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PEORIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA EXCEEDS ORCHESTRAS FEEDING AMERICA FOOD COLLECTION GOAL FOR THE PEORIA AREA FOOD BANK



PEORIA, IL – The Peoria Symphony Orchestra (PSO) is delighted to announce the results of a food drive to benefit the Peoria Area Food Bank. Inspired by September 2018 **RESIDENT ARTIST WEEK** (RAW) artist Catherine Cho, violin, who is a member of **MUSIC FOR FOOD**, the orchestra set a goal to collect 300 lbs of canned goods at RAW events and at their September *SCOTTISH FANTASY* concert. The PSO collected over 400 lbs of food, which translates to over 350 meals.

MAESTRO GEORGE STELLUTO and **CATHRINE CHO** both performed at the **GRAND PRAIRIE HY-VEE** to a surprised and delighted audience in an effort to spread awareness of the needs of food insecure families. This free performance introduced a new audience to the benefits of music. Catherine Cho was also the guest artist for the PSO's *Scottish Fantasy* concert on September 22, 2018.

Susan Hoffman, Executive Director of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra, is proud of PSO patrons, musicians, board members, staff, and the local community for their efforts:

"It was wonderful to see our patrons and orchestra gather together to support the Peoria Area Food Bank. It shows that music can feed both the soul and the body."

The food collection was done as part of **ORCHESTRAS FEEDING AMERICA**, a program of the **LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS**. During the past ten years, over 360 orchestras from across the country have joined this program to collect and donate nearly 500,000 pounds of food. The efforts of these orchestras have helped spread the word about how and why orchestras are so necessary to their communities, beyond providing amazing music.

The PSO looks forward to future collaborations with Orchestras Feeding America. Those who are interested in supporting the PSO's educational and community outreach programs can visit peoriasymphony.org or call 309.671.1096 for more information.

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Founded in 1897, the Peoria Symphony Orchestra (PSO) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to entertain, educate, and inspire through music. The PSO presents excellent live musical performances, innovative music education programs, and engaging community outreach efforts, which significantly impact the cultural and economic vitality of Central Illinois.

If you would like more information or higher resolution photographs, please contact:

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