For Immediate Release

Charleston Community to Honor Martha Rivers Ingram with Tribute Hosted by Ashley Hall, Charleston Gaillard Center, Charleston Symphony, Rivers Foundation, and Spoleto Festival USA

Tribute to be held at the Charleston Gaillard Center on November 18, 2026

October 2, 2026—Charleston, South Carolina—Ashley Hall, Charleston Gaillard Center, Charleston Symphony, Rivers Foundation, and Spoleto Festival USA will jointly host **A Tribute to Martha Rivers Ingram** on **Tuesday, November 18, at 7:30pm** in the Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall at the Charleston Gaillard Center.

The evening will celebrate Ingram's contributions to the arts, education, and greater Charleston community, following her passing in August 2026. Born and raised in Charleston, Ingram graduated from Ashley Hall before earning a history degree from Vassar College. She maintained lifelong ties to her hometown and was deeply engaged with its cultural and educational institutions, serving on the boards of Ashley Hall, the Charleston Gaillard Center, Rivers Foundation, and Spoleto Festival USA. She was an integral force in the development of the Charleston Gaillard Center and maintained longstanding commitments to the Charleston Symphony, Spoleto Festival USA and her alma mater, Ashley Hall.

The Tribute will feature a program of musical selections reflecting the breadth of Ingram's interests in the arts, including opera, musical theater, and symphonic and chamber music. Zuill Bailey, renowned cellist and close personal friend of Ingram's, her grandson, Henry Ingram, members of Spoleto Festival USA's Bank of America Chamber Music series, and soprano Nicole Heaston will perform as part of the evening, along with choirs from Ashley Hall and Charleston County School of the Arts, honoring her dedication to arts education. A full program will be released at a later date.

"Martha Rivers Ingram, Ashley Hall Class of 1953 and former Board of Trustees member, embodied the Ashley Hall mission and understood the profound role the arts play in preparing young women to meet the challenges of their world with confidence," said **Anne Frances Bleecker, Ashley Hall Class of 1976 and former Ashley Hall Board of Trustees Chair**. "Her unwavering commitment to nurturing our students' artistic spirit has left an enduring legacy at Ashley Hall through the creation of the Ingram Arts Center. In 2004, the School established the Martha Rivers Ingram '53 Award in her honor to recognize alumnae who have achieved distinction in the arts, a fitting tribute to her belief in the power of artistic expression. We are deeply grateful for all Martha contributed to Ashley

Hall and honored to celebrate her extraordinary legacy."

"Martha Rivers Ingram shaped this community in ways that will be felt for generations," said **Lissa Frenkel, President and CEO of the Charleston Gaillard Center**. "It is a privilege for the Gaillard to join with these organizations, for the type of artistic collaboration that she would have relished, to honor her legacy in the very Hall she made possible."

"Martha was one of a kind, a visionary who led with class, grace, strength, and dignity," said **Yuriy Bekker, Artistic Director and Concertmaster of the Charleston Symphony**. "She led by example and backed it up with her own actions. She was a fighter for the betterment of our community and humanity."

"Martha's many generosities to Charleston were born of a love of her home community, the place that grounded and lifted her and enabled her vision of the art of the possible—that what is important to do can be accomplished, said **Renée Anderson, President, CEO, and Founding Director of the Rivers Foundation**. "Always deeply thoughtful and insightful, her involvement with Ashley Hall, the Charleston Symphony, and Spoleto Festival USA were her tribute to Charleston, collaborating to create something by Charleston for Charleston. Performing arts and education fueled her passion, and the Rivers Foundation was created to help secure her vision now and in Charleston's future. The Rivers Endowment is designed to grow and support these passions in perpetuity, for Charleston's performing arts. That is our forever tribute to Martha."

"Martha Rivers Ingram understood that generosity is not simply about giving. It is about believing in something deeply enough to help make its future possible," said **Mena Mark Hanna, General Director and CEO of Spoleto Festival USA**. "She gave Spoleto her time, her conviction, her leadership, and, above all, an extraordinary generosity of spirit. Her impact can be felt in the Festival we are today and throughout the cultural life of Charleston. This concert is an opportunity for us to celebrate Martha as she lived: with a profound love of music, a belief in the power of the arts, and a remarkable willingness to give of herself so that others could experience them."

