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Acclaimed cellist Zuill Bailey performs the American premiere of Nico Muhly's Cello Concerto with Conductor Jun Märkl and the Indianapolis Symphony Jan. 24-26

Program also includes Bloch's Schelomo and Saint-Saëns' "Organ Symphony"; concerts will be recorded for third CD featuring the ISO and Bailey

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and guest conductor Jun Märkl present the U.S. premiere of contemporary composer Nico Muhly's Cello Concerto, performed by renowned cellist Zuill Bailey, in KeyBank *Coffee Classical Series* and Lilly *Classical Series* concerts Jan. 24-26 at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. The concerts will be recorded for an upcoming CD release, which is the third recording featuring the ISO and Bailey.

The ISO concert opens with *Schelomo*, Hebraic Rhapsody for Cello and Orchestra by Swiss-American composer Ernest Bloch. The work for cello and orchestra was written around 1916 and interprets the voice of Solomon through the cello. At times reflective, vain, lamenting, and introspective, Bloch's work carries strains of Hebrew music with a personal signature rather than being folkloric. The concert's first half continues with another work featuring cellist Zuill Bailey and the ISO — the U.S. premiere of the Cello Concerto by American composer Nico Muhly. A prominent voice among young, contemporary composers, Muhly's work winds the cello's voice through orchestral writing filled with rhythmic grooves, percussive punctuations, swelling loops, layered sonic textures, and ending with a calm chill.

Following intermission, Maestro Märkl returns to the podium for French composer Camille Saint-Saëns' Symphony No. 3, commonly subtitled as the "Organ Symphony." The work is aptly nicknamed for its use of the pipe organ in two out of four sections. The ISO's newly-restored 1941 Wurlitzer will be performed by organist Martin Ellis. Finished in 1886 at the peak of Saint-Saëns' career, the composer wrote the symphony as his final work for large orchestra and incorporates brilliantly quiet moments for piano with beautiful orchestral writing from late Romantic period. The "Organ Symphony" concludes with an uplifted, rousing finale of orchestra and organ sound that fills the theater.

These performances mark the third recording project on the Telarc label with Zuill Bailey and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. The first chart-topping album featured Dvořák's Cello Concerto and won *Gramophone's Editor's Choice Award*. Just released on Jan. 15, 2013, and led by ISO Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski, Bailey's second collaboration with the ISO featured Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor and selections from Smetana's *Má Vlast*. The Elgar recording will be available for purchase at the Hilbert Circle Theatre, and Zuill Bailey will be available to sign CDs and programs after the concerts Jan. 24 and 25 and during intermission on Jan. 26.

Ticket prices for the 11 a.m. KeyBank *Coffee Classical Series* concert on Jan. 24 range from \$20-\$46 each. For the Friday and Saturday evening performances at 8 p.m., tickets range 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.

Eli Lilly and Company is the Title Sponsor of the entire 2012-2013 Lilly *Classical Series* and ExactTarget is the Premiere Sponsor for the evening performances of the Lilly *Classical Series*. KeyBank is the Title Sponsor for the Thursday morning KeyBank *Coffee Classical Series* and Indianapolis Power & Light Company is the Premiere Sponsor for the Thursday morning programs.

For evening performances, patrons are invited to attend *Words on Music*, a 30-minute pre-concert talk that features musicians, guest artists and conductors.

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Artist Biographies:

Jun Märkl conducts the world's leading orchestras, such as The Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Czech, Munich and Oslo Philharmonics and Tonhalle Orchester Zürich. He has long been a highly respected interpreter of the core Germanic repertoire from both the symphonic and operatic traditions, and more recently for his refined and idiomatic Debussy, Ravel and Messiaen.

He was Music Director of the Orchestre National de Lyon from 2005-2011 and of the MDR Symphony Orchestra Leipzig until 2012. In recognition of his tenure in Lyon and his successful nine-disc Debussy cycle, in 2012 he was honored by the French Ministry of Culture with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He also toured with the orchestra to Japan, major European halls and festivals such as the Salle Pleyel, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, BBC Proms, Bad Kissingen, Rheingau and Lucerne. With MDR he toured to Spain and the Baltics, made appearances in the Berlin Konzerthaus and Cologne Philharmonie and conducted Schumann's opera *Genoveva* at the Rotterdam Opera Festival.

