



Tuesday, July 22, 2003

## OU strengthens partnership with symphony

Oakland University and the Pontiac Oakland Symphony Orchestra have entered into a new partnership that will provide high-level orchestral performances to the Oakland County community, while offering Oakland University music, theatre and dance students the chance to interact and perform with a regional symphony orchestra.

The symphony orchestra will now be known as the Oakland Symphony, with the rehearsal space, equipment and instruments provided by Oakland University. The orchestra will continue to perform in Varner Recital Hall on Oakland's campus as well as in other venues in the region.

"We are looking forward to strengthening this partnership to benefit all students at Oakland University," said Karl Boelter, chair of the university's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance**. "Not only will students receive valuable instruction and experience working with the orchestra, but the community at large will reap the benefits of having a first class regional symphony orchestra.

"The orchestra provides our students with an outstanding professional orchestral experience. It also serves the community by providing a source for music participation and education. It's a cultural asset of the highest order."

Boelter added that the orchestra's concerts are well attended and receive enthusiastically by the arts media in the area. The orchestra is entirely self-sufficient through an endowment and a regular base of financial support.

### SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Article Start Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Article End Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003