

For release: Wednesday, March 27, 2013

Contact: [Jessica Di Santo](mailto:Jessica.Di.Santo@indiana.edu) – (317) 229-7082

**Krzysztof Urbański leads the ISO in concerts featuring Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition***

*Acclaimed violinist Nicola Benedetti makes return appearance to the ISO for Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto*

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra opens the month of April with significant works by the Russian masters Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Modest Mussorgsky in Lilly *Classical Series* concerts April 4 at 11 a.m. and April 5 and 6 at 8 p.m.

Led by Music Director Krzysztof Urbański, this weekend's performances feature guest violinist Nicola Benedetti in Tchaikovsky's noble and colorful Concerto in D Minor for Violin and Orchestra. Benedetti, a renowned and innovative artist, last appeared with the ISO in 2008.

Following intermission, the Orchestra will perform Mussorgsky's musically descriptive walk through an art gallery in his widely admired *Pictures at an Exhibition*, which was originally written and published as a dramatic piano suite in 1874. Upon receiving a commission from Serge Koussevitzky, composer Maurice Ravel created an orchestral version of the work which premiered at the Paris Opera in 1922. According to ISO Program Note Annotator Marianne Williams Tobias, "No other orchestrations have successfully rivaled the success of the Ravel score."

Opening the evening performances will be the ISO's annual salute to the next generation of talented composers through its Marilyn K. Glick *Young Composer's Showcase* award. This year's winner is the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music's 2012 Undergraduate Presser Scholar winner, Jules Pegram. His work, *Neon Nights*, is a 10-minute orchestral overture which will "take the listener on a nonstop, ever-changing journey through a sound world that is inherently urban and flashy," according to the 22 year-old composer. A member of the American Composers Forum, Pegram is based in Los Angeles and writes for a variety of ensembles, from orchestras and concert bands to choirs, marching bands and chamber groups. *Neon Nights* will not be performed for the April 4 KeyBank *Coffee Classical* program.

Ticket prices for the 11 a.m. KeyBank *Coffee Classical Series* concert on April 4 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](http://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. The Associate Sponsor is Tastings.

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

###

### **Artist Biography**

**Nicola Benedetti** has captivated audiences and critics alike with her musicality and poise. Hilary Finch recently wrote in *The Times* of London, "It was thrilling to hear and watch Nicola Benedetti in a truly risk-taking performance that lived so much in the body and fused the sinews of the violin and the nerve-system of the player."

Throughout her career, Nicola's desire to perform a broad variety of repertoire and reach a wide audience has shown her to be one of Britain's most innovative and creative violinists. She has recorded newly commissioned works by John Tavener and James Macmillan, worked on jazz-influenced repertoire with Wynton Marsalis and others and explored authentic baroque performance. And while she is a highly sought performer on the world platform, she is also fiercely dedicated to music education. Through her work with such organizations as Sistema Scotland, she has helped to demonstrate the power that music has in transforming the lives of young people.

Nicola's 2012-2013 season includes a performance at BBC's Last Night of the Proms with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Jiří Bělohlávek, a tour with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and performance with the MDR Leipzig Orchestra, both with Miguel Harth-Bedoya. She also appeared with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra with James Gaffigan, Danish Radio Orchestra with Hugh Wolff, Royal Scottish National Orchestra with Peter Oundjian, Hong Kong Philharmonic with Jaap van Zweden, Singapore Symphony with Neeme Järvi and returns to Dallas and Pittsburgh.

Appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2013 New Year Honours, Nicola recently released a recording on Decca, *Silver Violin*, featuring the Korngold Violin Concerto along with cinematic-inspired pieces by Shostakovich, Korngold, Mahler, and others.

Nicola plays the Gariel Stradivarius (1717), courtesy of Jonathan Moulds.