



# KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

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### Rosemary Stipe

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I grew up on a farm North of Kansas City. My mom was an accomplished musician and music teacher whose main instrument was the clarinet. She also directed our church choir for over 60 years and eventually learned how to play handbells. Having a handbell choir at our church was a dream of hers that became a reality. She even performed as a solo ringer.

I attended the University of Missouri and played clarinet in our Marching Mizzou band all four years. My senior year, the band traveled to England to perform at several soccer and rugby matches. I credit that experience as the catalyst that sparked my love for travel.



Catherine and Rosemary

After graduation, I worked as a speech therapist in schools but eventually began a new career organizing tours to Ireland and the U.K. My mother often joined me. I loved to include performances with local professional musicians on my tours, and we soon fell in love with the Irish harp. So we both decided to learn to play the harp together.

My mother eventually became very ill and was in at-home hospice, where I was her primary caregiver. We spent many hours listening to beautiful music together. After my mother passed away, a friend created a piece of embroidery for me that reiterated one of my mom's favorite sayings, "The music lives on." I soon became involved with the Kansas City Symphony Guild Auxiliary and started attending Symphony performances. I especially love hearing the handbells at Christmas Festival. And whenever a clarinet solo is featured, I find myself thinking, "Mom would really love this."

I love classical music and wanted to do something to honor my mother. While revising my estate plans after her death, I decided to include the Kansas City Symphony. The musicians and conductors do such an amazing job, and I want to see that excellence continue long into the future. I encourage people who are making a will to do what they can to support the causes that matter to them as part of their plans. It's very meaningful for me to support the Symphony's work. *Yes, the music lives on.*