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***Symphony in the Park* series expands to three free community concerts at Indy Parks July 16-18**

INDIANAPOLIS – In partnership with Indy Parks and Recreation, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra will perform an expanded series of three community concerts in Ellenberger Park, Garfield Park and Holliday Park, July 16-18. Admission is free for these *Symphony in the Park* concerts, and audiences are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnic dinners to the concert (alcohol is prohibited).

“Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Orchestra added two more parks to its summertime *Symphony in the Park* series, which greatly expands our musical footprint in Indianapolis,” said Gary Ginstling, CEO of the ISO. “We’re delighted to be coming to the neighborhoods on the east, south and north sides of Indy and hope residents and their families will come out to hear our great Orchestra.”

The Orchestra welcomes conductor Francesco Leece-Chong of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra to lead these performances. This series of concerts, entitled *A Midsummer’s Night Music*, will feature popular symphonic music from a variety of different genres and periods. The program is divided into three sections: “Classic Night Music,” which includes favorites such as Handel’s Overture to *Music for the Royal Fireworks* and Mozart’s *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*; “Broadway Night Music,” featuring Bernstein’s Overture to *West Side Story* and Gershwin’s *Lullaby for Strings*; and “Song and Dance Night Music,” complete with excerpts from the wonderful Bizet opera *Carmen*. The Orchestra will conclude the evening with a performance of Argentine composer Alberto Ginastera’s “Malambo” from *Estancia*.

Ellenberger Park Concert – Tuesday, July 16

Thanks to the generous support of title sponsor Community Hospital East and premiere sponsor Indianapolis Power & Light Company, the ISO will perform its first *Symphony in the Park* concert on Tuesday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m. at Ellenberger Park, located at 5309 E. St. Clair Street on the east side of Indianapolis.

Due to limited parking spaces at Ellenberger Park, Community Hospital East, located at 16th Street and Ritter Avenue, will provide free parking and shuttle service to the park. The hospital is just a few blocks north of Ellenberger Park. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved to the Warren Performing Arts Center, located at 9500 E. 16th St. on the campus of Warren Central High School.

The ISO at Ellenberger Park is also underwritten by MacAllister Machinery.

Garfield Park Concert – Wednesday, July 17

The Orchestra will also perform another free concert on Wednesday, July 17, at 7:30 p.m. at Garfield Park located at 2345 Pagoda Drive on the south side of Indianapolis. The concert may be cancelled in case of inclement weather. There are no rain dates.

Holliday Park Concert – Thursday, July 18

The last concert of this summer's *Symphony in the Park* series will take place on Thursday, July 18, at 7:30 p.m. at Holiday Park located at 6363 Spring Mill Road on the north side of Indianapolis. The concert may be cancelled in case of inclement weather. There are no rain dates.

The performances at Garfield Park and Holliday Park are generously underwritten by an anonymous donor.

Since 1939, the Indianapolis Symphony has presented free *Symphony in the Park* concerts in various central Indiana communities in partnership with Indianapolis Power & Light Company. For more information on all ISO summertime presentations, call the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300, or visit the ISO's website at www.IndianapolisSymphony.org.

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Artist Biography

American conductor **Francesco Lecce-Chong**, currently Associate Conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (MSO), is active with the orchestral and operatic repertoires on the international stage. In his role with the MSO, Mr. Lecce-Chong works closely with renowned Music Director Edo de Waart and is directly responsible for leading over forty subscription, tour, education and community concert performances annually. During the MSO's 2012.13 season, Mr. Lecce-Chong has taken the podium for an acclaimed gala concert with Itzhak Perlman, led the orchestra through its statewide tour of Wisconsin and conducted a special three-week series at Milwaukee's Basilica of St. Josaphat.

Mr. Lecce-Chong has worked with orchestras around the world including the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Pitesti Philharmonic (Romania), Ruse Philharmonic, (Bulgaria), and the Sofia Festival Orchestra (Italy). Equally at ease in the opera house, Mr. Lecce-Chong

has served as principal conductor for the Brooklyn Repertory Opera and as staff conductor and pianist for the Santa Fe Opera. He has earned a growing reputation and critical acclaim for dynamic, forceful performances that have garnered national distinction. Mr. Lecce-Chong is a 2012 recipient of The Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award and The Presser Foundation Presser Music Award. He is also the recipient of the N.T. Milani Memorial Conducting Fellowship and the George and Elizabeth Gregory Award for Excellence in Performance.

As a trained pianist and composer, Mr. Lecce-Chong embraces innovate programming, champions the work of new composers and, by example, supports arts education. His 2012.13 season presentations include two MSO commissioned works, two United States premieres and twelve works by composers actively working worldwide. He brings the excitement of new music to audiences of all ages through special presentations embodying diverse program repertoire and the use of unconventional performance spaces. Mr. Lecce-Chong also provides artistic leadership for the MSO's nationally lauded Arts in Community Education (ACE) program – one of the largest arts integration programs in the country. He is a frequent guest speaker at organizations around Milwaukee and hosts, Behind the Notes, the MSO's preconcert lecture series.

Mr. Lecce-Chong is a native of Boulder, Colorado, where he began conducting at the age of sixteen. He is a graduate of the Mannes College of Music, where he received his Bachelor of Music degree with honors in piano and orchestral conducting. Mr. Lecce-Chong also holds a diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied as a Martin and Sarah Taylor Fellow with renowned pedagogue Otto-Werner Mueller. He currently resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Follow his blog, Finding Exhilaration, at www.lecce-chong.com - See more at: <http://lecce-chong.com/biography/#sthash.b47tUNAw.dpuf>