



Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2013

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**Jack Everly and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra present the music of ABBA in performances March 15-17**

*Program includes dozens of the Swedish band's mega hits performed by a cappella group Rajaton; Honor Orchestra of America opens concerts at the Hilbert Circle Theatre with excerpts from Holst's The Planets*

INDIANAPOLIS – Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra fully expect and welcome audiences to sing along to its symphonic presentation of the music of ABBA, the Swedish pop sensation of the 1970s made even more popular by the stage musical in 1999 and film in 2008. Alongside the six-member a cappella group, Rajaton, the ISO will perform dozens of the group's mega hits in concerts at 8 p.m., March 15 and 16 at the Hilbert Circle Theatre, and at 7:30 p.m., March 17 at the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts.

Selling hundreds of millions of albums over the last four decades, ABBA continues to be a pop culture icon. From a symphonic perspective, Rajaton and the ISO will take the group's original hits, such as "Dancing Queen," "Take a Chance on Me," "Knowing Me, Knowing You" and "Mamma Mia," and take them to another level with added harmonies and rich orchestrations.

Under the direction of Gary Lewis, Music Director and Conductor of the Midland-Odessa (Texas) Symphony Orchestra and Professor of Music at the University of Colorado at Boulder, the Honor Orchestra of America will open the performances at the Hilbert Circle Theatre on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. with its presentation of excerpts from Gustav Holst's *The Planets*. The Honor Orchestra of America is an ensemble consisting of some of the best high school musicians from across the nation selected by audition. The Honor Orchestra of America is one of three honor ensembles that are a part of the Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha.

Tickets for the March 15 and 16 performances range from \$20-\$75 and can be ordered by calling the ISO Box Office at (317) 639-4300 or online at [www.IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://www.IndianapolisSymphony.org). For the performance at the Palladium on March 17 at 7:30 p.m., tickets range from \$22.50-\$87.50 and can be ordered by calling (317) 843-3800 or online at [www.thecenterpresents.org](http://www.thecenterpresents.org).

Printing Partners is the Title Sponsor for the entire 2012-2013 Printing Partners *Pops Series* season and Raymond James is the Premiere Sponsor for the *Pops Series*.

## Biographies

**Jack Everly** has served as Principal Pops Conductor of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra since 2002 and also serves in similar posts with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, and Music Director of the National Memorial Day Concert and *A Capitol Fourth* on PBS, which has a viewership of millions and a live audience of more than half a million on the lawn of our nation's Capitol. This season, he returns to The Cleveland Orchestra and appears as guest conductor in Pittsburgh, Phoenix, Fort Worth, Detroit, Edmonton, Toronto, Carnegie Hall and many others. This past summer marked Jack Everly's Hollywood Bowl debut.

Everly is the Music Director of Duke Energy *Yuletide Celebration*, now a 27-year tradition. Originally appointed by Mikhail Baryshnikov, Mr. Everly was conductor of the American Ballet Theatre for 14 years, where he served as Music Director. In addition to his ABT tenure, he teamed with Marvin Hamlisch in Broadway shows that Mr. Hamlisch scored, including *The Goodbye Girl*, *They're Playing Our Song* and *A Chorus Line*. He conducted Carol Channing hundreds of times in *Hello, Dolly!* in two separate Broadway productions. In addition to conducting the Memorial Day and Capital Fourth Concerts, Jack Everly has appeared on *In Performance at the White House* on PBS and conducted the songs for the Disney soundtrack, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

In 1998, Jack Everly created the Symphonic Pops Consortium, serving as Music Director. The Consortium, based in Indianapolis, produces a new theatrical pops program each season. In the past 12 years, more than 300 performances of SPC programs have taken place across the U.S. and Canada.

The Finnish word *Rajaton* translates as "boundless" – a word that so accurately describes the way this six-voice a cappella ensemble approaches music. Regularly performing around a hundred concerts and workshops each year, **Rajaton** exposes their audiences to the kind of diversity of repertoire, singing style and stage presentation that has made them a phenomenon on the world stage.

Performing at concert halls, churches, jazz and choral festivals, this distinct group of musicians approaches all styles of music with the same level of commitment and integrity, making it difficult to imagine an audience that they could not inspire, or a type of music they could not make their own. In their native Finland, Rajaton is a bona fide pop phenomenon, successfully bridging the gap that often exists between classical and mainstream convention.

Rajaton has released 13 different albums, their latest conquest being a children's album, *Suomen lasten lauluja (Songs of Finland's Children)*, released in 2012. The last three of their albums were released through the group's own record label, *Boundless Records*. In 2012, Rajaton celebrated 15 years of music-making with one double platinum, three platinum and eight gold records in Finland under their belt, as their worldwide record sales are drawing near 400,000 copies altogether.

Ever seeking new artistic challenges, the group has grown immeasurably through collaborations with other a cappella artists, including *The King's Singers* and *The Real Group*, as well as productions with film directors and choreographers. But it is perhaps their deep passion for choral art, their generosity of spirit and their sheer enjoyment of singing that has won the hearts and acclaim of audiences and critics everywhere.