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**Chelsea Community Foundation Awards \$6,000 Grant
to Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra**

Grant will bring music education to Chelsea schools

Chelsea, Mich. – The Chelsea Community Foundation recently awarded a grant of \$6,000 to the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra to bring its successful music education program, “Ensembles in Your Classroom,” to students in Chelsea elementary schools.

The “Ensembles in Your Classroom” program brings professional musicians from the Symphony into classrooms to perform for, interact with and educate children about classical music. The program is based on the idea that exposing students to music and the arts will enhance the likelihood that they will participate in and develop a life-long appreciation for the arts.

“One of the joys of “Ensembles in Your Classroom” is to see the excitement in a youngster’s eye when an ensemble comes into their classroom or school auditorium,” said Mary Steffek Blaske, executive director, Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. “The Chelsea Community Foundation has planted a seed of learning in math, history, science, social studies and music that will be an indelible part of that youngster’s life.”

The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra will bring three professional ensembles to each of Chelsea’s three elementary schools beginning in 2007. Each visit will consist of a musical program followed by presentations on various topics, including individual composers, evolution of various musical genres, concepts of

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rhythm and melody, physics of music and sound, and music theory. Lessons are aimed at reinforcing the overall curriculum while also inspiring children and helping them to see the relevance of music to their lives.

“The ensembles will support and enhance the total educational experience for thousands of Chelsea students,” said Jane Wilkinson, board president, Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. “Thanks to support from the Chelsea Community Foundation, this enrichment is free to the schools,” she added.

*The Chelsea Community Foundation is a permanent charitable endowment fund that provides an ongoing source of revenue for a wide range of programs and activities in the Chelsea community. Founded in December, 1995, the Chelsea Community Foundation is a \$1.7 million permanent charitable endowment and has provided more than \$616,000 in grants to organizations working to improve the quality of life in Chelsea and surrounding communities. For more information on the Foundation, call (734) 475-9891 or visit www.cfsem.org and www.chelseamichamber.org. **The Chelsea Community Foundation is an affiliate fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.***

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