

MOBILE - U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, today announced the award of funding to the Mobile Symphony Orchestra from the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant, totaling \$10,000, is one of only twenty-five grants nationwide being awarded to symphony orchestras in small and mid-sized communities which have been deemed to have special needs. The Mobile Symphony funding will be used to provide strings instruction for youth in nine Mobile schools.

"I am extremely pleased the National Endowment for the Arts has approved this funding for the Mobile Symphony Orchestra," Bonner said. "The orchestra has been a vital part of south Alabama's artistic life for many years, and under the current leadership of Scott Speck has continued to grow in its importance to the Gulf Coast's musical heritage. The orchestra's desire and willingness to share its knowledge and musical gifts with area students is indeed commendable, and this grant will enable them to continue with their all-important efforts in the area of musical education."