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### **Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Calendar of Events for December**

INDIANAPOLIS – In between 27 performances of its annual Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration* from Nov. 30-Dec. 23, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra also presents two performances in December for classical-music lovers to enjoy during the holidays.

Held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 5:30 p.m., the ISO's annual [Classical Christmas](#) concert with ISO Conductor Laureate Raymond Leppard will feature mostly Baroque works. The evening opens with Arcangelo Corelli's Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, composed for a Christmas Eve program around 1690, and continues with works by early Italian masters Cavalli and Monteverdi, including an antiphonal brass *Canzona* and arias from their operas *Xerxes*, *La Calisto*, and *Orimonte*. Following intermission, Maestro Leppard is joined by ISO Concertmaster Zach De Pue for Ralph Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*. The performance concludes with the Sinfonia in E-flat Major, Op. 18, No. 1 for Two Orchestras by J.S. Bach's musically-gifted youngest son, Johann Christian Bach.

Tickets for *Classical Christmas* are \$45 each for adults and \$15 each for children ages 4-12 and may be ordered by calling the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300, or by visiting the ISO's website at [www.IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://www.IndianapolisSymphony.org). *Classical Christmas* is sponsored by the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation.

A week later on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m., the ISO presents George Frideric Handel's timeless, liturgical masterpiece, [Messiah](#), with the [Indianapolis Symphonic Choir](#) at Clowes Memorial Hall on the campus of Butler University. Conducted by ISC Artistic Director Eric Stark, this performance features soprano Christina Pier, alto Nancy Maulsby, tenor Brian Stucki and bass Sumner Thompson as soloists. 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).

The ISO will not be performing a New Year's Eve concert this year as previously scheduled. Rather, the ISO will dedicate these resources toward promoting the already-robust December calendar of concerts and the re-emergence of the classical and pops series' programs in January.

For information and performance dates and times for Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration*, go to [IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://IndianapolisSymphony.org).

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### **Classical Christmas Artist Biographies:**

Conductor Laureate **Raymond Leppard** served as Music Director of the Indianapolis Symphony for 14 years, from 1987 to 2001. During his tenure with the Orchestra, he led eight recordings, two tours to Europe and initiated Indianapolis *On-The-Air*, a nationally syndicated radio broadcast of Indianapolis Symphony performances that now airs on more than 250 stations across the United States.

In addition to his 14-year tenure as Music Director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and long association with the English Chamber Orchestra, Raymond Leppard has appeared with the New York Philharmonic on numerous occasions, toured with the Chicago and Detroit symphonies and has conducted many other major orchestras, including the Boston Symphony, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, the BBC Symphony (including the Last Night of the Proms), as well as in all European capital cities and Japan.

In the great opera houses of the world, highlights include Britten's *Billy Budd* at the Metropolitan and San Francisco Operas, *Alceste and Alcina* at the New York City Opera and the world premiere of Nicholas Maw's *Rising of the Moon* at Glyndebourne Opera, where he has been a frequent guest. He has also appeared at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and in Paris, Hamburg, Santa Fe, Stockholm and Geneva. In the late 1950s, Mr. Leppard accepted a post at Cambridge as University Lecturer in Music, beginning a distinguished joint career as academician and performer. During his tenure at Cambridge, he was responsible for bringing the operas of Monteverdi and Cavalli back to the professional stage where they had not been seen for 300 years.

A prolific recording artist, Raymond Leppard has earned such international prizes as the *Deutsche Schallplattenpreis*, a Grammy Award, a Grand Pro/Am Music *Prix du Disque* and the Edison Prize. Recent recordings include works for organ and orchestra with Gillian Weir and the English Chamber Orchestra, two recordings with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and a disc of 20th century American music with the Indianapolis Symphony. Mr. Leppard has composed a number of film scores, including the music for *Lord of the Flies*, *Laughter in the Dark* and *Hotel New Hampshire*. His second book, *Raymond Leppard on Music: An Anthology of Critical and Personal Writings*, was published by Resources in 1993. In his new book, *Music Made Me*, Maestro Leppard relays poignant observations and delightful anecdotes of episodes and relationships that gave form to his life and career; at the same time, informing as to how such friendships, personalities and influences shaped the impressions Raymond has left on classical music and theater in Europe and America.

