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## **Brahms' Symphony No. 1 and Radiohead converge in Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* March 7**

INDIANAPOLIS – Following the highly successful musical “mash-up” of Copland’s *Appalachian Spring* and Bon Iver songs last year, the third concert in the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra’s Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* series this season will be devoted to presenting a musical deconstruction, rebuilding and blending of a major symphonic work and songs from an alternative-rock album, Thursday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Created and arranged by conductor Steve Hackman, the upcoming Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* performance combines all four movements of Johannes Brahms’ Symphony No. 1 with eight songs from Radiohead’s Grammy award-winning album, *OK Computer*. Now in his fourth year co-directing, co-creating and arranging works for the *Happy Hour* series with ISO artists-in-residence Time for Three, Hackman chose to focus on Brahms’ first symphony and selections from Radiohead’s *OK Computer* and linking similar elements – melody, harmony, rhythm and form – together to make a brand new work. The end result will be one seamless, hour-long presentation by the ISO. Also featured on the program are vocalists Andrew Lipke, Kristin Newborn and Will Post (Time for Three does not perform in this concert).

“This is truly new art – something that has not existed before,” said Steve Hackman. “It has been such an amazing process of analysis, discovery, de- and re-construction, and creation – all the while continuing to push the envelope of what is possible and permissible with this musical form.”

Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* begins at 5 p.m. with a pre-concert, complimentary food and drink sampling from many local restaurants including Adobo Grill, American Harvest Vodka, Coca-Cola, Eddie Merlot’s, Hoosier Momma, Ivy Tech, Just Pop In!, The Libertine, Pizzology, Shellback Rum, Stella Artois, and White Castle. Following the one-hour performance, the ISO’s young professionals group FORTE will host a special after-party at Harry & Izzy’s featuring drink specials and opportunities to mingle with ISO musicians.

Discount tickets in advance are \$25 per person and can be purchased by calling the ISO Box Office at (317) 639-4300 or going online at [www.IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://www.IndianapolisSymphony.org). Tickets purchased the day of the event are \$30 per person.

Stella Artois is the Title Sponsor for the Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* series. Indianapolis Power & Light Company is the Premiere Sponsor. Additional support of the series is provided by FORTE, the ISO’s young professionals group. Macy’s is the official sponsor of FORTE. NUVO is media sponsor.

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### **Artist Biography**

Conductor, composer, arranger, producer, pianist and singer/songwriter Steve Hackman combines inspiration with virtuosity to create elegance in sound. Fluent in a breadth of musical genres ranging from traditional classical to contemporary popular, Hackman embraces this wealth of diverse material and synthesizes it into a uniquely new and compelling language. His work since 2009 as co-creative director of the *Happy Hour* series with the Indianapolis Symphony is indicative of this genre-bending: producing, arranging/composing and conducting performances that intricately interweave the music of Radiohead with Brahms, Coldplay with Beethoven, and Bon Iver with Aaron Copland, among others. His works for artists like Time for Three, The Five Browns, Michael Cavanaugh, My Brightest Diamond, Arlo Guthrie, Chanticleer, and Joshua Radin have been performed by most of the major orchestras in America and in concert halls across the world. Hackman has produced *Time for Three's* last two albums, the latter of which he co-arranged in its entirety and music directed. He was commissioned by Liberty Property Trust to compose a piece commemorating the completion of the Comcast Building in Philadelphia; other commissions include the Illinois Symphony, Colorado Music Festival, Wheeling Symphony and University of Illinois Varsity Men's Glee Club.

Hackman was a four-year member, producer, and musical director of the a capella group "The Other Guys" at the University of Illinois, a group that under his direction placed runner-up in the International Competition of Collegiate Acapella at Avery Fisher Hall. He is a prolific songwriter, having written hundreds of songs and releasing several albums of original music. His song 'The Pendulum Song' was chosen among tens of thousands as a finalist in the prestigious John Lennon Songwriting Competition, and he has also received honorable mention in the *Billboard* songwriting competition. He has entertained as a dueling piano player at *Howl At The Moon* piano bar in Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville. In season seven of *American Idol*, Hackman was one of 164 contestants chosen from over 150,000 to attend "Hollywood Week." He finished in the top 64. He now writes, sings and produces for his contemporary music project *Stereo Hideout*.

Hackman studied conducting under Otto-Werner Mueller and counterpoint/composition under Dr. Ford Lallerstedt at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He subsequently studied conducting with David Zinman at the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen and received further instruction in orchestration from the famed Broadway orchestrator and composer William Brohn (*Miss Saigon*, *Wicked*, *Ragtime*, and countless others). He served as the Assistant Conductor of the Reading Symphony for two seasons, where he led subscription, family, education, and New Year's Eve programs. He is now active across the country as a guest conductor.