



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Vanessa Gardner, 617.633.3576

vanessa@lexingtonsymphony.org

LEXINGTON SYMPHONY RECEIVES 2011-2012 METLIFE GOVERNANCE GRANT

November 14, 2011 Lexington, MA – **Lexington Symphony** is one of five orchestras from around the country to receive the 2011-2012 **MetLife Governance Grant for Board Development** from the **League of American Orchestras**. The grant provides financial support to strengthen board governance practice. The orchestras are selected through a competitive applications process that assesses their plan for board development, its long and short-term impact, and the measurement of results. The grants range from \$4,200 to \$6,500. Lexington Symphony received \$4,200. The four other orchestras honored with this year's grants are The Central Ohio Symphony, Kalamazoo (MI) Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic (MD), and Whatcom Symphony (WA). As a precondition to the application, the orchestra boards all participated in the League of American Orchestras/BoardSource self-assessment resource for orchestra boards. Participation in this process helped inform the grant applications.

“Our board determined this year,” said Fred Johnson, Lexington Symphony President, “that we needed to strengthen our governance structure. We set goals to improve our operational performance, and provide a plan for succession that would assure the long-term viability of the orchestra and its continuity as a treasured community resource. We’re grateful to the MetLife Foundation for choosing us as one of their grant recipients. The timing couldn’t be better for us to have this special support as we pursue our objectives.”

“Strong board leadership is crucial to an orchestra’s artistic and financial health and its overall sustainability,” said Jesse Rosen, president and CEO of the League of American Orchestras. “We are very fortunate that MetLife Foundation provides orchestras with this valuable assistance in improving the performance of these key members of the orchestra community.”

“MetLife Foundation is pleased to support and honor the good work of American orchestras,” remarked Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation. “Strong governance is essential to the functioning of nonprofit organizations, and we are proud to partner with the League of American Orchestras to develop and strengthen orchestra boards.”

Lexington Symphony The Lexington Symphony is a group of dedicated professional musicians who share a passion for their music and for exacting standards of performance. In its 17th season, the orchestra maintains a unique blend of grass-roots spirit and professionalism, devoted to sharing classical music with all. With an emphasis on accessibility within the community, the group offers great programming, easy parking, affordable tickets, outreach programs for children and youth, and an exciting concert experience in beautiful Cary Hall right in Lexington's historic downtown. Visit www.lexingtonsymphony.org to learn more.



League of American Orchestras The League of American Orchestras leads, supports, and champions America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of nearly 900 orchestras across North America runs the gamut from world-renowned symphonies to community groups, from summer festivals to student and youth ensembles. The only national organization dedicated solely to the orchestral experience, the League is a nexus of knowledge and innovation, advocacy, and leadership advancement for managers, musicians, volunteers, and boards. Its conferences and events, award-winning Symphony magazine, website, and other publications inform music lovers around the world about orchestral activity and developments. Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League links a national network of thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, managers and administrators, board members, volunteers, and business partners. Visit americanorchestras.org to learn more.

MetLife Foundation MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 to carry on MetLife's longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. The Foundation is committed to building a secure future for individuals and communities worldwide. Through programs focusing on empowering older adults, preparing young people and building livable communities, MetLife Foundation increases access and opportunities for people of all ages. Since it was established, MetLife Foundation has made more than \$500 million in grants and \$75 million in program related investments. For more information visit www.metlife.org.

####