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**Indianapolis Symphony Performs Handel's *Messiah* with the  
Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and Soloists Dec. 17 at Clowes Memorial Hall**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra will perform George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir under the baton of renowned conductor James Paul in a special holiday concert on Saturday, December 17, at 8 p.m. This performance will take place at Clowes Memorial Hall, located at 4602 Sunset Avenue on the Butler University campus.

The Orchestra, Maestro Paul and the Choir will be joined by soprano Jessica Beebe, alto Sarah Ballman, and bass Joseph Mace for this performance. Despite its lukewarm reception at its 1742 premiere, the *Messiah* has become perhaps the most famous musical holiday tradition. This masterwork is an oratorio in three parts, each reflecting a different aspect of the life of Christ. The famous "Hallelujah" chorus occurs at the end of the second section.

Tickets start at \$23 for adults and \$12 for children ages 4-12. To order tickets, call Ticketmaster at (317) 239-1000 or visit the Ticketmaster website at [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com).

**Artist Biographies:**

**James Paul**, widely acclaimed as one of North America's most distinguished conductors, currently holds permanent posts as Music Director and Conductor of the Oregon Festival of American Music and Music Director of the Oregon Coast Music Festival. After six seasons as Principal Guest Conductor of the Grant Park Music Festival, he became Artistic Director of the Sewanee Summer Music Festival in 2006. Recent highlights include appearances with the Honolulu, Pittsburgh, Houston, Oregon, Milwaukee, Columbus (OH), Dallas, Seattle, San Diego, Phoenix, Chicago and San Antonio Symphony Orchestras, San Diego Chamber Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. International appearances include the London Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre Symphonique Français Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional de Mexico, Xalapa Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony of Mexico, Niederösterreichisches Tonkünstlerorchester (NTO) of Vienna and the Singapore Symphony. During his tenure as Music Director and Conductor of the Baton Rouge Symphony, the symphony shared the 1983 American Symphony Orchestra League award for most innovative programming with the Brooklyn Philharmonic. A native of Forest Grove, Oregon, Mr. Paul studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Among his awards is the Serge Koussevitsky Memorial Conducting Prize presented by Erich Leinsdorf at the 1967 Tanglewood Music Festival.

Soprano **Jessica Beebe** is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in Early Music Voice, studying with Paul Elliott and Costanza Cuccaro. She earned her bachelor's degree in Choral Music Education from the University of Delaware in 2009. Ms. Beebe has appeared as a soloist in the Requiems of Mozart, Fauré, Rutter and Duruflé, Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, Bach's St. John Passion, Magnificat and Mass in B Minor, Monteverdi's Vespro della Beata Vergine, Handel's *Messiah* and Judas Maccabaeus, as well as many other Baroque and Classical works. In July 2010, she was a guest performer at the National AGO Conference in Washington, D.C. Most recently, Beebe had her IU Opera Theatre premiere in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* directed by Arthur Fagen. She is a member of Concentus, Pro Arte ensemble, The Crossing and The Six.

Mezzo-soprano **Sarah Ballman**, from Eagle Grove, Iowa, is in the first year of her master's degree at Indiana University, where she studies with Patricia Havranek. Ballman received her Bachelor of Arts

degree with honors in voice at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota, in 2009, where she studied with Dr. Emily Wood Toronto. Throughout her years at SDSU, Ballman performed in many opera scenes, including Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (Angelina), Bizet's *Carmen* (Carmen) and Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (Pamina). At IU, Ballman sings with the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble. Her first role with IU Opera Theater was in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* as Una Conversa.

Baritone **Joseph Mace** is a native of Billings, Montana, and has appeared as soloist with the Monterey and Carmel symphonies, the San Jose Symphonic Choir, the Fort Wayne Bach Collegium, the Billings Symphony and the Indiana University New Music Ensemble. He performs frequently with the Indiana University Opera Theatre and recently sang the role of Don Alfonso in a new production of *Così fan tutte*, under the baton of Arthur Fagen. Additional IU Opera Theatre credits include *Little Women*, *Roméo et Juliette* and *She Loves Me*. He sang leading roles in *Cendrillon*, *Gianni Schicchi* and *Idomeneo* and performed regularly with the San Francisco Opera Chorus and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale. Musical theater credits include *The Last Five Years* (San Francisco) and numerous productions with Tulane Summer Lyric Theatre in New Orleans, where he was also a member of the New Orleans Opera Chorus. Joseph is currently completing his doctoral studies at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, where he studies with Patricia Havranek. Joseph earned a Master of Music Degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and holds undergraduate degrees in Music Performance and French from Tulane University.

Founded in 1937, the **Indianapolis Symphonic Choir** has partnered with the ISO each season to perform great choral masterworks and performs its own season of concerts and educational outreach programs that reach more than 25,000 people each year. In addition to the choral classics, introducing new works is central to the Choir's mission and recent seasons have seen numerous commissioned works added to the body of choral repertoire.

**In Brief:**

ISO presents Handel's famous holiday oratorio *Messiah*, with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and soloists.

Performers: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: James Paul

Artists: Jessica Beebe, Soprano

Sarah Ballman, Alto

Joseph Mace, Bass

Indianapolis Symphonic Choir

Location: Clowes Memorial Hall, 4602 Sunset Ave.

Date & Time: Sat., Dec. 17, at 8 p.m.

Repertoire:

HANDEL *Messiah*

Tickets: Adults - \$23-56 each; Children (ages 4-12)- \$15-29 each  
(317) 239-1000 or online at [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com)

