



## The Gainesville Chamber Orchestra

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February 15, 2011

Evans Haile  
*Music Director*

Thomas Rider  
*Ex Director*

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*In memoriam*

Gainesville City Commission  
c/o Steven Phillips  
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs  
City of Gainesville  
Station 30, PO Box 490  
[phillipssr@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:phillipssr@cityofgainesville.org)

Dear City Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of the Gainesville Chamber Orchestra. As you know, we are one of the three professional performing arts groups in town. I am happy to report that, attendance-wise, we are having a good season. Both our Beethoven and Tchaikovsky concerts almost filled the University Auditorium.

For many years you have supported our pops concert when it was held on the downtown plaza and gave us \$5000 to meet some of our expenses. This is the second year the concert will be in the University Auditorium, 7:30 pm, March 4. It will feature popular favorites including Tchaikovsky's *Overture 1812* (No cannons.) We are suggesting that you continue our tradition of sponsoring our pops concert.

We have been forced by our budget constraints to begin charging for our pops concert; it cost us \$27,000 to mount. This is happening all over the country, but particularly in Florida where diminishing state support has forced us to discontinue activities for which there is no ticket income.

We hope that you would agree to allocate this amount on an annual basis and that it can become part of a consent agenda. However, I shall attend the City Commission meeting in case there are questions.

We have kept our ticket prices low. General \$20.00. Senior \$15.00. and Student \$10.00. And as a result, we are attracting a much younger crowd. We hope to make all of our concerts "popular" in the sense that they are affordable and feature approachable concert programs.

Local governments are strapped for cash these days. But it has to be remembered that the Gainesville Chamber Orchestra provides close to seventy people with an income. Also for every \$1 that the City of Gainesville invests in the GCO, we raise about \$40.00 through contributors, supporters, advertisers, and attendees.

Sincerely,

Thomas Rider, Executive Director