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Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra performs *The Best of Broadway* in Concerts July 20-21

Program features hits from Les Misérables, Phantom of the Opera, My Fair Lady and more

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra welcomes guest conductor Stuart Chafetz and a talented trio of New York City’s top vocalists to perform the timeless favorites from popular Broadway musicals including *Les Misérables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *My Fair Lady* in Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* Series concerts titled *The Best of Broadway* Friday and Saturday, July 20 and 21, at 8 p.m. at the Conner Prairie Amphitheater.

The ISO will take audiences on a colorful visit to the Great White Way with a hit parade of tunes from many beloved musicals including George Gershwin’s *Strike Up The Band*, Richard Rodgers’ *Oklahoma!* and *South Pacific*, Leonard Bernstein’s *West Side Story* and *Candide*, Meredith Wilson’s *The Music Man*, Claude-Michel Schönberg’s *Les Misérables* and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Phantom of the Opera*. Many of these favorites will be sung by the talented trio of Broadway artists Christina Bianco (*Forbidden Broadway Goes to Rehab*, *Dora The Explorer Live*), Michele Ragusa (*Ragtime*, *Titanic*) and Christopher Johnstone (*The Apartment*).

Tickets are priced at \$22 in advance and \$27 at the gate for adults, with children’s prices (ages 2-12) at \$11 in advance and \$13 at the gate. Tickets may be purchased at any Marsh, MainStreet or O’Malia’s supermarket location, by calling the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300, toll free at (800) 366-8457, or by visiting the ISO’s website at www.IndianapolisSymphony.org. Premium Parking passes may be purchased for \$20 each exclusively through the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office.

Patrons can bring their own food, beverages (including alcohol) and blankets or lawn chairs to enjoy picnicking to the music on the beautiful natural grass amphitheater or reserve a table for only \$59 with seating for up to 10 people near the stage. With the exception of the limited Premium Parking spaces, all other parking is free.

If rain is possible on concert days, the public can stay up-to-date by listening to radio station WIBC (93.1 FM), the official station for Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* weather and traffic, or through the ISO’s mSymphony weather text message service by texting WEATHER [date of performance] (e.g. WEATHER JULY 20) to 24025. This service will be available on every concert date and will be updated by the ISO as conditions change.

Due to road construction projects on the northeast side of the Indianapolis metropolitan area, please “Know Before You Go” where construction projects are in progress and allow plenty of time to get to Conner Prairie for the concert. Patrons can listen to WIBC-FM for the latest traffic updates when en route to the concerts.

Marsh Supermarkets is the Title Sponsor of the entire 2012 Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* season and St. Vincent Health is the Premiere Sponsor for the summer series. Barefoot Wine is the official wine sponsor of Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie*. Associate Sponsors for this weekend are The National Bank of Indianapolis and Erie Insurance.

Artist Biographies

Known for his ability to engage audiences with innovative concerts, conductor **Stuart Chafetz** is increasingly in demand with orchestras nationwide. Appearances have included engagements with the ISO, Chicago, Detroit, Toronto, Edmonton Jacksonville, Phoenix and Virginia symphony orchestras, the Buffalo Philharmonic and the San Francisco Ballet. Over the years, he has collaborated with celebrated artists such as George Benson, Richard

Chamberlain, John Denver, Marvin Hamlisch, Thomas Hampson, Wynonna Judd, Jim Nabors, Jon Kimura Parker and Bernadette Peters, among others. He served as Resident Conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra from 2007-2011. Since 2002, he also has conducted the annual July 4 concert with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music and the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music, he also performed as the Principal Timpanist of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra for 20 years.

Christina Bianco is currently starring Off-Broadway in *Newsical The Musical* and received a Drama Desk award nomination for her work in *Forbidden Broadway Goes To Rehab*. She can be heard on both original cast recordings. Christina originated the role of Dora in the long-running national tour of *Dora The Explorer Live*, including an unprecedented sold-out run at Radio City Music Hall. Off-Broadway/New York credits include *Raffi On Broadway*, *Forbidden Broadway Dances With The Stars*, *Tony and Tina's Wedding* and *It Must Be Him*. Trained at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, she has backed up R&B star Deborah Cox, performed on *The Today Show*, *The Jerry Lewis Telethon* and red carpet events at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. Bianco is a soloist for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in their original Symphonic Pops Consortium production of *Mysterioso*. A MAC Award-nominated cabaret artist, Christina performed weekly in an unprecedented eight-month run of *11 O'Clock Numbers* at Feinstein's at The Regency.

Michele Ragusa's Broadway credits include *Urinetown*, *Ragtime*, *A Class Act*, *Titanic*, *Cyrano* and *Young Frankenstein*, with other New York appearances in *Adrift in Macau*, *The Audience* and *Bloomer Girl*. She has performed in national tours of *Fiddler on the Roof* with Theodore Bikel, *West Side Story* and *Nunsense II* with Jo Ann Worley, as well as regional tours of *Kiss Me Kate*, *She Loves Me*, *Adrift in Macau*, *Bad Dates*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Side by Side with Sondheim*, *My Fair Lady* with Michael Moriarty and *Carousel*, to name a few. Film and television appearances include *Heart of Spider*, *Law and Order SVU*, *The Guiding Light*, *One Life to Live* and *All My Children*.

A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, **Christopher Johnstone** is noted for his vocal range from tenor to baritone. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music, he has sung with Glimmerglass Opera, Lyric Opera San Diego, The Mark Morris Dance Group, Opera Pacific, Tanglewood Music Center, and the Cincinnati Pops and Boston Pops. Career highlights include understudying and performing the role of Lt. Joseph Cable in the Lincoln Center National Tour Production of *South Pacific*; appearing with Christine Ebersole and Ron Raines in *A Little Night Music* with the Boston Pops, Poulenc's *Le bal masque* for baritone and chamber orchestra with James Levine of the Metropolitan Opera and modeling for David Barton Gym and *Details* magazine. He also has appeared on television in TLC's *Personal Justice* and held a recurring role in the popular daytime soap opera *All My Children*.

In Brief:

The ISO performs popular favorites from timeless musicals such as *South Pacific*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Guys and Dolls*, *My Fair Lady*, *Les Misérables* and *Phantom of the Opera*, among others.

Performers: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Stuart Chafetz
Soloists: Christina Bianco, Vocalist
Michele Ragusa, Vocalist
Christopher Johnstone, Vocalist
Location: Conner Prairie Amphitheater – 13400 N. Allisonville Rd., Fishers, IN
Date & Time: Fri. & Sat., July 20 & 21, 8 p.m.

Repertoire: *The Best of Broadway*

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