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## BPO Awarded \$100,000 Baird Foundation Challenge Grant

Buffalo, NY: October 25, 2011 -The Baird Foundation has generously awarded the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra a dollar-for-dollar challenge grant up to \$100,000 based upon all new and increased gifts to the 2011-2012 annual fund campaign. All pledges must be paid by the end of the orchestra's fiscal year on August 31, 2012 to qualify.

"The BPO is an extraordinary community asset that provides a significant impact to the quality of life in Western New York. The Baird Foundation Challenge is premised upon our reaching out to those that believe the BPO does exactly that," said Arthur Cryer, Trustee of the Baird Foundation. "Performances such as Saturday night's concert with pianist Fabio Bidini emphasize both the quality and uniqueness of the BPO as a world class orchestra. As I left the music hall, one of our friends said that the music was so exciting and powerful that it took her breath away. It is for reasons such as this that the Baird Foundation is committed to our community and the BPO. We are privileged to serve such a great orchestra."

"This year has been a year of great news for the BPO, the extension of music director JoAnn Falletta's contract for five years, the successful negotiation and signing of the BPO musician's contract for five years, and the creation of a strategic plan that will chart the organization's course for the next ten years," said Cindy Abbott Letro, Chair of BPO Board of Trustees. "We are grateful to the Baird Foundation for their unwavering support of the BPO as a unique community asset. During this time of great economic uncertainty, the Foundation's pledge of \$100,000 as a challenge grant will help the organization grow its support and continue to provide memorable musical moments for our community."

For more information on the Baird Challenge or making a donation contact Barbara McCulloch at (716) 242-7820 or [bmcculloch@bpo.org](mailto:bmcculloch@bpo.org).

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As Buffalo's cultural ambassador, the Grammy Award-winning [Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra](#) under the leadership of music director JoAnn Falletta presents more than 120 Classics, Pops and Youth Concerts each year and reaches over 40,000 students per year (K-12) across all eight counties of Western New York. Since 1940, the orchestra's permanent home has been Kleinhans Music Hall, a National Historic Site with an international reputation as one of the finest concert halls in the United States.

The BPO has toured widely across the United States and Canada including the recent Florida Friends Tour with JoAnn Falletta in March 2010, the first multi-city tour since the 1988 European tour. The BPO has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall as a participant in the prestigious Spring for Music festival in 2013. This will be the orchestra's 24th appearance at Carnegie Hall and its first since Music Director JoAnn Falletta led the orchestra in a much heralded appearance there in June 2004.

During the tenure of current music director JoAnn Falletta, the BPO has rekindled its distinguished history of NPR broadcasts and recordings, including the release of 18 new CDs of a highly diverse repertoire on the NAXOS and Beau Fleuve labels. The Philharmonic's Naxos recording of composer John Corigliano's "Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan," featuring soprano Hila Plitmann, won Grammys in two categories of the three for which it was nominated: Classical Vocal Performance and Classical Contemporary Composition.