

Date: Monday, Feb. 20, 2012

Contact:

[Tim Northcutt](#) – (317) 262-4904

[Jessica Di Santo](#) – (317) 229-7082

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Performs Aaron Copland's Suite from *Appalachian Spring* and Music by Felix Mendelssohn in Lilly *Classical Series* Concerts March 1-3

2010 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis Gold Medalist Clara-Jumi Kang Plays Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in Evening Concerts

INDIANAPOLIS – Violinist Clara-Jumi Kang, 2010 International Violin Competition Gold Medalist, returns to the Hilbert Circle Theatre to perform Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra will play Aaron Copland's Suite from *Appalachian Spring* to highlight Lilly *Classical Series* concerts Thursday, March 1, through Saturday, March 3.

Directed by American conductor Andrew Grams, this weekend's performances will feature two favorites among audiences: Copland's Suite from *Appalachian Spring* and five movements from Mendelssohn's Incidental Music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The evening concerts will spotlight Kang's performances of one of the crown jewels of the violin repertoire, Mendelssohn's Concerto in E Minor and the Friday and Saturday performances will open with *Abstract No. 1* for Orchestra by American composer Karl Blench, who is the 2011 winner of the ISO's Marilyn K. Glick *Young Composer's Showcase*. The Mendelssohn Concerto and the Blench *Abstract No. 1* will not be performed on the Thursday morning *Coffee Classical* program.

Ticket prices for the Thursday morning KeyBank *Coffee Classical Series* concert 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. To order by telephone outside of Indianapolis, call toll free (800) 366-8457. Performance times are at 11 a.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

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 series. The Marilyn K. Glick *Young Composer's Showcase* is endowed by a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Eugene B. Glick.

Artist Biographies:

Young American conductor **Andrew Grams** has served as Resident Conductor of The Florida Orchestra and completed a three-year term as Assistant Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra in 2007. As one of the fast-rising stars on the American conducting scene, Grams has made appearances with many of the world's top orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Orchestra of Santa Cecilia in Rome and the Chicago, St. Louis, Baltimore, Dallas and National Symphony Orchestras, among others. A Maryland native, Grams began conducting at age 17 when he directed the World Youth Orchestra at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. He earned a bachelor's degree in violin performance from The Juilliard School and in 2003 received a conducting degree from The Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied under Otto-Werner Mueller. As an instrumentalist, he was a member of the New York City Ballet Orchestra from 1998-2004 and served as acting associate principal second violin for two seasons. He made his ISO debut in June 2006 in a *Symphony in the Parks* Concert at Holliday Park.

Violinist **Clara-Jumi Kang**, 2010 International Violin Competition Gold Medalist, has earned other prizes in prestigious international competitions including third prize in the 2007 Tibor Varga Competition, first prize in the 2009 Seoul International Violin Competition plus a second prize in the Hannover International Violin Competition that same year, and first prize in the 2010 Sendai International Violin Competition. She began playing piano and violin at age three and the following year became the youngest student ever accepted at the Mannheim Musikhochschule. At age seven, she auditioned at The Juilliard School where she was accepted with a full scholarship to study under Dorothy DeLay and Hyo Kang. She made her first recording at age nine for Teldec, performing the Beethoven Triple Concerto.

A native of Massachusetts, composer and conductor **Karl Blench** has had his works performed throughout Europe and the United States, including Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In addition to his selection as the Marilyn K. Glick *Young Composer's Showcase*, Blench also received the 2010 ASCAP Morton Gould Award. He earned a bachelor's degree in music theory from the University of New Hampshire and a doctorate in composition from Rice University. His primary composition teachers include Arthur Gottschalk, Samuel Adler, Karim Al-Zand, Kurt Stallmann, Pierre Jalbert, Shih-Hui Chen and Andrew Boysen. He currently teaches at Houston Baptist University and Rice University.

In Brief:

The ISO plays Copland's Suite from *Appalachian Spring* and 2010 IVCI winner Clara-Jumi Kang performs Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto (Fri. and Sat. night only) to highlight this *Classical Series* concert weekend.

Performers: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Andrew Grams

Soloist: Clara-Jumi Kang

Locations: Hilbert Circle Theatre

Dates & Times: Thurs., March 1, 11 a.m.; Fri., March 2 & 3, 8 p.m.

Repertoire:

KARL BLENCH	<i>Abstract No. 1</i> for Orchestra (Not Performed in Thurs. 11 a.m. Concert)
MENDELSSOHN	Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64 (Not Performed in Thurs. 11 a.m. Concert)
COPLAND	Suite from <i>Appalachian Spring</i>
MENDELSSOHN	Selections from Incidental Music to <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , Op. 61

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

###