A limited number of tickets are available to the public at gaillardcenter.org.

ABOUT ASHLEY HALL

Ashley Hall is a premier independent school for girls, offering a distinctive education that combines the enduring strengths of a classical foundation with inquiry-based and experiential learning.

Founded in 1909 as a groundbreaking college preparatory school for girls and young women, Ashley Hall has a long tradition of preparing girls to think independently, lead with confidence, and engage meaningfully with their communities. Today, the school

continues to evolve its academic program, including its pursuit of International Baccalaureate offerings across grade levels.

By thoughtfully blending tradition and innovation, Ashley Hall provides an education that develops the whole girl—preparing students to navigate the world with confidence, purpose, and a lifelong love of learning.

ABOUT THE CHARLESTON GAILLARD CENTER

A leader in the performing arts in the Southeast, the Charleston Gaillard Center commissions, supports, and presents ambitious, multidisciplinary cultural programming and provides access to the best local, national, and global artists and companies on its stage. Deeply rooted in the community, the Gaillard Center is committed to elevating local and regional voices and partnering with Charleston institutions to reflect the city's diversity, both on stage and off. Through programming on its public campus and extensive arts education initiatives, the Gaillard Center serves as a platform to participate in community building and essential dialogue.

Established as a nonprofit in 2015, its campus includes the 1,818-seat Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall; a 16,000 square-foot exhibition hall that is home to artistic activations, community and corporate events, and celebrations; and an adjacent park space that was recently activated for artistic presentations. Behind the scenes the Gaillard Center also fosters a culture of excellence and inclusion, employing a robust and talented staff, and providing opportunities for growth and engagement across the arts sector. Find more information and upcoming programming at gaillardcenter.org.

ABOUT THE CHARLESTON SYMPHONY

Founded in 1936, the Charleston Symphony (CSO) brings people together through the transformative power of live music. Rooted in 90 years of artistic tradition and community pride, the CSO strives to be a premier cultural destination and leading performing arts organization that sparks lasting connections and meaningful impact across the Lowcountry.

The orchestra reaches 70,000 adults and children through 160 performances and educational events annually, including Masterworks and Pops at the Gaillard Center, chamber concerts, in-school programs, and community performances. Each season showcases a range of world-class guest artists alongside the exceptional musicians of the Charleston Symphony, with its February 2025 Carnegie Hall debut marking a significant milestone for the organization.

The CSO continues to broaden its reach and deepen its impact so everyone in the region has the opportunity to experience live orchestral music. With ticket sales covering less than half of its $6.5 million annual operating budget, the CSO relies on generous philanthropic support to sustain its artistic and educational programming. In 2025, its inaugural *Music Matters* endowment campaign surpassed its $15 million goal, helping to ensure great music continues to

inspire and connect the community for generations to come. Visit charlestonsymphony.org to learn more.

ABOUT RIVERS FOUNDATION

The mission of the Martha & John M. Rivers Foundation is to enhance and sustain the vibrant and diverse performing arts and arts education community within Charleston and throughout the Lowcountry region of South Carolina. We do this by deepening a vibrant culture of philanthropy in partnership with engaged and committed patron donors, and by promoting growth of the Rivers Endowment for the Performing Arts and Education to encourage arts accessibility for our children, to support world-class performance on the Main Stage of the Charleston Gaillard Center, and to support those extant and emerging arts organizations and venues that will meaningfully contribute to the cultural fabric of the community and beyond.

ABOUT SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA

Spoleto Festival USA was founded in 1977 by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Gian Carlo Menotti, who sought to create an American counterpart to the annual Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, which he had founded in 1958. Spoleto Festival USA is internationally recognized as America's premier performing arts festival. For 17 days and nights each spring, Spoleto Festival USA fills Charleston's historic theaters, churches, and outdoor spaces with performances in opera; theater; dance; and contemporary, chamber, symphonic, choral, and jazz music. With General Director & CEO Mena Mark Hanna at its helm, the 2027 season takes place from May 28 to June 13 in various locations throughout Charleston. Spoleto Festival USA is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

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