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**Indy Jazz Fest Presents a Salute to Indiana Composers in Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie*
Concerts August 2-3**

INDIANAPOLIS – For the first time in the Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* 32-year history, jazz becomes the focal point on the Conner Prairie Amphitheatre stage. Created and presented by the Indy Jazz Fest, “A Salute to Indiana Composers” is featured Friday and Saturday, August 2 and 3, at 8 p.m. The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra does not perform on this concert weekend.

Narrated by Tom Griswold from WFBQ’s local and nationally-syndicated “The Bob and Tom Show,” the concert weekend will highlight the music of the great composers of Indiana throughout history including Cole Porter, Hoagy Charmichael, Wes Montgomery, Freddie Hubbard, and even Michael Jackson, and will feature a talented slate of local musicians: **Steve Allee**, piano; **Kevin Anker**, keyboard; **Scott Belk**, trumpet; **Larry Crane**, guitar; **Rob Dixon**, saxophone; **Everett Greene**, vocals; **Cynthia Layne**, vocals; **Brandon Meeks**, bass; **Kenny Phelps**, drums; **Tad Robinson**, vocals; and **Sandy Williams**, guitar. This musical journey is made possible by the Indy Jazz Fest, the organization responsible for celebrating Indiana’s musical contributions to jazz.

The gates to the amphitheater will open at 6 p.m. each evening. Tickets are priced at \$23 in advance and \$28 at the gate for adults, with children’s prices (ages 2-12) at \$12 in advance and \$14 at the gate. Tickets may be purchased at any Marsh, MainStreet or O’Malia’s supermarket location, by calling the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300, toll free at (800) 366-8457, or by visiting the ISO’s website at www.IndianapolisSymphony.org. Premium parking passes may be purchased for \$20 each exclusively through the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office.

Patrons can bring their own food, beverages (including alcohol) and blankets or lawn chairs to enjoy picnicking to the music on the beautiful natural grass amphitheater or reserve a table for only \$59 with seating for up to 10 people near the stage.

If rain is possible on concert days, the public can stay up-to-date by listening to radio station WIBC (93.1 FM), the official station for Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* weather and traffic. Join the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Facebook page and follow @Indy_Symphony on Twitter for details regarding upcoming concerts, guest artists and news from the ISO.

Marsh Supermarkets is the Title Sponsor of the entire 2013 Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* season and St. Vincent Health is the Premiere Sponsor for the summer series. Barefoot Wine is the official wine sponsor of Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie*, and Erie Insurance provides Seriously Good seating upgrades at most shows. Associate Sponsors for this weekend are Erie Insurance and DCG.

Artist Biographies

Cynthia Layne, vocals

Singing professionally since the early 1990s and based in Indianapolis, Layne has earned a reputation for being a diverse vocalist who can handle anything from straight-ahead jazz and Tin Pan Alley standards to blues to neo-soul.

Larry Crane, guitar

Larry Crane, a native of Seymour, Indiana, arranged, orchestrated, recorded and toured with John "Cougar" Mellencamp from 1975-1991. Crane recorded 100 songs with John Mellencamp (John's first 9 Albums) 21 of these songs Billboard "charted": "Ain't Even Done With The Night," "Hurt So Good," "Jack and Diane," "Hand to Hold on To," "I Need a Lover," "Crumblin' Down," "Pink Houses," "Authority Song," "Rain on the Scarecrow," "Small Town," "Lonely Ol' Night," "Rumbleseat," "R.O.C.K in the USA," "Paper In Fire," "Check It Out," "Cherry Bomb," "Martha Say," "Jackie Brown," "Pop Singer" and Larry's signature song... "Play Guitar." His career has produced 60 Platinum Records recording & performing with Rosanne Cash, Lou Reed, John Prine, Steve Earle and John Mellencamp.

Tad Robinson, vocals

This Severen Records recording artist has been nominated for seven blue awards since 2005. Tad Robinson's vocal style owes obvious debt to vintage era Al Green and other soul sophisticates but he blows blues harp with the rough hewn exuberance of a postwar Chicago juke.

Everett Greene, vocals

Velvet bass baritone, pinpoint vibrato, fathomless blues sensibility and sigh-inducing balladry are all used to describe Everett Green. One of the world's top finalists in the Thelonious Monk Vocal Competition, Greene exploits the thrilling power of his low notes and climbing vocal range a la Billy Eckstine and Frank Sinatra.

