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**Indianapolis Symphony's final Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* of the season to be held at historic Athenaeum July 25**

*With installation of new seats for the Hilbert Circle Theatre occurring over the summer, the 500-seat Athenaeum provides alternative space for finale of Happy Hour*

INDIANAPOLIS – While the historic Hilbert Circle Theatre gets a bit of a makeover this summer with the installation of new seats, the historic Athenaeum Theatre on Mass Avenue has donated its space and will serve as host for the final Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* concert of the season, Thursday, July 25, at 6:30 p.m.

Created by artists-in-residence Time for Three, the one-hour *Happy Hour* program will feature the ISO, Time for Three (Zach De Pue, Nick Kendall and Ranaan Meyer), and guest cellist and singer/songwriter Ben Sollee. The concert will feature a number of Sollee's original compositions including "Something, Somewhere, Sometime" and "It's Not Impossible." Sollee will also perform "The Maestro" from his newly released album *Half-Made Man*. In addition to Time for Three and Ben Sollee's performances, the Orchestra, conducted by Teddy Abrams, will also perform the final movement of Haydn's Symphony No. 43 in E-Flat Major ("Mercury").

This special edition of 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. Following the one-hour performance, the ISO's young professionals group FORTE will host a special after-party at the Athenaeum's outdoor Biergarten, which will feature additional Time for Three performances, drink specials and opportunities to mingle with ISO musicians.

*Happy Hour* at The Athenaeum tickets are \$40 per person and include after-party admission to the Biergarten. Due to limited seating at The Athenaeum, the ISO urges interested patrons to purchase in advance via [IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://IndianapolisSymphony.org) or the box office at (317) 639-4300.

Stella Artois is the Title Sponsor for the Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* series. Indianapolis Power & Light Company is the Premiere Sponsor and CityWay and The Alexander are Associate

Sponsors. 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.

### **Artist Biographies**

Founded in 2001 by three Curtis Institute of Music students, **Time for Three** is increasingly gaining attention as one of America's brightest and most unique string ensembles by exploring repertoire that ranges from a mix of bluegrass, gypsy, jazz, country western fiddling, classical, improvisatory and original works and arrangements. The trio has performed more than 200 engagements as diverse as its music by appearing as featured guest soloists with The Philadelphia Orchestra to opening for k.d. lang at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center. They have appeared at prestigious venues such as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, the 92nd Street Y in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., among others. The trio features violinists Nick Kendall (2002 Young Concert Artists International Competition winner) and Zach De Pue (1998 Fischhoff Competition winner and ISO Concertmaster), and bassist Ranaan Meyer (noted jazz and classical bassist and composer).

In November 2009, Time for Three became the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's first ensemble-in-residence and embarked on bringing its genre-bending musical style to Indianapolis and the greater community. Now in the final year of its residency, Time for Three has established relationships with two local high schools – Broad Ripple and Perry Meridian – in order to work with and inspire student musicians; developed programming for and has performed in the ISO's Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony*, *Symphonic Hits* powered by Lilly and Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* series; and played in many venues outside of Hilbert Circle Theatre in order to attract new communities to symphonic music.

Musicians often claim they are "giving themselves" to their listeners, but it's rarely as true as on **Ben Sollee's** fourth album, *Half-Made Man*, a revealing, deeply moving album that explores a man trying to figure himself out, just as we all are. Known for his thrilling cello-playing that incorporates new techniques to create a unique mix of folk, bluegrass, jazz and R&B, Sollee possesses rough-smooth-smoky vocal stylings and a knack for intricate arrangements that has brought about comparisons to Sufjan Stevens. Sollee shares himself completely with his audience, whether it be by personal lyrics, or his commitment to the environment. Sollee can often be found riding a bicycle to his concerts (cello strapped to the back), which have become legendary for their intimacy.

The album, produced by Sollee himself, boasts a sublime cast of musicians, including Carl Broemel (My Morning Jacket) on electric/acoustic guitar and pedal steel, Alana Rocklin on bass, Jordon Ellis on percussion, Jeremy Kittel (formerly of the Turtle Island String Quartet) on violin, and guest vocals by Abigail Washburn. Sollee contributes octave mandolin, guitar, and of course, his signature cello.