Märkl's busy European schedule is complemented by regular relationships with the leading North American orchestras for several weeks each season, he is a frequent visitor to the NHK Symphony Orchestra, the Pacific Music Festival Sapporo, and the Mito Chamber Orchestra and teaches at the Kunitachi Music Conservatoire.

Märkl has conducted for many years at the state operas of Vienna, Munich and Semperoper Dresden, and was Permanent Conductor of the Bavarian State Opera until 2006. He made his Royal Opera House, London, debut with *Götterdämmerung* in 1996 and at the Metropolitan Opera with *Il Trovatore* in 1998, has conducted complete *Ring* Cycles at the Deutsche Oper Berlin and at the New National Theatre Tokyo, and toured to Japan in 2007 with the Semperoper Dresden (*Tannhäuser*). In 2014, he conducts *Fidelio* at the Hamburg State Opera.

Märkl has recorded Mahler and the complete Schumann symphonies live with the NHK Symphony for EXTON Records and Dvořák on Telarc with the Indianapolis Symphony. While in Lyon, he made live recordings of Strauss, Beethoven and Mahler to complement his discs of Debussy, Messiaen and Hosokawa. With MDR Symphony he recorded Brahms symphonies live and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and *Lobgesang*.

Born in Munich, his (German) father was a distinguished Concertmaster and his (Japanese) mother a solo pianist. Märkl studied violin, piano and conducting at the Musikhochschule in Hannover and studied with Sergiu Celibidache and Gustav Meier. In 1986 he won the conducting competition of the Deutsche Musikrat and a year later won a scholarship from the Boston Symphony Orchestra to study at Tanglewood with Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa. Soon afterwards he had a string of appointments in European opera houses followed by music directorships at the Staatstheater in Saarbrücken (1991-94) and at the Mannheim Nationaltheater (1994-2000).

Widely acknowledged as a one of the pre-eminent cellists of his generation, **Zuill Bailey** has appeared with the symphony orchestras of Chicago, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indianapolis Dallas, Louisville, Milwaukee, Nashville, and Toronto, among other leading orchestras around the world. Bailey has collaborated with such conductors as Itzhak Perlman, Alan Gilbert, Andrew Litton, James DePriest, and Stanislav Skrowacezewski, and has performed with musical luminaries Leon Fleisher, Jaime Laredo, the Juilliard String Quartet, Lynn Harrell and Janos Starker. He has appeared at the Kennedy Center, Alice Tully Hall, the 92nd Street Y, and Carnegie Hall, where he made his debut performing the U.S. premiere of Miklos Theodorakis' Rhapsody for Cello and Orchestra. International appearances include celebrated performances with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra in its 50th anniversary tour of Russia, as well as concerts in Australia, Canada, the Dominican Republic, France, Israel, Hong Kong, Jordan, Mexico, Peru, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Nico Muhly has composed a wide scope of work for ensembles, soloists and organizations including the American Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Carnegie Hall, Chicago Symphony, countertenor Iestyn Davies, violinist Hilary Hahn, choreographer Benjamin Millepied, New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic, Paris Opéra Ballet, soprano Jessica Rivera, and designer/illustrator Maira Kalman. Among Muhly's most frequent collaborators are his colleagues at Bedroom Community, an artist-run label headed by Icelandic musician Valgeir Sigurðsson. Bedroom Community was inaugurated in 2007 with the release of Muhly's first album, *Speaks Volumes*. In spring 2012, Bedroom Community released Muhly's three-part *Drones & Music*, in collaboration with pianist Bruce Brubaker, violinist Pekka Kuusisto, and violist Nadia Sirota. Born in Vermont in 1981 and raised in Providence, Rhode Island, Muhly graduated from Columbia University with a degree in English Literature. In 2004, he received a Masters in Music from the Juilliard School, where he studied under Christopher Rouse and John Corigliano. His writings and full schedule can be found at <http://www.nicomuhly.com/>

Martin Ellis enjoys a diverse career as an organist, pianist, choral and orchestral arranger, and professional accompanist. Currently, he serves as the Principal Organist and Assistant Director of Music for North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis and is one of the senior staff accompanists for the Indianapolis Children's Choir and Youth Chorale, serving the advanced treble choirs and the high school division. As a solo artist, Ellis enjoys an active concert career in both classical and theater organ venues and has performed on organs of distinction across the United States.

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