At a time when it seemed almost an impossibility to bring the many races and cultures of Cincinnati together; at a time when a cloud of hopelessness and despair seemed to hang over our community because of our inability to understand each other; at what actually felt like the worst of times, a segment of our society was brought together by the universal communication of music.

August 8, 2001

Kathy Jorgensen-Finley
Community Relations Manager
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
1241 Elm Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45210-2200

Dear Ms. Jorgensen-Finley:

At a time when it seemed almost an impossibility to bring the many races and cultures of Cincinnati together; at a time when a cloud of hopelessness and despair seemed to hang over our community because of our inability to understand each other; at what actually felt like the worst of times, a segment of our society was brought together by the universal communication of music. The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the Lincoln Heights Missionary Baptist Church came together.

From the very time that the informative, inspirational maestro, John Morris Russell took the stand we knew, both community and orchestra that it was the best thing in the worst of times. Mr. Morris stated that all of the orchestra was moved to tears from the genuine outpouring of affection from the congregation. I believe we all shared in the liquid language that night: the language of tears. The community was beginning to heal.

It is our sincere thanks to the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for sharing its wonderful talents with us. We hope that this is just the beginning of something that may continue to bridge the chasm in our world.

We look forward to the return of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

Sincerely,

Freddie T. Phipps Jr.
Senior Pastor

Reaching, Teaching, Restoring, Building

EPTitle

CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
LOUIS LANGREE: MUSIC DIRECTOR
View CSO’s Classical Roots video at
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxfyWophJdY
Diversity and inclusion—a priority both on and off the stage