

For release: Wednesday, April 3, 2013

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

ISO celebrates 100th anniversary of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* in concerts April 12 and 13

Led by Music Director Krzysztof Urbański, performances also include acclaimed pianist Dejan Lazić's own version of Brahms' violin concerto rearranged for piano

INDIANAPOLIS – One of the most influential compositions of the 20th century celebrates a milestone this spring, and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra will be performing it for only the fourth time in its 82-year-history. Premiered in Paris in May of 1913, Igor Stravinsky's passionate and powerful *The Rite of Spring* will anchor the ISO's *Lilly Classical Series* concerts on April 12 and 13.

Led by Music Director Krzysztof Urbański, the weekend's performances begin with Johannes Brahms' widely admired violin concerto, deftly arranged by pianist Dejan Lazić for the piano. Retaining the romantic and virtuosic qualities of the original, Lazić premiered his version of the concerto with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in 2009, and a live recording of the arrangement was released in January 2010 to great acclaim.

Following intermission, Urbański and the Orchestra will perform Stravinsky's original ballet and orchestral work, *The Rite of Spring*. In his autobiography, Stravinsky wrote that the idea for the work came to him when he was completing his ballet, *The Firebird*. "In my imagination," the composer recalled, "I saw a solemn pagan rite: wise elders, seated in a circle, watching a young girl dance herself to death whom they are offering as a sacrifice to the god of Spring in order to gain his benevolence." Stravinsky's experiments of using the strings as percussive instruments, dissonant harmonic combinations and complex rhythms proved revolutionary in its time, and audiences reacted violently upon its premiere a century ago. It has since become one of the most widely performed and recorded works of the 20th century.

Ticket prices for Friday performance at 8 p.m. and the Saturday performance at 5:30 p.m. 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. 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*. 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

Dejan Lazić has appeared with the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony, Bamberger Symphoniker, Danish National, Helsinki Philharmonic, NHK Symphony, Sapporo Symphony, Seoul and Hong Kong Philharmonics and worked with conductors Vladimir Ashkenazy, Kirill Petrenko, Robert Spano, John Storgårds, Krzysztof Urbanski and Osmo Vänskä.

In 2012-2013, Lazić will be Artist in Residence with Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, and appears with the NDR Sinfonieorchester Hamburg, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the Copenhagen Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra Taipei and Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

Recently Artist in Residence with the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, he has given recitals at Amsterdam Concertgebouw, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Munich Prinzregententheater and the Kennedy Center. This season includes recital tour dates in Germany, at Zurich's Tonhalle, Teatro Colón Buenos Aires and at the Sydney Opera House.

He has released a dozen critically acclaimed recordings with Channel Classics, including works by Scarlatti and Bartók and Schumann and Brahms, a live recording of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, which received the German Echo Klassik Award 2009, and his latest disc of Beethoven's fourth piano concerto.

Dejan Lazić is also active as a composer. His works include piano compositions, chamber music and orchestral works, as well as cadenzas for Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven piano concertos. His arrangement of Brahms' Violin Concerto for piano and orchestra premiered with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Robert Spano in 2009. A live recording of the concerto was released in January 2010 to great acclaim. He is currently working on his own Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 1.

Born in Zagreb, Croatia, Lazić grew up in Salzburg, Austria, where he studied at the Mozarteum. He now lives in Amsterdam.