

October 20, 2016

Mayor George N. Cretekos  
112 South Osceola Avenue  
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Mayor Cretekos,

Thank you for discussing the possibility of the City of Clearwater providing \$50,000 of the \$600,000 required to purchase a new orchestra shell for Ruth Eckerd Hall.

As we discussed, the current shell is over 30 years old and broke two years ago. This is an existential issue for The Florida Orchestra as we are unable to perform without an orchestra shell because the shell is what enables the sound to be highly audible to the audience. At this point, lifting the shell during large Broadway shows has become dangerous, repairs are extremely expensive, and not having a working shell would prevent The Florida Orchestra from performing at Ruth Eckerd Hall.

Ruth Eckerd Hall and The Florida Orchestra jointly commissioned a study on solutions for the hall and agreed that the clear solution is to purchase a new shell which will likely cost in the realm of \$600,000. We are asking the City to commit a portion of the funds as we seek the balance from Pinellas County, the State of Florida and private donors.

The new shell will be installed during the summer of 2018. While the impetus for this work is a broken current shell, the new shell will significantly improve the acoustics in the hall and the experience for our patrons.

We are grateful to the City for considering your role in solving this dire challenge.

Sincerely,



Michael Pastreich  
President & CEO

