

fssso | Symphony for life |

FSSO sustainability campaign – Patrons & Distinguished Patrons

We seek your support for an indispensable cultural asset for all communities in the Free State: the Free State Symphony Orchestra (FSSO), established in 1974 and registered as an independent not-for-profit company (i.e. public benefit organisation) in 2003.

The Board of the FSSO Company has launched a campaign to reduce the orchestra's exposure to the uncertainties and unpredictable fluctuations of public funding from, for example, the Lotto and the National Arts Council (NAC), in the light of the immense pressures on the national budget to address unemployment, poverty and inequality.

If its core funding is uncertain, the FSSO cannot plan annual concert programmes properly, cannot engage top performers and conductors timeously and cannot market its annual programme to music lovers. The FSSO's crucial educational role in mentoring and developing a next generation of young musicians comes under threat.

- A vibrant classical music scene needs a vibrant and financially sustainable FSSO. Free State classical music lovers – and aspiring young musicians – need a symphony orchestra for living, for life.

We can reduce the FSSO's vulnerability only by mobilising private individuals and the business sector, in conjunction with government where possible, to take joint responsibility for the long-term viability of the Free State's only professional symphony orchestra and orchestral training programme.

In this component of the campaign we are approaching individuals who are committed to sustaining the arts in the Free State to become Patrons of the FSSO by pledging regular monthly donations to the FSSO.

- Our Patron model is that, ideally, approximately ten to fifteen individuals should commit to sponsoring one symphony concert per year (at a cost of approximately R250 000).
- To this end we are requesting monthly contributions as follows:
 - Patron: R1000 to R1999 per month
 - Distinguished Patron: R2000 to R3000 per month.
- The goal of this campaign is to secure monthly contributions totalling R2 million per annum to ensure sufficient operational funding for at least EIGHT regular FSSO concerts per year.

To pursue this ambitious aim, the two Patron categories have been developed alongside the existing Friends of the FSSO, who have been loyal supporters of the FSSO for many years. (The 'Friend' category applies to donations below R1000 per month.) While the role of the Friends continues to be very important for the FSSO, the current situation requires a significant increase in our proceeds from private donations.

- Supporting the FSSO as a Friend remains an important option for you as a potential donor. *All* contributions to the sustainability of the FSSO are very important to us.

A *second way* to make a durable contribution is to make a *testamentary bequest* to the FSSO Endowment Fund. More information on an appropriate formulation or codicil is available on request.

- The goal of the testamentary campaign is to generate an Endowment Fund of at least R20 million, to be invested wisely to help secure the long-term financial sustainability of the FSSO symphony orchestra (and ensembles such as the Free State Youth Orchestra).

Important: the FSSO has obtained approval from the SA Revenue Service (SARS) that *all donations to the FSSO are tax-deductible* (the FSSO has so-called Section 18A status). Tax-deductibility dramatically reduces the effective cost of a donation – a donor typically gets from 30% up to 41% of the amount back from the Receiver. Bequests are also exempted from Estate Tax.

Should you be willing to support the FSSO 'symphony for life' campaign as a Friend, Patron or Distinguished Patron, we envisage a number of innovative ways in which to strengthen our partnership.

A debit-order form can be provided to you or downloaded from the FSSO website (www.fssso.org.za). You can fax or email the signed form to us, or we can collect it from you if more convenient. If you prefer to arrange a monthly electronic transfer at your bank, the FSSO bank account is the following:

Free State Symphony Orchestra
ABSA cheque account: 407 399 7210 [Branch code: 632005]

If you use this option, please email the relevant information (your name, contact information and amount) to us so that we can verify that we receive the intended donation.

We will be keen to discuss and explain any aspects of this campaign, if desired. You are welcome to contact me at the email address below, or contact Ella Kotze at the FSSO office.

With kind appreciation

Yours sincerely



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