



To: The Conservation and Development Subcommittee
From: The New Haven Symphony Orchestra
Re: Proposed budget cuts to arts and culture

To the honorable members,

Governor Malloy's proposed budget for FY16-17 once again recommends cuts to the State of Connecticut's arts and culture sector. This substantial reduction in funding destabilizes the state's creative economy at a time when arts institutions are still struggling to recover from the recent economic downturn.

Performing arts organizations such as the New Haven Symphony Orchestra contribute tremendous public value to our communities, making them vital and engaging places to live and work. The Symphony entertains 80,000 adults each season through live performances, broadcasts, and commercial recordings that enhance New Haven's reputation around the world (for instance, through our rave reviews in *Gramophone Magazine* this month). 30,000 children will benefit from our concerts and education programs this season, which are offered in conjunction with 42 school districts throughout the state.

The New Haven Symphony Orchestra also supports social service organizations that serve the blind, elderly, and at-risk youth. Our annual fundraiser for the Community Soup Kitchen helps to fight hunger in New Haven.

The Symphony continues its mission to inspire, delight, challenge, and unite the people of Connecticut despite ongoing budget cuts that have seen our program funding decrease from a high of \$80,000 four years ago to only \$10,000 this past season. Cuts of this magnitude make it impossible to meet all of the needs expressed by our community partners. The \$10,000 received this season, for instance, allowed us to present our annual series of six family concerts free of charge. Without State funding we will have to return to charging for these tickets.

The New Haven Symphony Orchestra also relies on support from our strategic partners. This season we performed for an audience of 30,000 people – the largest all season – thanks to the International Festival of Arts & Ideas, which produced the Symphony's concert with Dianne Reeves as part of their 2014 Festival. We have also seen great success in reaching new audiences thanks to a partnership that finds us presenting three concerts at the Shubert Theater (CAPA) this season. The technical resources of the Shubert allow us to enhance our concerts with visual images. On March 12, for instance, we will perform *Ansel Adams: America*, a piece by Connecticut composer Chris Brubeck that combines music with curated images by the famed American photographer.

Working together, New Haven organizations including the International Festival of Arts & Ideas, Shubert Theater, and New Haven Symphony have provided substantial economic stimulus through job creation and entertainment spending. New Haven arts organizations spend nearly \$67 million a year and support over 2,100 full-time equivalent jobs in the region. The spending of New Haven arts organizations generates \$5.9 million in local and state revenues.

Please help us continue our missions to make Connecticut an engaging and creative place to live. Restore full funding to the arts and culture sector.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine C. Carroll', written in a cursive style.

Elaine C. Carroll, Executive Director