

**For Immediate Release
October 21, 2019**

**Anchorage Youth Symphony Announces
Frank and Carol Pinkerton Anchorage Youth Symphony Endowment**

Pinkerton Family Gift Celebrates 55th Anniversary

Anchorage, AK— October 21, 2019 — Anchorage Youth Symphony (AYS) announces the establishment of the **Frank and Carol Pinkerton Anchorage Youth Symphony Endowment**. The \$100,000 endowment celebrates the 55th anniversary of the youth symphony's founding and is intended to help ensure the organization remains sustainable in the years ahead.

This is the largest single contribution the Anchorage Youth Symphony has received since its founding, by Frank Pinkerton, in 1965. By establishing the gift as an endowment, Frank and Carol Pinkerton have ensured that young Anchorage musicians will have the opportunity to benefit from the program for generations to come.

“Carol and I thank the AYS leadership for continuing our original vision. It is our great privilege to create this endowment to help our young musicians perform beautiful music for Alaska.” – Frank Pinkerton.

AYS Executive Director Denise Brown-Chythlook says the endowment came at the perfect time. “Most Alaska’s Arts organizations have had a bit of a challenge raising money this year, with all the uncertainty we’ve seen on the state level. The generous support from the Pinkertons, along with the support of many other donors, has made it a fantastic fundraising year for us, allowing the youth symphony to thrive and plan for the future. We are incredibly grateful and excited about the years to come!” says Brown-Chythlook.

A celebration and benefit for the endowment will take place on Sunday, December 15, 2019, at 3 pm in the Atwood Concert Hall with the Pinkertons and their five children – all AYS alumni – in attendance. Half of the proceeds from the **55th Anniversary Celebration Concert** ticket sales will be donated to the **Frank and Carol Pinkerton Anchorage Youth Symphony Endowment**. It will feature performances by the Anchorage Youth Symphony, as well as a special performance by an Anchorage Youth Symphony Alumni Orchestra formed for this occasion. The Alumni Orchestra will perform *Variations on Alaska’s Flag Song*, featuring Soloist Paul Rosenthal, violin, conducted by Frank Pinkerton. Tickets are available at CenterTix.net or by calling 263-ARTS.

Linn Weeda, AYS Music Director for the past 30 years, is also an alum of the youth symphony and says he looks forward to celebrating the past and the present at the same time. “This concert, taking place in our beautiful Atwood Concert Hall, will showcase the 83 current AYS musicians - who come from as far away as Homer - as well as numerous alumni musicians. I can’t wait to show Frank how far his dream has come in 55 years!”

Frank Pinkerton founded the Anchorage Youth Symphony while serving as the Anchorage School District's first Director of Fine Arts and conductor of the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra. Pinkerton worked to develop the program until he retired in 1978. The Anchorage Youth Symphony has performed every year since its founding and was granted non-profit 501(c)(3) status in 1981.

Contributions to the Frank and Carol Pinkerton Anchorage Youth Symphony Endowment Fund can be made by visiting the Alaska Community Foundation website: alaskacf.org. Click *Donate* to find the fund. You may also mail your donations to The Alaska Community Foundation, 3201 C Street, Suite 110, Anchorage, AK 99503. Please note "Frank and Carol Pinkerton Anchorage Youth Symphony Endowment" in the memo line.

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