



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Investors Foundation Grants \$20,000 to Westminster Choir College
*Supports Renovation of Historic Building The Playhouse***

ROBBINSVILLE, New Jersey – Just two years ago, The Playhouse, located on the campus of Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, was on the brink of becoming unusable. The historic building, originally built as a storage space for the United States military prior to WWII, has been the site of rehearsals for such legendary artists as Leonard Bernstein, Riccardo Muti, and Kurt Masur, but was in need of upgrades. Thanks in part to \$20,000 in grants from Investors Foundation, the charitable organization created when Investors Bank went public, and the Roma Community Bank Foundation, The Playhouse’s renovations were completed and it was dedicated as the Robert L. Annis Playhouse in October 2015.

“This complex has changed the face of the campus in so many ways and it’s connected so closely to our history. The Westminster Symphonic Choir started rehearsing in this space because the acoustic is so special, and every major conductor in the world has rehearsed here,” said Matthew Shaftel, Dean of the Westminster College of the Arts. “We couldn’t have preserved and renovated this remarkable building without the piece from Investors.”

The funds from the Investors and Roma Community Bank Foundations – the foundations each recently donated \$5,000, bringing the total amount donated to \$20,000 – supported the interior renovations of the center, which included a nearly 3,000-square-foot addition housing an expanded stage and backstage, two dressing rooms, two restrooms, storage space, and improvements to make the facility handicapped-accessible.

Westminster Choir College applied for the grants from the Investors and Roma Community Bank Foundations, which support non-profit organizations that enrich the diverse communities served by Investors Bank. Roma Bank became part of Investors Bank in December 2013.

“People don’t realize what a gem is right here,” said Cynthia Ricker, Investors Bank Vice President and Lawrenceville Branch Manager. “The performances Westminster Choir College puts on in The Playhouse and elsewhere are world class.”

“Westminster Choir College has a really incredible focus on the voice,” said Alex de Aguiar Reuter, a graduate student mastering in vocal performance and pedagogy. “The care that they provide is very important and one of the reasons I decided to come here. We perform with wonderful conductors and in places like Carnegie Hall.”

(More)



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Photo Caption: Cynthia Ricker, Investors Bank Vice President and Lawrenceville Branch Manager, second from left, presents two checks from the Investors Foundation and the Roma Community Bank Foundation to Westminster Choir College. Accepting the checks are, from left, graduate student Alex de Aguiar Reuter, Dean of the Westminster College of the Arts Matthew Shaftel, and Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations and Major Gifts Denise Pinney.

About the Investors Foundation

Investors Bank, headquartered in Short Hills, New Jersey, is a full-service community bank that has been serving customers since 1926. With over \$22 billion in assets and a network of more than 150 retail branches, Investors delivers personalized services and products tailored to the needs of its customers. Investors' banking services include complete deposit, loan and cash management products for consumers and businesses. The Investors Foundation supports non-profit organizations that enrich the quality of life in the communities the Bank serves. To date, the Foundation has dispensed more than \$15 million to support initiatives ranging from community and civic improvements to the fight against diseases. Investors Bank. Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.

About Westminster Choir College

Westminster Choir College of Rider University is one of the world's leading schools of music. A division of Rider's Westminster College of the Arts, Westminster Choir College is a residential college of music located on a 23-acre campus in the heart of Princeton, New Jersey. At Westminster's core is a four-year music college and graduate school that prepares men and women for careers as performers and as music leaders in schools, universities, churches, and professional and community organizations. Find out more at <http://www.rider.edu/wcc>.

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