Steve Allee, piano

As co-music director for tonight's performance, Allee brings years of arranging and composing prowess blended with nationally acclaimed piano virtuosity. His accomplishments include a commission to write a piece for the 100th anniversary of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and composing the score for the

film based on the Dan Wakefield book, *New York in the Fifties*. The score was performed live at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. Allee has also composed the soundtrack for *Something to Cheer About*, the film about the 1954-55 Crispus Attucks basketball team starring Oscar Robertson. He has written music for television shows, including *Chicago Hope*, *Friends*, *NYPD Blue*, *Mad About You*, *Martha Stewart Show*, *Nash Bridges*, *Touched by an Angel* and *Dharma and Greg*. He is the music director for the nationally syndicated radio show, *The Bob and Tom Show*. He also leads his own big band and trio.

Rob Dixon, saxes

Co-Music Director for tonight's show, Dixon is both respectful of tradition and free with expression and truly shows the musical diversity that is within his creative mind. After matriculating from Hampton University and Indiana University's School of Music, Dixon moved to the top of the music world in New York City, playing with legendary and popular artists such as the Count Basie Band, Tony Bennett, The Ellington Band, Slide Hampton, Dakota Stanton, The Illinois Jacquet Big Band, Rufus Reid, Akira Tana, the Maria Schnieder Orchestra, Jonah Jones as well as Bill Lee (composer and father of Spike Lee), Weldon Irving, Producer Ali Shaheed Muhammad (DJ of Tribe called Quest) The Skatellites, The Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra and guitarist Melvin Sparks.

Brandon Meeks, bass

Known for his talent, creativity and professionalism in addition to his genuinely soulful, organic sound on the bass and thoughtful compositions, Brandon Meeks can be counted on to enhance any musical situation. Meeks is a regional first-call bassist who has been sought out to perform alongside many jazz notables, including Sonny Fortune, Ralph Peterson Jr., Tim Warfield, Mike Clark, Derrick Gardner, Pharez Whitted, Melvin Rhyne, Corey Wilkes and DJ Logic, among others. He has also performed with acts opening for artists such as David Sanborn, Karen Clark-Sheard, Mayer Hawthorne and the County, Bobby Broom, Eric Roberson, The Foreign Exchange and J Moss.

Kenny Phelps, drums

Virtuoso drummer and newly crowned leader of Indy jazz record label "Owl Studios," Phelps brings his feel-good, hard-swinging style to this all-star collection. When not performing, mentoring and advancing the Indy music scene, he can be caught touring the globe with jazz superstar vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater.

Sandy Williams, guitar

Sandy Williams has studied improvising and composition with legendary jazz composer/theorist George Russell. His jazz studies also include time spent at Indiana with famed jazz educator David Baker. He has performed or recorded with Lalo Schifrin, Carl Anderson, Eddie Money, Lou Graham, Martha Reeves, Suzanne Somers, the Larry Elgart Big Band, clarinetist Henry Questa, famed British pop singer Paul Carreck, Rita Moreno, singer Brenda Russell, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, gospel artist Ray Boltz and Steve Earle. Recent activities include live performances with Michael Feinstein and a studio project with John Mellencamp.

Kevin Anker, keys

This Indy soul-jazz-blues keyboardist is best known for his work with blues men Tad Robinson and Gordon Bonham. Equally adept at jazz, blues and beyond, Anker adds that special touch to tonight's performance.

Scott Belk, trumpet

Equally at home as a soloist or lead trumpeter, Belk's resume includes prestigious positions at major universities to an in demand section and lead player.

Tom Griswold, emcee

Best known as "Tom" from the Bob & Tom Show, Griswold is also a huge jazz fan. In fact, his live and studio band is comprised of many of Indy's finest. Tom co-hosts the nationally-syndicated radio show "The Bob & Tom Show" with Bob Kevoian, Kristi Lee and Chick McGee. This comedy-based early morning program is among the highest rated in American radio and has been nationally syndicated since 1995. The show is broadcast from WFBQ's studios in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In Brief:

The Indy Jazz Fest presents *A Salute to Indiana Composers* concerts at Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie*.

Performers: Cynthia Layne, vocals

Larry Crane, guitar

Tad Robinson, vocals

Everett Greene, vocals

Steve Allee, piano

Rob Dixon, saxes

Brandon Meeks, bass

Kenny Phelps, drums

Sandy Williams, guitar

Kevin Anker, keys

Scott Belk, trumpet

Tom Griswold, emcee

Location: Conner Prairie Amphitheater – 13400 N. Allisonville Rd., Fishers, IN

Date & Time: Fri. & Sat., Aug. 2 & 3, 8 p.m.

Repertoire: *A Salute to Indiana Composers*

The music of Cole Porter, Hoagy Charnichael, Wes Montgomery, Freddie Hubbard, Michael Jackson and many more.

Tickets:

Adults - \$23 (Advance); \$28 (At Gate)

Children (Ages 2-12) - \$12 (Advance); \$14 (At Gate)

Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office by calling (317) 639-4300; Toll Free (800) 366-8457; in-person at all Marsh, MainStreet and O'Malia's stores, or online at www.IndianapolisSymphony.org