

Date: Monday, Feb. 13, 2012

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**Conductor Susanna Mälkki and Pianist David Fray Make Indianapolis Symphony Debuts in
Symphonic Hits Powered by Lilly Concerts Feb. 24-25**

Program features Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 and Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra welcomes innovative Finnish conductor Susanna Mälkki and award-winning French pianist David Fray, who will make their ISO debuts in *Symphonic Hits* powered by Lilly concerts featuring two popular staples in the classical repertoire - Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 and Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances* - Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hilbert Circle Theatre.

This *Symphonic Hits* concert weekend will open with *Parada* by noted Finnish composer Magnus Lindberg, who currently serves as Composer-in-Residence for the New York Philharmonic. This expressive tone poem opens with a quiet and shimmering passage for strings that is joined by other sections of the orchestra as the work ebbs and flows like a musical river from serene elements into a bold and powerful *scherzo* that climaxes before the music subsides back into the original opening theme. David Fray will make his first Hilbert Circle Theatre appearance to perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20, a piece that became one of the most popular Mozart concertos of the 19th century and was the only concerto written by Mozart that Beethoven himself would perform as a soloist in concerts. The work departed from the optimistic and lilting styles of the Classical Era and is considered by musicologists to have been a precursor to the bold Romantic Era writing style of Beethoven. It remains today as one of the crown jewels of the piano repertoire.

Following intermission, Maestra Mälkki and the Orchestra will perform Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*, which was the final symphonic score that the composer wrote before succumbing to cancer a few years later. The medley of different musical elements that he utilized ranges from unique and colorful folk-like melodies to waltzes and jazz-like rhythmic passages. The piece received a lukewarm reception when it was premiered by Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1941, but since it has grown in popularity among classical music lovers.

An hour before the performances, ISO Assistant Conductor David Glover will host the interactive *Sound Off* session featuring interviews with special guests and opportunities for the audience to ask questions. Following the performance, concertgoers are invited to mingle with ISO musicians and guest artists during *Reverb*, where complimentary wine sampling (courtesy of Tastings) and a cash bar will be provided in the lobby.

Symphonic Hits concert tickets range from \$20 to \$50 each and may be ordered in person, by calling the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300, or online by visiting 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 2011-2012 Lilly *Classical Series* and *Symphonic Hits* concerts, and ExactTarget is the Premiere Sponsor for the Lilly *Classical Series*. The Associate Sponsor for this weekend is Tastings and *Sound Off* is sponsored by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Additional support for this concert weekend is provided by the Efrogmson Family Fund, a CICF Fund.

Artist Biographies:

Susanna Mälkki is a much sought-after artist on the international conducting circuit who currently serves as Music Director of the Ensemble Intercontemporain and previously held the post of Artistic Director of the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra. In recent seasons she has appeared with many prominent orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Deutsches Symphony Orchestra of Berlin, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Boston and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras, among others. In April 2011, she made her debut at La Scala, Milan, to become the first woman to do so in that opera house's history and following that visit was invited to return. Prior to conducting, she had a successful career as a cellist and she served three years as Principal Cello of the Göteborg Symphony Orchestra in Sweden. In June 2010, she was elected a fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in London.

A rising star in classical music, pianist **David Fray** was named "Newcomer of the Year" in 2008 by *BBC Music Magazine* and has won numerous other honors, including Second Grand Prize and the Prize for Best Interpretation of a Canadian Composer's Work at the Montreal International Piano Competition; the Banque Populaire prize and study grant; the Diploma for Outstanding Merit at the Hamamatsu Competition in Japan; and the "Young Soloist of the Year Award" from the Commission of French Public Radio Stations. During his still-blossoming career, he has collaborated with distinguished conductors such as Riccardo Muti, Christoph Eschenbach, Kurt Mazur, Pierre Boulez and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, among others, and maintains an active career as a recitalist and recording artist, the latter as an exclusive Virgin Classics artist.

In Brief:

Conductor Susanna Mälkki and pianist David Fray will make their ISO debuts in *Symphonic Hits* powered by Lilly concerts featuring Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 and Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*

Performers: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Susanna Mälkki

Soloist: David Fray, Piano

Location: Hilbert Circle Theatre

Dates & Times: Fri. & Sat., Feb. 24 & 25, at 7:30 p.m. *Sound Off* begins at 6:30 p.m.

Repertoire:

MAGNUS LINDBERG *Parada*

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor, K. 466

RACHMANINOFF *Symphonic Dances*, Op. 45

Tickets: \$20-\$50; (317) 639-4300; Toll Free (800) 366-8457; online at www.IndianapolisSymphony.org

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