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Russian Violinist Alina Ibragimova Makes Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Debut Performing Saint-Saëns' Third Concerto in *Symphonic Hits* Powered by Lilly Concerts April 20-21

All-French program features Ravel's Rapsodie espagnole, works by Debussy and Berlioz

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra welcomes Russian-born violinist Alina Ibragimova, who will make her ISO debut in performances of Camille Saint-Saëns' Third Violin Concerto, and the Orchestra will perform Maurice Ravel's *Rapsodie espagnole* to highlight an all-French program titled *Vive la France* in *Symphonic Hits* powered by Lilly concerts Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hilbert Circle Theatre.

Conducted by Jun Märkl, this *Symphonic Hits* weekend will open with *Le Corsaire* by Hector Berlioz, a colorful and richly orchestrated overture that musically depicts the romantic and exciting swashbuckling legends of pirates and the sea. Ibragimova will perform the Saint-Saëns Third Violin Concerto, a brilliant and expressive work that he wrote for legendary violinist Pablo Sarasate that features passionate themes and fiery musical passages to showcase the versatility of the soloist. Following intermission, the Orchestra will present Claude Debussy's "Ibéria" No. 2 from *Images* that drew inspiration for the many folk tunes and dances from Spain. The program closes with Maurice Ravel's popular *Rapsodie espagnole*, which also was inspired by the lively ethnic folk songs and cultural spirit of Spain that the composer learned about from his mother, who was born and raised in Madrid.

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:

Now in his fifth season as Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony, **Jun Märkl** returns to the Hilbert Circle following his concerts in February 2011 that resulted in the ISO's recently released all-Dvořák compact disc recording on the Telarc label. A frequent guest with many of Europe's prominent orchestras, in North America Märkl has appeared with the Philadelphia and Minnesota orchestra and the Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, Baltimore, Montreal, Toronto, Seattle, Atlanta and Dallas symphony orchestras, among others. On the opera stages, he was the Permanent Conductor of the Bavarian State Opera in Munich until 2006, and he conducted the complete *Ring* Cycle with the Deutsche Oper Berlin as well as productions with the Vienna State Opera and Semper Oper Dresden, with

whom he toured Japan in November 2007. He made his Royal Opera House debut in 1996 and with the Metropolitan Opera in 1998. This concert weekend will mark his sixth appearance with the ISO since his debut in Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* concerts in 2000.

A fast-rising star in classical music, **Alina Ibragimova** has been a member of the BBC New Generation Artists Scheme a recipient of a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award, winner of a Classical BRIT and the recipient of the 2010 Royal Philharmonic Society Young Artist Award. Active as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician, she has appeared with many of Europe's prominent orchestras and this season collaborated with film artist The Brothers Quay, in which she performed solo works by Bach, Biber and Bartok as audience members took a roving, interactive journey through the sequestered rooms of a medieval library. She has recorded the complete Bach Sonatas and Partitas as well as concertos by Hartman and Rosavlets, and Szymanowski works for piano and violin with Cedric Tiberghien on the Hyperion label. Born in Russia in 1985, she is a former pupil of the Moscow Gnesin and Yehudi Menuhin schools and the Royal College of Music in London, where her teachers have included Natasha Boyarsky, Gordan Nikolitch and Christian Tetzlaff.

In Brief:

Violinist Alina Ibragimova plays Saint-Saëns' Third Concerto in her ISO debut and the Orchestra will perform music by Berlioz, Debussy and Ravel in an all-French program titled *Vive la France*.

Performers: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Jun Märkl

Soloist: Alina Ibragimova

Location: Hilbert Circle Theatre

Dates & Times: Fri. & Sat., April 20 & 21, at 7:30 pm

Repertoire:

BERLIOZ *Le Corsaire*, Op. 21

SAINT-SAËNS Violin Concerto No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 61

DEBUSSY "Ibéria" No. 2 from *Images*

RAVEL *Rapsodie espagnole*

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

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