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## **Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra presents concerts with Tony Award-winner Lea Salonga April 26-28**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly welcome Broadway star and singer, Lea Salonga, to the Hilbert Circle Theatre stage in Printing Partners *Pops Series* concerts Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, and to the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts, Sunday, April 28.

Best known for her Tony Award-winning role in *Miss Saigon*, Salonga also has won the Olivier, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Theatre World Awards in the field of musical theatre. She was the first Asian to play “Eponine” in *Les Misérables* on Broadway and returned to the show as “Fantine” in the 2006 revival. On screen, she portrayed the singing voice of Disney’s Princess Jasmine in *Aladdin* and of Fa Mulan in *Mulan*. Salonga also appeared on stage last season with other leading cast members for the Indianapolis Symphony’s own world premiere production, *Do You Hear the People Sing?*, featuring music from famed Broadway composers Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg. For concerts with the ISO April 26-28, she will perform the many hits from her stage and screen career including “Defying Gravity,” “On My Own,” “A Whole New World” and “I Dreamed a Dream.”

Tickets for the *Coffee Pops* performance at 11 a.m. are priced from \$26-\$48, with evening concert prices from \$20-\$75 on April 26 and 27. Tickets for the Hilbert Circle Theatre concerts 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 April 28 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*.

### **Artist 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.

Known across the world for her powerful voice and perfect pitch, Lea Salonga is a singer and actress who is best known for her Tony Award winning role in *Miss Saigon*. In addition to the Tony, she has won the Olivier, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Theatre World Awards, in the field of musical theatre. She was also the first Asian to play Eponine in the musical *Les Misérables* on Broadway and returned to the beloved show as Fantine in the 2006 revival.

Most recently, it was just announced that Lea will be a judge on the Philippines version of "The Voice." Prior to that, Lea garnered a Craig Noel nomination for Outstanding Featured Performance in a Musical for her latest work in *Allegiance*, a workshopped production developed by legendary actor George Takei. *Allegiance* tells the story of a Japanese-American family forced into an internment camp during World War II. The production just finished a run at The Old Globe in San Diego. She was also seen in a production of *God of Carnage*, overseas in Manila, Philippines and Singapore.

Lea made her debut in the world of Cabaret in 2010, performing a sold out, three week engagement at the Café Carlyle in New York City. She returned in June 2011 to delight audiences in another multi-week engagement and released a live version of her 2010 concert "Lea Salonga: The Journey So Far," her 26<sup>th</sup> career CD, in August 2011. The CD rose to the #3 spot on iTunes Jazz Charts.

Lea has toured the world promoting her new CD and has performed sold out concerts in such locations as the Disney Concert Hall, Singapore's Esplanade (twice), Kuala Lumpur Convention Center (twice), Hong Kong Philharmonic (three times), Bangkok Symphony, , Carnegie Hall, Vancouver (three times), Sacramento (six times), San Diego (6 times), Phoenix, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Regina, San Bernardino, Cerritos and San Francisco. She was also the first artist to sell out two shows at BYU's deJong Concert Hall since The Kings Singers in 2009.

Many fans of all ages recognize Lea as the singing voice of Princess Jasmine from *Aladdin* and Fa Mulan for *Mulan* and *Mulan II*. For her portrayal of the beloved princesses, the Walt Disney Company bestowed her with the honor of "Disney Legend" in August of 2011 along such luminaries as Regis Philbin, Jim Henson (posthumously) and Anika Noni Rose.

She also served as one of the judges of the 2011 Miss Universe Pageant telecast, held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The telecast was viewed by over one billion people in more than 100 countries worldwide.

In 2010, she participated in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert of *Les Misérables* to sold out crowds at the UK's O2 arena. She also dazzled as the hauntingly tragic Grizabella in a limited run of *CATS* in her hometown of Manila. Lea also teamed up with legendary Grammy winner, Patti Austin, to perform the concert series, 'Heart and Soul,' at venues throughout the United States.

Honored with an appointment as a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Goodwill Ambassador in October of 2010, Lea vowed to act as an advocate for the Youth and United Nations Global Alliance initiative led by the FAO. The same year, she also joined forces with Avon as a celebrity judge for Avon Voices, alongside such artists as Fergie, Natasha Beddingfield and Diane Warren, in the first ever global, online singing talent search for women and songwriting competition for men and women.

In her 30-year career, Lea has performed for five Philippine presidents (from Ferdinand Marcos to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo), three American Presidents (George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush), and for Diana, Princess of Wales and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She began her career as a child star in the Philippines, making her professional debut in 1978 at the age of seven in the musical *The King and I*. She went on to star in productions of *Annie*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Paper Moon*, and *The Fantasticks*.

Lea began her recording career at the age of ten with her first album, "Small Voice," which received a gold certification. In addition to performing in musical theater and recordings, she hosted her own musical television show, "Love, Lea," and also appeared with international acts such as Menudo and Stevie Wonder.

Lea's big break came when she was selected to play Kim in the megahit musical *Miss Saigon* in 1989. Given her popularity in the role, she was asked to return in 1999 to close the musical in London and again in 2001 to close the Broadway production.

In 2002, she took on the role of a Chinese immigrant in a reinterpretation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Flower Drum Song*, on Broadway, opposite Jose Llana. This was after the reinvented musical had a very successful run at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles in 2001, with Lea playing the lead role and the show garnering multiple wins and nominations, including Lead Actress in a Musical for her, from the LA Stage Alliance's Ovation Awards. The Salonga-led Broadway revival cast album was also a top contender at the 2003 Grammy Awards for Best Musical Show Album.

An avid techie and gamer, Lea divides her time between Manila, Philippines with her family and the United States.