



### **MEDIA PREVIEW - Duke Energy Yuletide Celebration**

There is a limited quantity of media seats available for the Yuletide Dress Rehearsal on Thursday, Nov. 29, at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in previewing Yuletide before it opens to the public or photographing or videotaping the show during this time, please RSVP to Jessica Di Santo at [jdisanto@indianapolissymphony.org](mailto:jdisanto@indianapolissymphony.org) by **Monday, Nov. 26, 2012**.

Date: Monday, Nov. 12, 2012

Contact: [Jessica Di Santo](mailto:jdisanto@indianapolissymphony.org) – (317) 229-7082

### **Opera Star Angela Brown, Broadway's Ben Crawford and special performances by *Cirque del la Symphonie* round out the ISO's Duke Energy Yuletide Celebration Nov. 30-Dec. 23**

*Show highlights include the return of the popular "Enchanted Toy Shoppe" and a "Christmas Eve Radio Broadcast," new arrangements of music, and special solo appearances by ISO musicians*

INDIANAPOLIS – "I'll Be Home for Christmas" takes on a special meaning for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration*, as this year's annual holiday production is hosted by renowned opera star and Indianapolis native, Angela Brown. Produced and directed by ISO Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration* runs from Nov. 30-Dec. 23 and includes noted Broadway actor and co-host Ben Crawford, members of the *Cirque de la Symphonie* troupe and several new arrangements of popular and traditional holiday music.

For the musical foundation of the program, Maestro Jack Everly opens the show with his new arrangement of "O Come All Ye Faithful," sung by Brown and Crawford. In addition, audiences will hear new renditions of "Sleigh Ride," a medley from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "Go Tell it on the Mountain" and "Good King Wenceslas," performed by Concertmaster Zach De Pue (ISO violinist Michelle Kang for performances Nov. 30-Dec. 2). Also featured is the "Christmas Eve Radio Broadcast," a 1940s-themed segment which includes the hosts and harmonica player Michael Runyan, whose day job is Principal Librarian of the ISO Music Library.

Back by popular demand, members of *Cirque de la Symphonie* bring the music to greater heights with juggling, contortion, gymnastics and aerial acts, sure to be crowd pleasers among all ages. And in the Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration* tradition, the show will feature other audience favorites such as the re-enactment of "Twas The Night Before Christmas" and the Tap Dancing Santas.

This year, families will be greeted at the Hilbert Circle Theatre door by live reindeer, music played on the ISO's historic Wurlitzer pipe organ, costumed characters and a special appearance by Dr. Seuss' "The Grinch" from Nov. 30-Dec. 9. Patrons can take photographs in front of the Christmas tree in the lobby and cookies and hot wassail will be available for purchase.

The Title Sponsor for this year's production is Duke Energy. Associate sponsors for Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration* are The National Bank of Indianapolis, Citizens Energy, Fifth Third Private Bank, Witham

Health Services, Huntington Bank and Verdure Sciences. The Title Sponsor for the *sumFUNy Sundays* matinee on Dec. 2 is Dow Agrosiences and this performance's premiere sponsor is Radio Disney. BMO Harris Bank is Presenting Sponsor for the Dress Rehearsal.

### **Duke Energy Yuletide Celebration: A Holiday Tradition**

Sponsored for the seventh year by Duke Energy and produced and presented by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration* grew from humble beginnings in 1986, when the ISO collaborated with many local performing arts organizations and presented eight holiday performances to an audience of 13,000 people. Today, those eight performances have transformed into a full-scale, Broadway-style holiday production which is the largest of its kind among orchestras in North America. Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration* now attracts more than 40,000 people to the Hilbert Circle Theatre each December and has traveled to other major orchestras in cities such as Baltimore, Detroit, Seattle, Portland and at the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C.

