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For Immediate Publication

Springfield Symphony Awarded Substantial Grant from Target for Education Programs

The Springfield Symphony (SSO) is delighted to announce that it has received a grant in the amount of \$3,500 from **Target** that will go toward funding the Symphony's 39th season of Young People's Concerts (YPC's) and the Ensembles-In-Schools program.

On May 5th, 2009, the SSO will perform three YPC's to over **5,000 fourth grade students** from all of **Springfield's R – 12 Public Elementary Schools** and **surrounding school districts**. The students will be bussed to Evangel University where they will enjoy a unique live music performance presented by a full-size orchestra. The program is created from scratch every year and the Symphony works very closely with the Springfield Public School Curriculum Center to ensure that it is based on established Social Studies and Language Arts curriculum. Music Director, Ron Spigelman, works hard to ensure that the programs are creative and imaginative and that they encourage student participation whenever possible.

The "**Ensembles-In-Schools**" program will begin in January 2009 and conclude in May. There are four Ensembles-In-Schools groups representing the various sections of the orchestra: Strings, Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion. Each group is comprised of professional musicians who are members of the SSO. During the course of the program these groups will visit over **21 area elementary and middle schools**.

The Springfield Symphony believes that all people deserve access to the riches and rewards of music and music education and a great deal of time and thought go into creating each and every individual program to ensure that the material and content is engaging, relevant and of the highest quality possible.

Through our YPC's the Springfield Symphony is able to provide students within Springfield and the surrounding area with the opportunity to attend a quality live arts performance at no personal cost. With our Ensembles-In-Schools programs we take it one step further by taking the music to the students, again at no personal cost.

Spigelman, says "the Symphony is committed to making music accessible to all the citizens of Springfield and the surrounding area and we are constantly working to reduce and remove some of the monetary and logistic constraints that may prevent certain groups and individuals within the community from experiencing the joy and exhilaration of live music. We are so appreciative of the many fine

organizations that so generously help us to do this – together we have the power to enrich lives and contribute directly to the quality of life within our community.”

This grant is part of ongoing efforts by Target to strengthen families and communities throughout the country. Since opening its doors, Target has given 5 percent of its income to organizations that support education, the arts, social services and volunteerism.

“At Target, our local grants are making a difference in the communities we serve,” said Laysha Ward, vice president, community relations, Target. “We’re proud to partner with the Springfield Symphony as part of our ongoing commitment to give back to the communities where our guests and team members live and work.”

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The Springfield Symphony Orchestra is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation and is an EOE. Additional funding for all Springfield Symphony Orchestra programs and projects is provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency