Michelle Hamilton, CFRE
Vice President of Development, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra

For more than 20 years Michelle Hamilton has worked as a development officer experiencing success in annual fund strategies, endowment campaigns, special events, marketing and PR, and volunteer management. Michelle has spent most of her career in arts organizations including: the Houston Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic and the Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

Today, Michelle is vice president of development for the Charlotte Symphony, where she oversees the orchestra’s efforts in individual giving, major gifts, corporate and foundation giving, representing more than $5 million in contributed income annually. Prior to joining the Charlotte Symphony, Michelle served as chief advancement officer for Crisis Assistance Ministry in Charlotte, an agency working to prevent homelessness and preserve dignity for Mecklenburg County individuals and families facing financial crisis.

Michelle serves as president-elect of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Charlotte Chapter. Michelle is also a member of the board of directors of the Symphony Guild of Charlotte and an active volunteer at Providence Day School, St. Gabriel Catholic Church and Crisis Assistance Ministry.

In November 2013, Michelle was recognized by AFP Charlotte as Outstanding Professional Fundraising Executive. Michelle is a Certified Fundraising Executive and holds a B.A. in Communications from the University of Louisiana. She is married and the mother of one son.

Stacy Wilson Margolis
Vice President for Development, League of American Orchestras

Stacy Wilson Margolis is currently Vice President of Development at the League of American Orchestras. Previously, she served as Director of Development at Orchestra of St. Luke’s in New York City, overseeing annual fundraising efforts and a $50 million capital campaign for The DiMenna Center for Classical Music.

Prior to assuming that post in 2008, she spent six years at the Executive Director of the London Symphony Orchestra’s American Foundation, with responsibility for the LSO’s U.S-based fundraising.
She has held development posts at The New York Public Library and the New York-based Theater Development Fund.

She holds degrees in Music and Marketing from Syracuse University and attended the master’s program in arts administration at Columbia University.

Amanda Sauer
Executive Director, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Amanda (Mandy) Sauer has been executive director of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra since 2010, where she is responsible for the complete operations of this metropolitan based orchestra serving Florida’s state capital. During her tenure, the TSO has seen remarkable growth in its corporate sponsorships, annual fund donations, ticket sales, audience development, and board engagement.

Amanda currently serves as the League’s Group 5 Vice President. In this capacity she helps design content for the annual national meeting and midwinter managers’ meeting, and she has moderated sessions for her peers on such topics as board engagement, best practices in social media, cross-currents in marketing, and intrinsic impact research. Further, through the LAO, she has participated in executive leadership seminars on a range of topics such as scenario planning and analysis, leadership in times of change, and patron growth and advancement with industry leaders such as Deborah Borda (CEO, Los Angeles Philharmonic), Paul Hogle (Executive VP, Detroit Symphony) and Russell Willis Taylor (President and CEO, National Arts Strategies).

Amanda has earned music degrees from Vanderbilt University, Indiana University, the University of Oklahoma, and King’s College, London. Before moving into orchestra management, she served on the music faculties of Florida State University and the University of Oklahoma. She has given numerous lectures on music and has published in the Society for Music Theory’s prestigious online journal of criticism, Music Theory Online. As pianist, she has performed chamber music throughout the U.S. at festivals such as Quad Cities Chamber Music Festival (IA) and the Stonington Opera House series on Deer Isle (ME).
Amanda currently teaches classes on music at FSU’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute—an academic program offering non-credit courses to adults aged 50 or older—and she is involved in many community groups, including Leadership Tallahassee and the Knight Creative Communities Institute. She has also recently been named managing director of “Word of South,” a new festival of music and literature in Tallahassee whose inaugural event takes place April 11-12, 2015.