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Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Performs Free *Celebration of Black History* Concert Feb. 15

Annual concert honors significant contributions of African-Americans to music and culture

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra will perform its 27th annual *Celebration of Black History* concert Wednesday, February 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Admission is free, but a general admission ticket is required. Seating for this event is on a first-come, first-served basis.

The ISO's *Celebration of Black History* concert honors the significant impact of African-American culture on classical and symphonic music, as well as the superb artistry and creativity of black artists, composers and conductors. This year's program reflects that focus with Indianapolis native Kazem Abdullah at the podium conducting music by Duke Ellington plus arrangements of traditional spirituals featuring the Voices of the Light Choir from Light of the World Christian Church and South African soprano Bronwen Forbay as soloist.

The program, performed without intermission, will feature George Gershwin's *Cuban Overture* and "Summertime" from *Porgy and Bess*, selections from Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs* and an orchestral medley of Duke Ellington favorites that will include "Sophisticated Lady" and "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)," among others. The program also will feature the Finale from Mozart's Symphony No. 41 ("Jupiter") and traditional spirituals including *Is There Anyone Who Loves My Jesus, He's Got The Whole World In His Hands, My God Is So High, His Eye is on the Sparrow* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing* to round out the program.

This special event is sponsored by *The Indianapolis Recorder* and Indianapolis Power & Light Company. Radio One is the media partner for the program.

Artist Biographies:

Indianapolis native **Kazem Abdullah**, one of the most watched young American conductors today, received the 2010 Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award. He served for three years as Assistant Conductor of the Metropolitan Opera under James Levine that culminated in his conducting debut at the Metropolitan in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*. During his tenure, he also worked with many renowned conductors such as Kirill Petrenko and Lorin Maazel and prepared productions of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, *Idomeneo*, *The Magic Flute* and *Don Giovanni*. He has conducted numerous orchestras throughout North America and in his last appearances with the ISO, he conducted the world premiere of Gabriella Lena Frank's *Peregrinos*.

South African-born soprano **Bronwen Forbay** has performed many critically acclaimed opera roles, including Mozart's Queen of the Night with the Wolf Trap Opera Company, *La Traviata* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* with the Cape Town Opera and Cleopatra in highlights from *Giulio Cesare* with the Baroque 2000 Orchestra. In 2007, Forbay received the prestigious Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Music in South Africa as well as the Catherine Filene Shouse Career Grant for Singers from the Wolf Trap Opera Company. In 2006, she won the SAMRO Award for most promising South African opera singer.

The **Voices of the Light** Choir is the anchor of the music ministry at Light of the World Christian Church under the direction of Minister of Music James Powell. In addition to its ministry through music, the Choir also serves the greater community via monthly outreach endeavors such as providing personal product items for men and women at the Julian Center and Wheeler Mission, school supplies for families at the Martin Luther King Center and warm winter apparel items for families at Horizon House and other organizations.

In Brief:

ISO celebrates African-American artistry and impact on music in free *Celebration of Black History* concert

Performers: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Kazem Abdullah

Artists: Bronwen Forbay, Soprano

Voices of the Light Choir

Location: Hilbert Circle Theatre

Date & Time: Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Repertoire:

GERSHWIN *Cuban Overture*

COPLAND *Old American Songs*

DUKE ELLINGTON *Duke Ellington! Medley*

TRADITIONAL *Is There Anyone Here Who Loves My Jesus?*

GERSHWIN *"Summertime" from Porgy and Bess*

GEOFF LOVE *He's Got the Whole World In His Hands*

MOZART *Finale from Symphony No. 41 in G Major ("Jupiter")*

MOSES HOGAN *My God Is So High*

Woody Woods *His Eye is on the Sparrow*

J ROSAMOND JOHNSON *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Free concert , but general admission ticket is required. Seating available on a first-com, first-served basis.

For More Information: (317) 639-4300; Toll Free (800) 366-8457

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