

In the Spotlight

BY MADELINE ROGERS

MICHAEL DIVITO

Shirley and Jon
Brodsky with
Qiang Tu at Avery
Fisher Hall.

An Endowment with Strings

Jon Brodsky has been a lifelong cellist — “an amateur, amateur . . . that’s *double* amateur,” he hastens to say. So it was only natural that when Mr. Brodsky and his wife, Shirley — she an amateur pianist — wanted to make a gift to the New York Philharmonic, it would have something to do with the cello.

In January it was announced that the couple, through The Brodsky Family Foundation, had endowed the chair of cellist Qiang Tu. Mr. Tu, who joined the Orchestra in 1995, expressed delight and gratitude, saying: “It makes me feel that people really care about the Orchestra and that the audience is a part of the Philharmonic family.”

Shirley and Jon Brodsky’s interest in music and the arts runs deep, as does their devotion to their city. The Brodsky Organization, the family-run real estate firm that Mr. Brodsky founded just after World War II, has played an important role in the development of the Lincoln Center neighborhood and is a strong supporter of many of New York’s cultural organizations. The Brodskys have been Patrons of the Orchestra since 1999. Mr. Brodsky’s favorite activity at a Philharmonic concert? “I’m always watching the cello section,” he says.

“Endowing a chair is a wonderful way to make a connection to the Orchestra in a very personal way,” says Philharmonic Chairman Paul B. Guenther, who noted that another chair — the Assistant Principal Viola chair, currently held by Irene Breslaw — was recently endowed by a bequest from Norma Chazen, who was a member of the Philharmonic’s Heritage Society. The chair, The Norma and Lloyd Chazen Chair, is named for the late Mrs. Chazen and her husband.

To learn more about endowing a chair of the Orchestra or about the Heritage Society, call or e-mail Director of Development Coralie Toevs, (212) 875-5695; toevsc@nyphil.org.

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