



Seattle Symphony

January 27, 1

E. Nakamichi
515 S. Figueroa
Log Angeles,

The Seattle Symphony, recognized as one of the country's top orchestras, has experienced extraordinary growth under the baton of Gerard Schwartz who has remained at its helm for 22 remarkable years.

This was one of many successful appeals for private funding I was responsible for as Grants & Sponsorships Manager with the Symphony during the early years of Mr. Schwarz's tenure. Government proposals I produced resulted in funding for the first of what now number over 100 spectacular symphonic recordings by the Symphony - 11 of them Grammy nominated.



Dear Mr. Mit

On behalf of the Seattle Symphony, I would like to take this opportunity to request a contribution of \$35,000 from the E. Nakamichi Foundation again this year in support of our 1989 Mainly Mozart Festival.

The Seattle Symphony is currently celebrating its 85th Anniversary season, and is playing acclaimed performances to capacity audiences. The spirit of this landmark season is a fitting tribute to the accomplishments the Orchestra has realized in recent years. I would like in particular, to bring you up to date on some of our activities since we first made contact with the Foundation a year ago.

Financially, we have continued to make important strides. For the second consecutive year, we were able to balance our budget and recognize a surplus of \$400,000 which further reduced our accumulated deficit to \$800,000, an accomplishment in which the Nakamichi's \$35,000 gift played a major part. Our primary goal is the entire elimination of the organization's remaining deficit, which we hope to see within the next year.

Among other achievements this past year, 'President's Night at the Symphony,' a major new corporate fundraiser held in June, was a tremendous success and raised \$280,000 in new revenue. An estimated 40,000 area residents heard the Symphony in its first outdoor, free-to-the-public 4th of July concert, and many others enjoyed an evening of fine music in a concert at the Woodland Park Zoo in August. The Orchestra released its sixth compact disc recording in September to outstanding acclaim, and continues work on numerous other recording projects. Ticket sales to all programs in our current season have been excellent. And in December, first ever concert offerings by the Orchestra which included three performances of Handel's Messiah and a New Year's Eve concert, all played to sold-out audiences.

As you are aware from reports submitted to the Foundation last summer, the Symphony's 1988 Mainly Mozart Series was itself extremely successful, due in great part to the Foundation's generous support. Attendance was outstanding, the programs were highly praised by patrons and critics alike, and, as hoped, Meany Theatre proved an ideal new venue for the series.

The fact remains, however, that the expense of producing the type of high quality event to which the Symphony is committed simply exceeds potential ticket income. Should tickets accurately reflect concert costs, they would be unattainable for the majority of the general public. Outside funding such as that provided by the Nakamichi last season remains, therefore, the key to our ability to continue to produce all Symphony programs. The Mainly Mozart Series is an important element of the Seattle Symphony's annual programming, providing the opportunity for the Orchestra to perform and patrons to hear masterpieces which are not suited to and therefore not otherwise included in regular subscription programming throughout the season.

The 1989 Mainly Mozart Series will feature four concerts in Meany Theatre, on June 7, 9, 14 and 16. Seattle Symphony Music Director Gerard Schwarz will conduct the first two concerts, guest director Alan Francis will conduct the third, and Associate Conductor Christopher Kendall will take the podium for the fourth and final performance of the series. The opening concert on June 7 will introduce Seattle audiences to two remarkable young international talents, pianist Anton Nel and violinist Leonidas Kavakos, both of whom have been recent recipients of the prestigious Walter W. Naumberg Foundation awards. Subsequent performances will include other guest artists, the Seattle Symphony Chorale, and Orchestra members as featured soloists.

Underwriting in the amount of \$35,000 from the Foundation will once again serve to cover direct series expenses, including guest artists and conductors' fees, and advertising. A projected series budget is attached.

Also included is a summary of the promotional visibility and other benefits which the Foundation will receive as underwriter of this year's Mozart series.

The Seattle Symphony is demonstrating exciting artistic growth and financial achievement, made possible by many friends and generous supporters. That support is critical to the Orchestra's long term health, and we hope to continue the partnership established between the Symphony and the Nakamichi Foundation last season. We will look forward to hearing from you; as was true last year, it will be helpful to receive word from the Foundation as soon as possible, in order to take full advantage of all upcoming promotional opportunities in recognizing series funding.

Thank you. And please feel free to contact either me or Karla Mason, Grants and Sponsorships Manager, should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Executive Vice President,
Managing Director

Encl.