

# Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

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**Contact:** Silvia Longa, Dir. Of Communications  
(772) 460-0850  
marketing@acomusic.org

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## **Atlantic Classical Orchestra Challenge Gift Campaign Milestone Met Anonymous Donor Gives Second Matching Gift of \$200,000 to the Orchestra**

**May 27, 2009, Fort Pierce, Florida---** The Atlantic Classical Orchestra's Challenge Gift Campaign met an important milestone yesterday as the orchestra received the second \$200,000 installment of a \$1million Challenge Gift to this premiere Treasure Coast ensemble.

The donation is a matching gift- in calendar year 2008 the ACO brought in \$200,000 in eligible gifts that were matched by the generous anonymous donor.

"Our Challenge Gift Campaign has been an incredible success for the ACO," states Larry Kopp, ACO Executive Director. "For the second year in a row we have raised \$200,000 in qualifying gifts that allowed us to receive the maximum in funds available to us from the anonymous donor. Combined, the donations and match equaled \$400,000 in funds given to the ACO during 2008. Considering the economic conditions, this generosity is remarkable and speaks volumes as to the dedication and a real commitment by the Treasure Coast community towards the ACO."

The Challenge Gift Campaign began in 2007, spurred on by the commitment of an anonymous donor to give up to \$1 million in matching funds over a five year period to the ACO. Individual gifts of \$10,000 or greater or pledges of \$10,000 or greater completed by December 31, 2011, are eligible for matching funds as part of the Challenge Gift Campaign. A total of \$200,000/year is available in matching funds, and for the second consecutive year the ACO has met the goal of raising \$200,000 in eligible gifts and received the maximum available in matching funds. Matching funds from the anonymous donor go directly into the orchestra's

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endowment fund; individual donors have the opportunity to direct their donation in any way they choose. To date, the ACO has a total of over \$600,000 in pledges and gifts towards this critically important campaign.

“As we enter our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season the ACO is truly ‘on a roll,’” states Kopp. “The orchestra is performing at a higher artistic level than ever, truly at a world class level. Despite the difficult economic conditions, we are projecting a budget surplus our current season. We just launched an extremely successful chamber music series in partnership with the Vero Beach Museum of Art. And the 08-09 Season saw the best ever attendance at our concerts. Our patrons and the entire Treasure Coast community have shown incredible support towards the ACO in every way and it is with great anticipation that we look towards our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season.”

Given the current economic conditions and the resulting difficulties faced by non-profit organizations, a robust endowment is fast becoming a necessity. And with the Challenge Gift Campaign continuing to raise much-needed funds as well as building an endowment for long-term success, the ACO stands poised to continue offering the finest in classical music to Treasure Coast audiences for decades to come.

For more information concerning the ACO or an interview with Music Director Stewart Robertson or Executive Director Larry Kopp, please contact Director of Communications Silvia Longa at (772) 460-0850. For additional information please visit the orchestra’s website located at [www.acomusic.org](http://www.acomusic.org). The ACO office is located at 415 Avenue A, Suite 301, Fort Pierce, and is open 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Mail should be sent to 415 Avenue A, Suite 301, Fort Pierce, FL 34950. For more information about the Atlantic Classical Orchestra or its events, call the Orchestra office at (772) 460-0850 or fax (772) 460-0851. E-mail to [marketing@acomusic.org](mailto:marketing@acomusic.org). Press and advertising information can be obtained through the Symphony office as well.