### **Tickets & Information**

Tickets for this year's production range from \$40-\$71 for adults and \$25-\$55 for children ages 4-12. "Super Saver" concert prices range from \$34-\$55 for adults and \$19-\$40 for children. For more information, call the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300. Outside Indianapolis call toll free 1-800-366-8457, or visit the ISO's website at [www.IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://www.IndianapolisSymphony.org)

Groups of 20 or more can enjoy a 10 percent discount on tickets to any Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration* performance, subject to availability. For more information on this program, contact ISO Group Sales Manager Jeff Johnson by calling (317) 231-6788 or via e-mail to [jjohnson@IndianapolisSymphony.org](mailto:jjohnson@IndianapolisSymphony.org)

### **Performance Schedule** (Bold denotes "Super Saver" performances)

<b>Friday, Nov. 30:</b>	<b>8 p.m.</b>
Saturday, Dec. 1:	2 p.m. & <b>8 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 2:</b>	2 p.m. & <b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 5:</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec. 6:</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
Friday, Dec. 7:	<b>2 p.m.</b> & 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8:	2 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 9:	2 p.m. & <b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec. 13:</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
Friday, Dec. 14:	8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 15:	2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 16:           2 p.m. & **6 p.m.**

Wednesday, Dec. 19:    7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 20:       7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 21:         2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 22:       2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 23:         2 p.m. & 6 p.m.

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### **Jack Everly**

A North American leader in symphonic pops, **Jack Everly** has served as Principal Pops Conductor of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra since 2002 and has been the Music Director of the ISO's holiday production of Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration* since 1994. He also serves as Principal Pops Conductor with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Canada and Pops Conductor of the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra. Maestro Everly was named Music Director for the National Symphony Orchestra's 2010 National Memorial Day Concert and *A Capitol Fourth*, two of PBS' highest-rated programs that air live in HD from the west lawn of the United States Capitol. Originally appointed by Mikhail Baryshnikov, he was the Music Director of the American Ballet Theatre for 14 years. On Broadway, he teamed with Marvin Hamlisch to conduct many of his hits, including *The Goodbye Girl*, *They're Playing Our Song* and *A Chorus Line*, and he also worked with the legendary Carol Channing in two separate productions of *Hello Dolly!* In television and film, Maestro Everly has appeared on *In Performance at the White House* and conducted the songs for Disney's animated classic, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. He has served as Music Director on many Broadway cast recordings and conducted the critically-acclaimed *Everything's Coming Up Roses: The Complete Overtures of Broadway's Jule Styne*.

### **Angela Brown**

Angela Brown personifies the ideal American dramatic soprano: sheer vocal power; luxurious finesse; shimmering, high pianissimos; and a charming personality larger than life. Her highly successful Metropolitan Opera debut in 2004 sparked a media excitement that landed her on the front page of *The New York Times* and on the *CBS Evening News*. Her *New York Times* review exclaimed: "At last an Aida." and the *CBS Evening News* declared: "the future of opera has arrived!" She has been featured in *Oprah Magazine*, *Essence Magazine*, *Ebony Magazine*, *Classical Singer*, *Reader's Digest* and on CNN worldwide for her one-woman show, "Opera...from a Sistah's Point of View." Combining pops, Gospel and opera in one spectacular voice, Brown has collaborated with pops legend Marvin Hamlisch, Gospel icon Richard Smallwood, as well as guest starred on the national radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*, a live Disney celebration at Lincoln Center and other national award events and television shows.

She has performed with the ISO on numerous occasions in classical, pops and *Opening Night Gala* programs and made her ISO debut in February 1996 in a pops weekend conducted by former ISO Pops Music Director Erich Kunzel, with whom she also recorded. She graduated from Crispus Attucks High School in Indianapolis and attended the Indiana University School of Music as a student in the studio of Virginia Zeani. Brown received the Indiana University African American Arts Institute's inaugural Herman C. Hudson Alumni Award in 2006, given annually to recognize outstanding contributions made in the arts by former members of the Institute. She is featured in "Nineteen Stars of Indiana," a book by Michael S.

Maurer about 19 living Hoosier women with successful and inspirational life stories, released by Indiana University Press in December 2008. In the fall of 2009, Angela received the Governor's Arts Award from the Governor of Indiana, a Spirit of the Prairie Award from Conner Prairie and was inducted into the Indianapolis Public Schools Hall of Fame.

### **Ben Crawford**

**Ben Crawford** has Broadway credits that include the starring role in *Shrek the Musical* and as Jalvert in *Les Misérables*. Regionally he has been seen in as John Wilkes Booth in *Assassin*, plus *Guys & Dolls*, *Titanic*, *Soul Doctor*, *Oklahoma!*, *White Christmas*, *A New Brain*, *Oliver!* and *Next to Normal*. Last December, he performed in Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration*, in which he was showcased as a soloist in the popular song "Believe," and was in the *Pops Series* concert stage production of *Hello Dolly!* with Sandi Patty and Gary Beach in January. He has also appeared in concerts with the Naples Florida Philharmonic and the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa.