



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COLORADO SYMPHONY TO PRESENT MARGARET PHIPPS AWARD FOR PHILANTHROPY  
TO ALEXANDRA ELLIOT AND IN MEMORY OF HUSBAND JOHN T. M. WRIGHT AT SYMPHONY BALL**

April 3, 2017 – Denver, CO – The Colorado Symphony announced Alexandra (Sandy) Elliott and her late husband John T.M. Wright as this year's recipients of the Margaret Phipps Award. The award is given in recognition of a person or institution's longstanding contributions and service to the Colorado Symphony and the arts community. Margaret Phipps Award winners are named as part of the Colorado Symphony Ball, the organization's largest annual fundraising event. This year, the 24th Symphony Ball, themed "Rock and Roll Royalty," will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at Denver's historic Fillmore Auditorium.

A longtime Colorado resident, Ms. Elliott met Mr. Wright at a fundraising event for the Denver Chamber Orchestra. Their shared love of the performing arts and dedication to charitable giving made them lifelong supporters of both the Colorado Symphony and the Colorado Ballet, as well as other causes throughout the city and state.

Mr. Wright, whom Ms. Elliott describes as "an innovative bioengineer who was creative and observant," founded Genessee BioMedical, Inc. in 1994, and was the company's CEO and Vice President of Research & Development. He was a significant contributor to open heart surgery technology, and invented the Hancock II™ valve, which would become a component of the pacemaker medical device.

Mr. Wright was also an avid motorcyclist; upon his passing, Ms. Elliott sold his collection to make a significant gift to the Colorado Symphony, one of his most passionate causes. As a Colorado Symphony donor and Board Trustee, Ms. Elliott's support for the Colorado Symphony is also a legacy of Mr. Wright's passion.

"The arts are an expression of the human condition," said Ms. Elliott. "A great city has to have a first-class symphony and a first-class place for it to perform. The Colorado Symphony is doing as much as it can, and it needs to be able to do more, with more support. That's what it takes to make the Colorado Symphony great: people funding it — and parties like this!"

This year, the Colorado Symphony is also honored to welcome Ms. Linda Shoemaker and Mr. Stephen M. Brett as event co-chairs; and Governor John Hickenlooper, First Lady Robin Pringle Hickenlooper, Mayor Michael B. Hancock, and First Lady Mary Louise Lee as honorary co-chairs.

For sponsorship opportunities or to purchase a table, visit [coloradosymphony.org/events/symphony-ball](http://coloradosymphony.org/events/symphony-ball) or contact Christina Carlson at [ccarlson@coloradosymphony.org](mailto:ccarlson@coloradosymphony.org).



## **EVENT INFORMATION:**

Colorado Symphony Ball 2017: "Rock and Roll Royalty"

Date: Saturday, April 29, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Fillmore Auditorium - 1510 Clarkson St., Denver, CO 80218

For more information, visit: [coloradosymphony.org/events/symphony-ball](http://coloradosymphony.org/events/symphony-ball).

The Colorado Symphony thanks its gracious presenting sponsor of the ball, Arrow Electronics, and sponsors of the 2016/17 Season: The Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), Arrow Electronics, 9News, United Airlines, and Rocky Mountain Honda Dealers.

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## **CONTACTS:**

For more information or to request interviews, please contact:

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For high-resolution, downloadable images of the Colorado Symphony, visit:

[coloradosymphony.org/media](http://coloradosymphony.org/media)

For sponsorship information, please contact:

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The 2016/17 Colorado Symphony Season is presented by Arrow Electronics. Support also provided by: The Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), 9News, and United Airlines.

## **GENERAL TICKETING INFORMATION:**

Tickets for Colorado Symphony concerts are available online at [coloradosymphony.org/tickets](http://coloradosymphony.org/tickets), by phone at 303.623.7876, and in person at the Boettcher Concert Hall Box Office, Denver Performing Arts Complex, 1000 14th Street. The Box Office is open Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday, noon – 6 p.m.; and two hours prior to each performance.

## **ABOUT THE COLORADO SYMPHONY BALL**

Each year, the Symphony Ball attracts approximately 800 philanthropic guests to join in a lively auction, full-course meal, cocktails, dancing, and live music performances by the Colorado Symphony and local rock acts — this year featuring Tracksuit Wedding, founded by Libby Anschutz and Ali Pashel Frankfurt. Generating \$1 million in contributed funds supporting the operations and education programs of the Colorado Symphony, the Ball is the organization's largest fundraising event of the year.



## **ABOUT THE COLORADO SYMPHONY**

One of the leading orchestras in the United States, the Colorado Symphony performs more than 150 concerts annually at Boettcher Concert Hall in downtown Denver and across Colorado. Led by Music Director Designate Brett Mitchell, the Colorado Symphony is home to eighty full-time musicians, representing more than a dozen nations, and regularly welcomes the most celebrated artists from the world of symphonic music and beyond. Every season, the Colorado Symphony serves more than 250,000 people from all walks of life, performing a range of musical styles, from traditional to contemporary. Recognized as an incubator of innovation, creativity, and excellence, the Colorado Symphony continually expands its reach through education, outreach, and programming. The Colorado Symphony partners with the state's leading musical artists, cultural organizations, corporations, foundations, sports teams, and individuals to expose diverse audiences to the transformative power of music. To learn more, visit [coloradosymphony.org](https://coloradosymphony.org).