

Dear Randy:

Again thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Stamford Symphony to defend the Mayor's budget line. I realize in the course of your many budget lines we are small for consideration, but in the scheme of the Symphony's budget, the Mayor's line is imperative. The support of our City's speaks volumes to the many other funders who feel confident that if the City holds us as important, then they too will follow suit.

Even as the economy is struggling, the SSO is selling more tickets, having exceeded the 2008-09 budget by 10%. While corporate contributions are the weak link, we are seeing more audience members and foundations contribute to insuring that their Orchestra remains financially stable.

Our education programs are strong, having just performed to almost 3,000 students two weeks ago. Teacher training, curriculum development, lesson plans and pre-concert CD's are all part of our service to the Stamford Public Schools. Boys and Girls Club "The Symphony Project " now in it's third years is providing music appreciation to a demographic who otherwise would never hear an orchestra. Our partnership with the Stamford Museum and Nature Center for the "Exploring the Orchestra" concert series for families and children sells-out for every performance.

The Stamford Symphony management team and board of Directors is optimistic, we intend to come past the national economic crisis strong and ready for growth.

Thank you for insuring the budget line from the City of Stamford for it's Orchestra.

Sincerely,

Barbara Soroca
CEO and President