The Queen of England has honored Raymond Leppard with the title Commander of the British Empire (CBE). For his services to Italian music, the Republic of Italy has conferred upon him the title of *Commendatore della Repubblica Italiana*. In America, he has received honorary degrees from Purdue University, Butler University, and the University of Indianapolis. Born in London, Raymond Leppard was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. He currently resides in the Indianapolis and became a U.S. citizen in 2003.

**Nancy Maultsby's** operatic career spans a wide range of roles, including *Das Rheingold*, *Siegfried*, *Götterdämmerung*, *Elijah*, *Carmen*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Falstaff* and *Aida* in the world's most prestigious houses. In the U.S., she has sung with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Washington National Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia and Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Internationally, her career has taken her to the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Teatro dell'Opera in Rome, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Staatsoper Stuttgart and Semperoper Dresden.

Maultsby has enjoyed engagements with leading conductors Zubin Mehta, Gerard Schwarz, Christoph von Dohnányi, Pierre Boulez, Kurt Masur, Edo de Waart, Yuri Temir-kanov, Sir Andrew Davis, Lorin Maazel, Sir Colin Davis, Jeffrey Kahane, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Franz Welser-Möst, Leonard Slatkin and the late Robert Shaw. Her regular orchestral collaborations include the New York Philharmonic, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, Boston, St. Louis, Detroit, Baltimore, Chicago, San Francisco, Milwaukee and Atlanta symphonies, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

In addition to Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Telarc's recording of Mozart's *Requiem*, Maultsby can be heard on Telarc's recording of *Dido and Aeneas* and is featured on box sets honoring Christoph von Dohnányi and The Cleveland Orchestra and Kurt Masur at the New York Philharmonic, and Lamentation from Bernstein's *Symphony No. 1* with the Atlanta Symphony.

Nancy Maultsby is a graduate of Westminster Choir College, where she studied with Lindsey Christiansen, and was a graduate student at Indiana University School of Music, where she studied with Margaret Harshaw. She is an alumna of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Center for American Artists. Among numerous other awards, she is the winner of the Marian Anderson Award and the Martin E. Segal Award.

### **Handel's *Messiah* Artist Biographies:**

In May 2012, **Eric Stark** led over 300 musicians in an acclaimed performance of Berlioz's *Requiem* with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and the Butler University Chorale. He made his ISO conducting debut in 2008 with Handel's *Messiah*.

Stark has led performances of Britten's *War Requiem* and Saint Nicolas, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Bach's Mass in B Minor, Beethoven's Mass in C, Mozart's "Coronation" Mass and *Requiem* and Brahms' *German Requiem* and has prepared choruses for conductors Nicholas McGegan, Raymond Leppard, Jahja Ling, Mario Venzago, Erich Kunzel, Krzysztof Urbanski and Jack Everly. His choirs can be heard on CDs, including Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, *The Harmonies of Hoosier History* and *A Festival of Carols*.

Beginning his second decade as Artistic Director of the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, Stark's leadership has garnered critical acclaim, audience praise and notable artistic growth. He has conducted at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center and led tours in Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, New Orleans, Orlando and Tampa. International appearances include China, Greece, Italy, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Uruguay. In 2012, Stark served as chorus master for the Super Bowl XLVI Halftime Show.

Eric Stark is Professor of Music, Director of Graduate Studies and Assistant Chair of the School of Music at Butler University's Jordan College of Fine Arts and has served on the faculties of Christian Theological Seminary, Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne and Earlham College. He is a graduate of Wabash College and received his doctoral degree in choral conducting from Indiana University, where he was a student of Jan Harrington, Robert Porco and Thomas Dunn. He is also a volunteer pilot for Angel Flight, a non-profit network of pilots providing free air transportation for those with medical needs.

**Christina Pier** has been hailed by *Opera News* for her "big, gleaming soprano and impressive coloratura. ..." Whether it be on the opera stage, concert platform or recital hall, Pier is consistently met with great critical and audience acclaim.

In the 2012-13 season, Pier will be heard with the Charlotte Symphony in an evening of Handel, Mozart and Golijov with Christopher Warren-Green, and she makes her house and role debut as Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus* with Virginia Opera. Recently, she performed with the North Carolina, Alabama, Hartford, Charlotte and Eugene Symphony Orchestras, Rochester Philharmonic, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, a recital for the George London Foundation, and concerts with the World Youth Orchestra in Italy and at the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations in New York. In 2009, she recorded Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* with David Hill and the BBC Singers available on the Naxos label.

