

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact Truly Render, 734.647.4020
trender@umich.edu
www.ums.org/news

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES \$1,000,000 GIFT AS PART OF U-M VICTORS FOR MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN

U-M ALUM AND NYC REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER EUGENE M. GRANT SUPPORTS MULTI-YEAR UMS/NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC RESIDENCY PARTNERSHIP

ANN ARBOR, MI (January 16, 2015) — The **University Musical Society** of the University of Michigan has received a \$1,000,000 gift to support a new partnership with the **New York Philharmonic** that will bring the orchestra to campus three times over the next five years. The first multi-day residency will launch this fall with three performances, masterclasses for U-M students, and residency activities for the broader community. The New York Philharmonic partnership is part of a five-year UMS orchestra initiative that also includes a residency with the Berlin Philharmonic in the 2016-17 season and another orchestra in the 2018-19 season to be named at a later date.

Eugene M. Grant, a U-M alumnus (LSA, '38) and President of Eugene M. Grant & Company, a real estate investment and development firm headquartered in New York, made the gift, which is UMS's first million dollar contribution from an individual donor. This unprecedented commitment goes a long way in ensuring the vibrancy, breadth, and depth of UMS's residency activities for the New York Philharmonic's first residency in October 2015.

In explaining why he is supporting this effort, Grant said, "I believe the arts are a critical part of a well-rounded education and should be a part of the Michigan experience for all students. Ticket prices should be affordable, more classes should use the arts for experiential learning, and the best world-class performers should be available on and off the stage for students at Michigan.

As a New Yorker and as a Michigan man, I am thrilled to help bring together my "hometown" orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and my alma mater, the University of Michigan. It brings me great joy to make this gift to the University Musical Society at the University of Michigan and help make this historic partnership possible."

"UMS has a long history of presenting top-ranked orchestras in multi-day residencies going back more than 100 years," says Kenneth C. Fischer, President of UMS. "What is significant about these residencies is the comprehensive education and community engagement activities that will surround the public performances. With the incredible support of Eugene Grant, U-M students, faculty, and the community at large will have the opportunity to connect deeply with one of the greatest orchestras in the world. We are inspired by Mr. Grant's incredible gift and hope it inspires others to become Victors for the Arts."

"The New York Philharmonic is extremely gratified to make an extended visit to Ann Arbor, in which we will engage with U-M students and the surrounding community in a meaningful way," said Matthew VanBesien, President of the New York Philharmonic. "I would like to express deep admiration for Eugene Grant for making this ongoing project possible; he has been an ardent supporter of the performing arts in New York City for many years, and his vision and generosity are making it possible for the Orchestra to perform for and work with his alma mater."

ABOUT THE 2015 NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC RESIDENCY PARTNERSHIP

The New York Philharmonic anchors the program, with appearances in the 2015-16, 2017-18, and 2019-20 seasons. The first residency, entitled "Tradition and Innovation," will include three performances by the Philharmonic and music director Alan Gilbert during U-M's Homecoming Weekend (October 9-11). The 2015 residency concerts will feature music by the New York Philharmonic's former composer-in-residence Magnus Lindberg and Beethoven (Friday, October 9); Esa-Pekka Salonen and Mahler (Saturday, October 10); and a new film project with David Newman at the podium (Sunday, October 11). In addition, orchestra members and management will participate in a wide range of educational activities in partnership with University units and community organizations, including workshops, co-commissions and co-

productions, as well as possible performance opportunities for University of Michigan groups in New York. Additional residencies with UMS will feature the Berlin Philharmonic (2016-17 season) and another orchestra to be named later (2018-19).

ABOUT EUGENE M. GRANT

Eugene M. Grant is a graduate of the University of Michigan (class of '38, Political Science) and the Columbia Law School (class of '41) and is a member of the New York Bar. He is President of Eugene M. Grant & Company, a real estate investment and development firm headquartered in New York. He is a member of the UMS National Council and serves on the board of the Metropolitan Opera, Realty Foundation of New York, The Jewish Museum of New York and Chairman Emeritus of the Westchester Holocaust Commission. He also sits on the Real Estate Council of various arts organizations such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Eugene Grant resides in Mamaroneck, New York with his wife Emily, who is president of the Emelin Theater and is a chairperson of the Purchase College Foundation. One of Mr. Grant's fondest memories of UMS performances dates back to his senior year at U-M, when he attended a '38 performance of Sergei Rachmaninoff performing his own compositions as well as those of Liszt, Bach, and Chopin at Hill Auditorium.

In addition to the \$1M gift to UMS, Eugene M. Grant's generosity has made an incredible impact at the University of Michigan. In recent years, Mr. Grant has provided \$2M in scholarship funding to the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA). He has also contributed to other University of Michigan units, including the School of Natural Resources, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, Kinesiology, Kelsey Museum, Judaic Studies, Humanities Institute, and University Library. In addition, Eugene M. Grant has served on U-M's LS&A Dean's Advisory Council, the Humanities Institute Board, and has served as a Life Sciences Institute Israel Research Ambassador.

ABOUT UMS

One of the oldest performing arts presenters in the country, **UMS** (also known as the University Musical Society) contributes to a vibrant cultural community by connecting audiences with

performing artists from around the world in uncommon and engaging experiences. UMS is an independent non-profit affiliated with the University of Michigan, presenting over 70 music, theater, and dance performances by professional touring artists each season, along with over 100 free educational activities. UMS is part of the University of Michigan's "Victors for Michigan" campaign, reinforcing its commitment to bold artistic leadership, engaged learning through the arts, and access and inclusiveness.