



**Presented by the  
Dallas Symphony Orchestra League**

**Presenter: Lisa Loy Laughlin, Immediate Past President, DSOL**  
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**Purpose of the Project:** For 73 years, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League has raised over \$21 million dollars to support the Outreach and Education programs of the Dallas Symphony Association, including the Cecil and Ida Green Youth Concerts, Red Violin and Young Strings programs. These programs have opened doors to a world of music, imagination and creativity~ a world which many of the students otherwise would be unable to access. All of these efforts serve to nourish future generations of creative thinkers, successful professionals and arts patrons. More than 230,000 children and adults are reach annually through performances, educational programs and community outreach initiatives.

**Concept:** Southern Savour Supper Club was a garden party fundraiser that brought together friends and business leaders for a “supper club” style evening with a beautiful dinner served family style. The evening included a live and silent auction, a wine pull, and a private musical performance by Suzuki Strings of Dallas and the One O’clock Lab Band from University of North Texas. The Supper Club was a Southern soiree based on a concept from two separate organizations: The St. Francisville Southern Garden Symposium and the Delta Supper Club. Delta Supper Club has been written up in Forbes, USA Today, Garden and Gun, New York Times among others.

**Timeline:** January 2018 – Concept organized and President-Elect of DSOL secured home for event  
May 2018 - Co-chair and major committee members selected  
October 2018 - Meeting with fundraising chairs, Liaison for Symphony and DSOL volunteers  
November 2018- Southern Savour Committee Meeting, Meeting with House Hostess and her Staff,  
Vendor sourcing, Event Logo Designed, Printer selected  
January 2019 - Underwriting Letters Written and Mailed  
February 2019 - Meeting with Auction Chair, Rentals, House Hostess and her Staff  
March 2019 - Meeting with Caterer, Wine Collection and Committee Meeting, Invitation printing/mailed  
April 2019 - Auction Gathering Pre-Party at Sponsor Swoozie's; Walk-Through at Home with Band (Entertainment), Rentals, Auction Team, Caterer, Home Tour Committee, and Valet; Patron Party event (donated); Set-Up and Event

**Financials:** Underwriting packages from \$3,000 to \$50,000 were available. Individual and Patron level tickets started at \$250/person.

**Total Revenue:** \$79,066.34 Total Expense: \$36,556.64

**In-kind Donations:** Pre-Party Auction collection at Swoozie's, Flowers for the Event, Wine Donations for Wine Pull, Auction Items: Live and Silent, University of North Texas One ‘Clock Jazz Band including special requirements, Partial Catering, Patron Party

**Details:** As the sun descended on a sparkling spring evening, the Suzuki Strings serenaded guests arriving to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League's spring benefit on April 28. Amanda and Brint Ryan welcomed 200 people to their magnificent Preston Hollow estate for a night of exquisite cuisine, convivial company, and sweet music — all with Southern-style hospitality. Event chair Bettina Hennessy, co-chair Renée Querbes Farren, honorary chair Sherwood Wagner, and DSOL president Lisa Loy Laughlin created a night full of extra-special details (such as flour-sack tea towels with sassy sayings set at each place on the tables).

The "Supper Club," a chic garden party, was based on a concept from two separate organizations: The St. Francisville Southern Garden Symposium and the Delta Supper Club. Guests sipped wine and craft cocktails featuring Dallas-distilled Duckworth vodka as they admired the art and furnishings inside the Ryans' home on their way to the back outdoor terrace. There, dozens of silent auction items lined the balcony overlooking the pool and backyard. Patrons could bid on high-end wines, retail and restaurant experiences, jewelry, and more. A generous wine pull ensured that everyone could go home with a bottle, even if they didn't have a winning auction bid.

When it was time to sit down to dinner — set up al fresco on the front lawn — a family-style feast commenced. Revered chef Dean Fearing and his team from Fearing's had prepared a menu full of Southern classics, and he personally greeted guests as they dined. Favorite dishes included Granny Fearing's "paper bag shook" fried chicken, heirloom tomato pie, Homestead Mills jalapeño cheese grits, roasted okra with applewood smoked bacon and cherry tomato, and sweet corn and crawfish manqué choux with voodoo peppers. A dessert station was set with bourbon pecan tarts, banana pudding, Key lime pies, and assorted macaroons. The award-winning One O'clock Lab Band from the University of North Texas provided the live soundtrack to dinner from a stage set up near the tables.

Laughlin and the event chairs formally welcomed guests and gave a special "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" best-dressed gentleman award to Bill Caruth. Auctioneer Wendy Lambert made sure bidding got competitive in a live auction of several fabulous items, including a getaway to Kiawah Island, South Carolina; dinner at Fearing's and Ritz-Carlton hotel stay; and tickets to next year's DSO Gala starring superstar violinist Joshua Bell. Patrons were generous, as every dollar raised went to DSOL's mission to support the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Community Outreach and Education Programs, such as DSO on the Go, Community Concerts and Performances, Cecil and Ida Green Youth Concerts, Symphony Yes!, DSO Kids, and Young Strings. The group has raised over \$22 million in its 73 years of existence.

**Volunteers/Staff:** DSOL Volunteer Leadership and the DSO worked to design and produce the entire event. DSA staff collaborated in planning, financial goals, invitation list, record and donation keeping. Senior and Executive DSA Staff worked as liaison with Honorary Chair, Symphony Board Members, attended event and supported all donor participation, the auction and wine pull.

**Dallas Symphony Orchestra:** 2301 Flora Street, Dallas TX 75201. 214-871-4004. The DSO is a Tier 1 Orchestra with a 32M Budget. Dallas Population: 1.32 Million.

