

Date: Monday, December 19, 2011

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**Renowned Grammy Award-Winning Pianist Yefim Bronfman Performs Brahms' Second Piano Concerto to Highlight Lilly *Classical Series* Concerts Jan. 5-7**

*Weekend also features Elgar's "Enigma" Variations" and "The Swan of Tuonela" by Sibelius*

INDIANAPOLIS – One of the world's top pianists in classical music, Grammy Award-winner Yefim Bronfman, joins the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and noted British conductor Mark Wigglesworth to perform Johannes Brahms' romantic and colorful Second Piano Concerto in Lilly *Classical Series* concerts Thursday through Saturday, January 5-7, at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Performance times are at 11 a.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Highlighting this classical program comprising three popular classical works will be Bronfman's performances of the Brahms Second Concerto, a large and expressive work in which the pianist and orchestra carry themes together as opposed to showcasing the soloist with glittery and virtuosic flurries. Brahms' writing features beautiful romantic and passionate elements that carry the full spectrum of emotions throughout the piece. Since its premiere, which received tepid reception, the work has become a popular staple in the piano repertoire.

Also featured will be Jean Sibelius' "The Swan of Tuonela" No. 2 from *Legends*, a picturesque tone poem that vividly depicts the majestic swan (portrayed by the English horn) that swims in the dark and swift river that surrounds the realm of Tuonela, the Finnish version of Hades. The beautiful song of the swan is contrasted with the dark overtones of the strings to create an exciting and colorful contrast. The Friday and Saturday evening programs will feature Sir Edward Elgar's "Enigma" Variations, an amusing and unique work in which the composer musically exhibited the personalities and idiosyncrasies of 14 individuals who were near and dear to him, including his wife. The title of each variation bears the initials or the nickname of the respective friend or loved one and each variation has a distinct musical personality that exhibits Elgar's impressions of the qualities of that individual's own traits. "Enigma" Variations will not be performed in the Thursday morning program.

Ticket prices for the Thursday morning KeyBank *Coffee Classical Series* program range from \$20-\$46 each with Friday and Saturday evening prices from \$20 to \$75 each and may be ordered by calling the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300, in person, or online by visiting [www.IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://www.IndianapolisSymphony.org). To order by telephone outside of Indianapolis, call toll free (800) 366-8457.

Eli Lilly and Company is the Title Sponsor of the entire 2011-2012 Lilly *Classical Series* and ExactTarget is the Premiere Sponsor for the Lilly *Classical Series*. KeyBank is the Title Sponsor for the Thursday morning KeyBank *Coffee Classical Series* and Indianapolis Power and Light Company is the Premiere Sponsor for the Thursday morning program. The pre-concert "Words on Music" presentations are sponsored by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

**Artist Biographies:**

Noted British conductor **Mark Wigglesworth** launched his international conducting career when he won the Kondrashin International Conducting Competition and since then, has worked with many of the leading orchestras and opera companies in the world. In 1992, he was appointed Associate Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra and later served as Music Director of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Principal Guest Conductor of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. In addition to appearances with most of the United Kingdom's prominent orchestras and other prestigious European ensembles, Wigglesworth has guest conducted The Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Chicago, Boston and San Francisco symphony orchestras, among others here in North America. He made his ISO debut in October 2000 and was last seen on the Hilbert Circle Theatre podium in November 2010.

Grammy Award-winning artist **Yefim Bronfman** is widely regarded to be among the top echelon of virtuoso pianists performing today and his commanding technique and exceptional lyrical skills have won him critical acclaim from audiences and critics alike. He has performed in concerts, recitals and in chamber music programs in music capitals around the globe and has collaborated with many of the world's most celebrated conductors including Daniel Barenboim, Christoph von Dohnányi, Christoph Eschenbach, and Esa-Pekka Salonen, as well as renowned soloists such as violinists Isaac Stern, Joshua Bell and Gil Shaham, cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Lynn Harrell and flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal. He also regularly appears as a duo-pianist with Emanuel Ax. He earned a Grammy Award for his recording of the three Bartók Piano Concertos with Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic and his discography includes the complete Prokofiev Piano Sonatas, Rachmaninoff's Piano Concertos Nos. 2 and 3, and the five Prokofiev Piano Concertos, the latter of which received nominations for Grammy and *Gramophone* awards. A native of the Soviet Union, he immigrated to Israel in 1973 and later attended The Juilliard School, where he studied with Leon Fleisher, Rudolf Serkin and Rudolf Firkusny. Bronfman became an American citizen in 1989. His last ISO appearance was in March 2006, when he performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1.

**In Brief:**

Renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman performs Brahms' Second Concerto and the ISO plays Sibelius' "The Swan of Tuonela" and Elgar's *Enigma* Variations to highlight this *Classical Series* concert weekend.

Performers: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Mark Wigglesworth

Soloist: Yefim Bronfman, Piano

Locations: Hilbert Circle Theatre

Dates & Times: Thurs., Jan. 5, 11 a.m.; Fri. & Sat., Jan. 6 & 7, 8 p.m.

Repertoire:

SIBELIUS "The Swan of Tuonela" No. 2 from *Legends*, Op. 22

ELGAR Variations on an Original Theme, Op. 36 ("Enigma")

BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat Major, Op. 83

Tickets: \$20-\$46 (Thurs. a.m.); \$20-\$75 (Fri. & Sat.); (317) 639-4300; Toll Free (800) 366-8457; online at [www.IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://www.IndianapolisSymphony.org)

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