual audits as part of the reason behind the strong track record.

"We've had a great season this year with much more to come," she added. "I hope everyone will come join us for the Symphony's 65th birthday celebration at the Concert for the Community on March 17."

Both Maestri Robert Moody and Matthew Troy will conduct portions of the Concert for Community, which will culminate with the combined Winston-Salem Symphony and Winston-Salem Symphony Youth Symphony, totaling approximately 150 musicians, joining together for several pieces.

Under the baton of Music Director Robert Moody, the Winston-Salem Symphony's performance season includes: a classics series, a kicked-back classics series, a pops series, concerts for kids, annual performances of Handel's *Messiah*; a concert featuring Winston-Salem Symphony and Youth Symphony musicians; a Holiday Concert; three youth orchestra ensembles; and a multitude of educational and community engagement programs.

For more information visit the WSS website at: www.wssymphony.org.