Pier has performed with the Santa Fe Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Minnesota Opera, Nashville Opera, Sarasota Opera, Princeton Festival and Eugene Opera. She understudied two roles with Lyric Opera of Chicago and has been seen in leading roles in *Don Giovanni*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Così fan tutte* and has sung in *Carmen* and Gounod's *Faust*.

Pier is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including a 2003 Grand Finals Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, George London Award, Sullivan Award, two Charles A. Lynam Awards and two Palm Beach Opera Competition Awards. Originally from Flagstaff, AZ, Ms. Pier received a BM and MM in voice at Indiana University, where she studied with Virginia Zeani. She is currently a member of the voice faculty at Catawba College.

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**Brian Stucki's** recent engagements include his international debut in *Così fan tutte* with New Israeli Opera, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Opera Colorado, Arizona Opera and Compañía Nacional de Opera in Mexico City, *Don Giovanni* with Opera Fuoco, *Messiah* with the Virginia Symphony and Boise Philharmonic, *La cenerentola* with Pacific Opera Victoria, Michigan Opera Theatre and North Carolina Opera and his Carnegie Hall debut with the American Symphony Orchestra for Spohr's *Die letzten Dinge*. He has also sung with Seattle Opera and the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, *L'italiana in Algeri* with Utah

Opera, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Princeton Festival, *Così fan tutte* with Piedmont Opera, *Carmina Burana* at the Milwaukee and Honolulu symphonies, and *Roméo et Juliette* with Arizona Opera.

An accomplished oratorio soloist, Stucki's recent performances on the concert stage include Haydn's *Creation* with Boston Baroque and Utah Symphony, Mozart's *Requiem* and Mass in C Minor with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and his Avery Fisher Hall debut in Hiller's *The Destruction of Jerusalem* with the American Symphony Orchestra. He appeared with the Handel and Haydn Society and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra for Handel's *Messiah*; Utah Symphony and Mormon Tabernacle Choir for Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and Handel's *Utrecht Jubilate* and Holst's *Psalm 86* at the Deer Valley Music Festival. While at Indiana University, he joined the Chamber Orchestra and Choir for Haydn's *Die Jahreszeiten* and *Die Schöpfung*.

Stucki holds a Master of Music degree from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Music degree from Brigham Young University. Additionally, he is a former member of the Glimmerglass Opera Young American Artists Program. Also an accomplished cellist, he has released a recording of Rachmaninoff works on the Tantara label.

Hailed as "the real thing" by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and praised for his "elegant style" by the *Boston Globe*, **Sumner Thompson** is one of today's most sought-after young baritones. His appearances on the operatic stage include roles in productions from Boston to Copenhagen, including the Boston Early Music Festival's productions of Conradi's *Ariadne* and Lully's *Psyché*, and several European tours with Contemporary Opera Denmark in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, *La Serva Padrona* with Apollo's Fire, Britten's *Curlew River* with the Britten-Pears School in Nagaoka, Japan, and at the Aldeburgh Festival in the UK, *La bohème* with Granite State Opera and Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* with Commonwealth Opera.

He has performed across North America as soloist with Concerto Palatino, Tafelmusik, Apollo's Fire, Les Boreades de Montréal, Les Voix Baroques and ensembles and orchestras of conventional and early music inclinations. As recitalist, Thompson has performed in Stuttgart, Amsterdam, Regensburg, and at London's famed Wigmore Hall with the late Leonard Hokanson, Alison d'Amato and Tobias Hartlieb. A favorite in early music circles, he has appeared at the Boston Early Music Festival and in concerts with the Festival Baroque Orchestra and Concerto Palatino. He has also appeared at the San Francisco, Regensburg and Bloomington Early Music Festivals.

Among his many awards and distinctions, Thompson is the winner of the 1995 Atlanta Pro-Mozart Society Competition, the Willi Apel Scholarship at Indiana University in 1997 and the 1999 Indiana University Early Music Institute Concerto Competition, the only singer to ever be accorded this honor. In 2003, he placed as a semi-finalist in the prestigious Wigmore Hall International Song Competition. He was also twice a semi-finalist in the New York Oratorio Society Competition. Sumner Thompson records for harmonia mundi usa, Dorian and Arsis labels.