



**ARTS OF SOUTHERN KENTUCKY ANNOUNCES THE RITA & JIM SCOTT CONCERT HALL AT SKyPAC;  
COUPLE MAKES ONE MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT INTO FUTURE OF ORGANIZATION**

Denise Lubey  
574-220-3332  
dlubey@artsofsky.org

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BOWLING GREEN, KY – Today, Arts of Southern Kentucky (ASK) announced that the primary performance space in the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC) will be named the Rita and Jim Scott Concert Hall as the result of the couple’s one-million-dollar gift to the organization. The donation will be split evenly between the support of operating expenses and the establishment of the Rita and Jim Scott Endowment. The gift represents the largest single investment ever made to an arts organization in Southern Kentucky.

Orchestra Kentucky and SKyPAC merged into a single organization in late 2020 to serve a common mission. Under a plan approved by the unanimous vote of both organizations’ boards of directors, with the assistance of the Warren County Fiscal Court and Judge Michael O. Buchanon, South Central Kentucky’s two largest performing arts organizations chose to unify as Arts of Southern Kentucky. The move helped create a pathway to overcome the challenges posed by the current global pandemic and to ensure access to arts and entertainment for future audiences. The new organization is led administratively and artistically by Jeffrey Reed.

With the creation of the Rita and Jim Scott Endowment, ASK is able to enjoy the benefits of having a long-term anchor to stay on solid financial footing for years to come. This endowment provides ASK the opportunity to ensure that artistic presentations are available to the community well into the future.

“Rita and Jim Scott have been longtime philanthropists and supporters of the arts. They recognize the value the arts bring to South Central Kentucky, and have a history of stepping in to help keep the arts alive in our community,” said ASK Board Chair Beth Sigler. “We are so thankful for this gift ,which will allow ASK to continue its mission for years to come.”

Rita Scott currently serves on the Board of Directors for Arts of Southern Kentucky, serving as chair of the Elm Street Society. The Elm Street Society is comprised of donors who have made multi-year pledges to support ASK. All pledges are five-year commitments that allow the organization to make long-range plans with a minimum commitment of \$1,000 per year. Under her leadership, the Society has experienced substantial growth with a 24% increase in membership in the last six months and is on track to have 100 members by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

“We believe in Arts of Southern Kentucky. We want to see packed audiences in SKyPAC once again and hear Orchestra Kentucky’s outstanding performances. The pandemic has interfered with our ability to enjoy live performances, and now it is time to step up and create opportunities for everyone to enjoy the talents that we have right here in South Central Kentucky,” said Rita and Jim Scott. “We have supported many good causes over the years here in Bowling Green, and we are excited to lend our support to the future success of the arts in our community with the ability to stay right here and enjoy five-star shows on stage at SKyPAC. We are blessed with an excellent orchestra and conductor who has spent over 20 years entertaining our community. Concerts that we have attended in Nashville, Naples, FL, and Louisville do not compare to the talents of Jeff Reed and Orchestra Kentucky. We want to help fund these programs that will enrich the lives of young and old. Our community is so blessed to have this beautiful facility and the talent that brings us the magic of music!”

“ASK is grateful to the Scotts for their generosity and commitment to helping ensure that members of our community have access to programs presented at SKyPAC,” said Jeff Reed, ASK President & CEO. “But their generosity goes beyond their monetary support. Rita has worked tirelessly to grow the Elm Street Society into a vibrant membership of nearly 100 households strong. Rita and Jim both continue to go above and beyond to offer support to both this organization and to me, personally. It is only fitting that the naming of the concert hall reflect all that Rita and Jim have done for our community. Because of Rita and Jim, and many other generous donors and supporters, our future is bright!”

Additional opportunities are available for those who would also like to support the arts, including numerous naming opportunities within the SKyPAC building. Supporters are also encouraged to consider subscribing to the upcoming 21-22 Orchestra Kentucky and SKyPAC Main Stage seasons. Details of the 21-22 Orchestra Kentucky Season, sponsored by the Haskins Foundation, can be found at [OrchestraKentucky.com](http://OrchestraKentucky.com) and packages may be purchased by calling the SKyPAC box office at (270) 904-1880, open 9am to 5pm weekdays. The SKyPAC main stage performances will be announced in early May 2021.

## ARTS OF SOUTHERN KENTUCKY

Orchestra Kentucky - Founded in 2000, Orchestra Kentucky of Bowling Green quickly became south central Kentucky’s professional orchestra. Its members have performed with ensembles such as the Cincinnati, St. Louis, Dallas, Nashville, Charleston and Louisville orchestras. With more than 1,000 subscribers in a community of approximately 70,000, the orchestra attributes its success to innovative programming, designed to appeal to a variety of audiences.

Orchestra Kentucky has backed legendary entertainers, including Neil Sedaka, Glen Campbell, Kenny Rogers, Paul Williams and The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension. It is involved in commissioning new works by popular performers, premiering compositions by Neil Sedaka, Keith Emerson, Peter Tork, Jimmy Webb, and PDQ Bach.

Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center - A premier entertainment center, SKyPAC is a multi-use facility located in downtown Bowling Green, KY. The facility’s centerpiece is the Rita and Jim Scott Concert Hall, an 1,800-seat state-of-the-art auditorium. SKyPAC also features The Renshaw Education Center, which houses the Carol Wedge Studio Theater - a flexible 2,600 sq. ft. space for intimate productions and gatherings; several multi-functional rehearsal halls/classrooms; a children’s art gallery and a main gallery.

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