

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Troy and Wendy Burgess



Both of us grew up in households where music was constantly present, and we both took music lessons from an early age. Neither of us became particularly accomplished at playing an instrument. However, the appreciation of all types of music, musicians, and composers became ingrained. We discovered we both loved Prokofiev's narrated *Peter and the Wolf*. I (Wendy) remember playing that and Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* practically non-stop as a child. It did not hurt that my parents would sing along to the Metropolitan Opera's Saturday radio offerings, or that Troy's mom, an accomplished pianist, kept piano music flowing through his childhood home. We were immersed, and our lifelong appreciation and love of classical music was set. Naturally, we surrounded our children with classical music experiences, making fun games out of "guessing the composer," knowing their lives would be enriched as well.

There are so many ways one can enjoy classical music, but nothing compares to the experience of a live performance. There is anticipation as we settle into our seats that we are about to be swept away on a dreamy journey with the Kansas City Symphony. We love that there is a varied program each time — sometimes something brand new, at least new to us, but also treasured favorites that take us to other places and times. Our Symphony is a wonderful blend of talented musicians whose passion is clearly communicated to the audience every time. And we truly feel like it is "our" symphony. All are welcome and all can make a difference in ensuring our Symphony is here for years to come.

We have always believed in the importance of exposure to the arts as an enriching and vital aspect to someone's life. The pandemic highlighted the fact that the arts are sometimes overlooked and are not always accessible to all people. The implementation of the Mobile Music Box was an incredible solution to the shuttering of live performances in Helzberg Hall. Not only were the musicians able to keep performing for an audience, but by taking the concerts on the road, new listeners were able to experience classical music for perhaps the first time.

All these factors are part of our decision to include the Kansas City Symphony in our estate plans. We feel such pride in knowing our legacy gift will help ensure that Kansas Citians will be able to benefit from and enjoy our wonderful Symphony for years and years to come.

Planning a gift for the future can be as easy as updating the beneficiary form on an existing IRA or 401(k) plan to include the Kansas City Symphony! While someone could certainly designate a set dollar amount to be paid from a retirement account, we chose to designate that a percentage of the retirement account goes to the Symphony. That way, the future gift grows with the account value! We simply contacted the retirement account custodian to make the change — the services of an attorney were not required. This tool is available to almost anyone, allowing access to legacy gifting to a wide range of ages and stages of wealth.

The Kansas City Symphony does not render tax or legal advice. Please consult your advisor to make sure the gift you're considering is right for you.