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**Krzysztof Urbański Conducts Shostakovich Symphony No. 10 and Music by Ravel in Concerts
May 18-19 at Hilbert Circle Theatre**

Renowned pianist Simon Trpčeski performs Ravel's jazz-inspired Concerto in G Major

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Krzysztof Urbański will perform Dmitri Shostakovich's powerful Symphony No. 10, and pianist Simon Trpčeski will perform Maurice Ravel's jazz-inspired Concerto in G Major to highlight *Symphonic Hits!* powered by Lilly concerts Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19, at the Hilbert Circle Theatre.

The all-Ravel first half of the program will open with the composer's *Pavane pour une infant défunte*, a gentle and meditative piece that he originally wrote for solo piano, then orchestrated a decade later. The work depicts a slow, stately court dance from the 16th and 17th centuries that, in the composer's words, "a little princess might have danced at the Spanish Court." Trpčeski returns to the ISO for the first time in nearly a decade to perform Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major, a popular work that was inspired by American jazz, especially George Gershwin, with whom Ravel had become a friend. The first and third movements of the Concerto are energetic and fun-loving, while the second movement shifts dramatically in tone to one of sensitivity and seriousness. The final movement is a frenzied and flashy romp that features many syncopated jazz elements before closing with a brilliant finale.

Following intermission, Urbański and the Orchestra will perform the Shostakovich Symphony No. 10, a monumental work that the composer wrote shortly after the death of Soviet despot Joseph Stalin. For decades, the Stalin regime stifled Shostakovich's creativity and even censured some of his works as being "not proper Soviet music." Relatively free from oppression, he unveiled his full palette of musical creativity in Symphony No. 10, from the tranquil and reflective third movement to the wild and furiously intense *scherzo*. The opening and final movements both begin slowly but build to large and powerful climaxes that are rich and colorful through which Shostakovich musically expresses human feelings, compassion and a renewed sense of relative, but not complete, freedom from oppression.

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. *Symphonic Hits* concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

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

Conductor **Krzysztof Urbański** began his tenure as the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's seventh Music Director in concerts last September and at age 29 is the youngest music director among major orchestras in the United States. He also serves as Chief Conductor of the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra, where he is celebrating his second season in that post. He was appointed to that role the week after his highly successful debut. In April of 2010, Maestro Urbański made his highly-acclaimed U.S. debut with the Indianapolis Symphony, made a second podium appearance during Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* in June and last May, conducted his first Lilly *Classical Series* concerts since accepting the post in October 2010. Other North American debuts included Chicago's Grant Park Orchestra and the Houston Symphony. This season, Urbański debuted at the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Bamberger Symphoniker, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, the MDR Sinfonieorchester Leipzig and the Stockholm Philharmonic. Polish repertoire plays an important part in Urbański's programming. He led the opening concert of the Polish focus at the 2010 Schleswig-Holstein Festival with Sinfonia Varsovia, conducting Górecki's Symphony No. 3 and Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 with Eva Kupiec. He made his debut at the 2010 Grant Park Festival in Chicago with a program including Lutosławski's *Concerto for Orchestra* and conducted Penderecki's *Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima* with NDR Sinfonieorchester Hamburg in autumn 2010. He graduated from the Chopin Music Academy in Warsaw in 2007 and in the same year was the unanimous First Prize Winner of the Prague Spring International Conducting Competition. He served as Assistant Conductor to the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra from 2007-2009. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Music (Orchestral Conducting) at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music.

With the ability to perform a diverse range of repertoire from Haydn to Chopin and Debussy to Stravinsky, Macedonian pianist Simon Trpčeski has established himself as a remarkable young performer who has emerged in recent years to perform with many of the world's great orchestras. In North America, he has performed with the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras, and the San Francisco, Chicago, Toronto and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras in addition to the ISO, and he has performed in music capitals in Europe, Asia and Australia. Trpčeski's recording of Rachmaninoff's Second and Third Concertos with Vasily Petrenko and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in 2011 was in the Top 10 in both the *Billboard* Classical and the UK Specialist Classical charts and won *Classic FM's* "Editor's Choice" Award. In December 2009, Macedonian President H.E. Gjorge Ivanov honored him with the Presidential Order of Merit for Macedonia, making Trpčeski the youngest recipient of this honor in that nation's history. Born in 1979, he has won prizes in international competitions in the United Kingdom, Italy and Czech Republic and in 2003, Trpčeski was presented the Young Artist Award by the Royal Philharmonic Society.

In Brief:

Krzysztof Urbański and the ISO will perform Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 and pianist Simon Trpčeski will play Ravel's jazz-inspired Concerto in G Major in *Symphonic Hits!* concerts

Performers: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Krzysztof Urbański

Soloist: Simon Trpčeski, Piano

Location: Hilbert Circle Theatre

Dates & Times: Fri. & Sat., May 18 & 19, at 7:30 pm

Repertoire:

RAVEL *Pavane pour une infante défunte*

RAVEL Piano Concerto in G Major

SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 10 in E Minor, Op. 93

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

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