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TO: The Lakeland Foundation Board & Friends

FROM: Bob Cahen

DATE: November 10, 2017

SUBJ: The Lakeland Foundation Friday Update

I've written a number of times about all of our hard work to have the Cleveland Orchestra perform at Lakeland for students in Lake County schools. I wrote about it a number of times because we've been trying to make this happen for about three years and I had lots of Fridays to write about it. Yesterday, it happened.

There are two stories here: the first involves our having the vision to think this might really happen someday; bringing a group of committed and passionate people together to make the case that it should happen; actually making our case, out loud and in writing, that this would be a great thing for Lake County and for the Orchestra; and of course, having the right timing, which in this case is Lakeland's 50th anniversary and the Orchestra's 100th.

The second story involves the logistics and program themselves, involving lots of people with lots of expertise; reaching out to many schools in Lake County and having those schools eagerly respond that they were "in," bringing buses with over a thousand students to Lakeland's Athletic and Fitness Center; seeing and hearing a first-rate multi-media presentation and Cleveland Orchestra performance of "Beethoven and Prometheus – A Hero's Journey"; and seeing students really engaged in the moment.

We got into this in the first place because we believed that by helping students have this experience when they might not have the opportunity otherwise, we might help spark an interest in music, the arts, thinking about who in fact their heroes are and why, and maybe aspiring to some degree in the footsteps of those heroes.

Our journey doesn't end there, of course. We're also using the Orchestra's appearance at Lakeland to kick off efforts to bring additional music programs to Lake County and to bring Lake County students to venues such as Severance Hall. We've created a music fund to provide resources to do that. While the fund continues to grow, we'd like it to grow even more. Think about helping out with a donation to The Lakeland Foundation - Music Fund; As always you can send a check to me, and as always you can contact me if you have questions – bcahen@lakelandcc.edu, 440-525-7097, 216-403-6916.

Thanks to everyone – from Lakeland, from our committee, and from the Orchestra - who made this happen. I'm pretty sure we made a difference in more than one life yesterday. And thanks again for all you do for Lakeland.