

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: October 5, 2010

Santa Rosa Symphony Announces New Development Director

(Santa Rosa, CA) – The Santa Rosa Symphony recently announced the appointment of Sue Ross as Director of Development. Ross served most recently as Executive Director of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society.

With over 30 years experience in nonprofit administration and fundraising, she has held key posts with several prestigious organizations including: Deputy Director of LEAD International, focused on sustainable economic leadership development that is environmentally sound; VP of Development and Public Relations - Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies (where she was intricately involved with the creation and funding of its children's interactive ARTiFACT Center, now at the Oriental Institute of Chicago); Director of Government Affairs - The Art Institute of Chicago; Interim Director of Development - The Joffrey Ballet; Director of Development - The Osher Marin Jewish Community Center; and Director of Development - Marin Ballet.

Ross has also served as fundraising consultant to many national organizations and small businesses, including: The University of Illinois, American Friends Service Committee, United Nations Association of San Francisco, Chicago Episcopalian Archdiocese, Chinese Students Association, DuSable Museum of African American Culture, both The Illinois and The International Fire Inspectors Associations, Soviet Jewry Legal Advocates Center, Chicago Food Bank, The World Center, and Natural State Research Corporation.

Of her new position, Ross says: "Working with the Santa Rosa Symphony affords the perfect opportunity to apply my training and experience in non-profit administration and fund development with my training and love for music. Opera and classical music have been integral parts of my life—all of my life. From childhood, I was trained in ballet, flute and voice. Having been raised in a household where such music was the backdrop to our lives now serves to combine my working days with my life's passion."

Symphony Executive Director Alan Silow welcomed the Symphony's new Development Director: "In such a competitive market, we're delighted that Sue will apply her wealth of experience and talents in non-profit fundraising to help ensure the Santa Rosa Symphony's future."

Additional biographical information on Sue Ross

After receiving a bachelor's degree in education from Western Michigan University, Sue Ross continued postgraduate studies in education, administration of criminal justice and marketing at various institutions of higher education (the University of Illinois, Northwestern University, Chicago State University, and the University of Phoenix). Ross served on the boards of numerous non-profits over the years, and as a writer is a member of the Women's National Book Association.

A former teacher within both public/private and alternative school systems, she taught Administration of Criminal Justice at Chicago's North Eastern University and Business Presentations at Chicago's DePaul University. For several years she was a popular instructor of fund raising/grant writing courses in both undergraduate and graduate studies programs at Chicago's Columbia College (Arts Administration Program), and Spertus Institute of Judaica's graduate studies program (Administration of Human Services).

Ross has taught numerous seminars and lectured extensively on fundraising and grant writing in the US. She developed and conducted a seminar on "Leadership Development and Co-Creative Fund Raising" in London for international leaders representing over 20 nations. Ross is listed in the prestigious Marquis biographical publications: *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who among emerging leaders*, *Who's Who in education*, *Who's Who of American women*, *Who's Who in the West*, and *Who's Who in the Midwest*. In 2006, she was honored as the Marin Association of Business Executives "Businesswoman of the Year."

In addition to her professional life Ross enjoys writing, gardening, and time spent with fiancé, Dr. Charles D. Elias, a psychotherapist in private practice. They currently reside in Healdsburg.

Photo of Sue Ross, Santa Rosa Symphony Director of Development available upon request.

###