Sollee first gained major notice with his 2008 debut, *Learning to Bend*, which led NPR's Morning Edition to call him one of the "Top Ten Great Unknown Artists" of the year. Later, *All Things Considered* called his debut "an inspired collection of acoustic, folk and jazz-flavored songs, filled with hope and the earnest belief that the world is good." Around the same time, Sollee was touring the world with Abigail Washburn's Sparrow Quartet alongside Grammy nominee Casey Driessen and multi-Grammy winner Bela Fleck. Sollee's music drew the attention of My Morning Jacket frontman Yim Yames, who produced his second full-length album, a collaboration with Daniel Martin Moore. In 2010 they released *Dear Companion*, a stunning collection of songs meant to inspire environmental stewardship. The next year Sollee contributed his cello stylings to My Morning Jacket's hit album *Circuital and released Inclusions*, a sonically awe-inspiring album about relationships that was called "structurally brilliant" by Slant and "stunning" by No Depression.

**Teddy Abrams** performs as a conductor, clarinetist and pianist in addition to composing. The 2011-2012 season marked his first year as Resident Conductor of the MAV Symphony Orchestra in Budapest, and in 2012 Abrams became the Assistant Conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. From 2008 to 2011, Abrams held the position of Conducting Fellow of the New World Symphony.

Recent and upcoming engagements include performances with the San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Louisville Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Britt Festival Orchestra, San Francisco Conservatory of Music Orchestra, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra (Columbus), the Hilton Head Symphony, Boca Raton Symphonia, and Marin Symphony in addition to return engagements with the Florida Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, and the New World Symphony.

An accomplished pianist and clarinetist, Abrams has soloed with numerous orchestras and has performed chamber music with the St. Petersburg String Quartet, Menahem Pressler, Gilbert Kalish, Time for Three, and John Adams in addition to annual appearances at the Olympic Music Festival. Abrams collaborated (as an arranger and pianist) with Cleveland Orchestra principal trombonist Massimo La Rosa for La Rosa's debut CD. Abrams co-founded the Sixth Floor Trio because of his dedication to exploring engaging ways to communicate with a diverse range of audiences. The Trio has performed around the country, holding residencies in North Carolina, Philadelphia, New York, and South Florida. In addition, the Trio founded and directs GardenMusic, the music festival of the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens in Miami.

Abrams studied conducting with Michael Tilson Thomas, Otto-Werner Mueller at the Curtis Institute of Music, and with David Zinman at the Aspen Music Festival; he was the youngest conducting student ever accepted at both institutions. He studied piano with Paul Hersh at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and clarinet with David Breedon. Abrams is also an award-winning composer and a passionate educator – he has taught at numerous schools nation-wide and was the conductor of all educational activities at the New World Symphony. Abrams performed as a keyboardist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, won the 2007 Aspen Composition Contest, and was the Assistant Conductor of the YouTube Symphony at Carnegie Hall in 2009. Abrams has held residencies at the La Mortella music festival in Ischia, Italy and at the American Academy in Berlin. He has served as a cover conductor for several orchestras including the St. Louis Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and was appointed Assistant Conductor of the Sun Valley Summer Symphony beginning in the summer of 2013.

### **In Brief:**

The ISO, Time for Three, and Ben Sollee perform at the last Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* of the season at the historic Athenaeum Theatre.

Performers: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Teddy Abrams

Soloists: Time for Three

Ben Sollee, Cello

Location: Athenaeum Theatre - 407 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN

Date & Time: Thursday, July 25, 6:30 p.m. (pre-concert at 5 p. m.)

Repertoire: Original compositions by cellist and singer/songwriter Ben Sollee, Time for Three, and an excerpt from Haydn's Symphony No. 43 in E-Flat Major ("Mercury").

Tickets: Adults - \$40 (includes food and drink sampling during pre-concert Happy Hour)

Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office by calling (317) 639-4300; Toll Free (800) 366-8457; online at [www.IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://www.IndianapolisSymphony.org)

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