



For release: Friday, Feb. 22, 2013

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

Krzysztof Urbański leads the ISO in concerts featuring Tchaikovsky's monumental sixth symphony March 1-2

Acclaimed virtuoso Behzod Abduraimov performs Chopin's Concerto No. 2

INDIANAPOLIS – Music Director Krzysztof Urbański will take audiences on an emotional journey in Lilly *Classical Series* concerts next weekend, when he leads the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in works by Karłowicz, Chopin and Tchaikovsky, March 1 at 8 p.m., and March 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Opening the performance, Maestro Urbański presents Mieczysław Karłowicz's *Stanisław i Anna Oświęcimowie*, the Polish composer's most acclaimed of his tone poem series. Written in 1907, the 20-minute, gripping piece was described as "a Polish travesty of Romeo and Juliet" by the composer himself. This is the ISO's first performance of *Stanisław i Anna Oświęcimowie*.

The concert continues with the ISO debut of the young virtuoso Behzod Abduraimov performing Fryderyk Chopin's expressive and colorful second piano concerto, written when the prodigious composer was in his teenage years. Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 1990, Abduraimov began his piano studies at age five, performed as a soloist at the age of eight with the National Symphony Orchestra of Uzbekistan, and won the 2009 London International Piano Competition with Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 at age 18.

After intermission, the ISO performs Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's final symphony, performed just days before his death – the Sixth, or otherwise known as the "*Pathétique*" (from the Russian word *patietichesky* which means "emotional" or "passionate").

Ticket prices for Friday and Saturday evening performances range from \$20-\$75 each and can be ordered by calling the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300 or toll free at (800) 366-8457, in person, or online at www.IndianapolisSymphony.org.

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*.

###

Artist Biography

An exclusive Decca artist, **Behzod Abduraimov's** debut recital CD was released during the spring of 2012, gaining him worldwide recognition. Extraordinarily talented, he is an artist establishing an impressive reputation for electrifying audiences with his captivating performances. "His debut disc naturally includes plenty that shows off his virtuosity, but music of greater emotional complexity lies at the heart of his programme. Prokofiev's Sixth Sonata, a complex mix of mood, has kaleidoscopic colour, fierce intensity and, notably in that aching slow-movement waltz, genuine soul." (The *Sunday Times*, July 2012)

Behzod made a number of debuts during the 2011/12 season including Atlanta, Tokyo and Kansas City Symphonies, National Arts Center Orchestra Ottawa (as part of their Russian Festival), Lausanne Chamber Orchestra (under the auspices of the Orpheum Foundation), Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo, English Chamber Orchestra and he embarked on a major tour of Australia which included Sydney Symphony, Adelaide and West Australian Symphony Orchestras in addition to recitals in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane as well as Hong Kong. In April 2012 he made his debut at Royal Albert Hall with a performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1.

In the coming months, he will be performing worldwide, including the English Chamber Orchestra Music Cruise, as well as dates in Europe, North America and Russia. He has the major support of Vladimir Ashkenazy and other collaborations include Charles Dutoit, Pinchas Zuckerman, Michael Christie, Krzysztof Urbanski, Michael Stern and Alexander Lazarev.

At the age of 18, Behzod achieved a sensational victory in the 2009 London International Piano Competition, winning first prize with his thrilling performance of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3. This resulted in invitations to work with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, where he gave a breathtaking performance of Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 2. He also toured to China and Kuala Lumpur with the Sydney Symphony under Vladimir Ashkenazy to great critical acclaim. Following their successful collaboration, they appeared again as part of the 2010 MusikfestBremen. Behzod has also appeared at the Piano Olympics in Bad Kissingen (where he won first prize), the BOZAR in Brussels and made a triumphant Wigmore Hall debut in May 2010.

Since his first performance as a soloist at the age of eight with the National Symphony Orchestra of Uzbekistan, Behzod has given many concerts in the USA, Italy, Russia and Uzbekistan.

Behzod Abduraimov was born in Tashkent in 1990 and began to play the piano at the age of five. He was a pupil of Tamara Popovich at the Uspensky State Central Lyceum in Tashkent, and is currently studying at the International Center for Music at Park University, Kansas City studying with Stanislav Ioudenitch.