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River City Brass returns to Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* stage Aug. 23-24

INDIANAPOLIS – Under the direction of conductor James Gourlay, the renowned River City Brass returns to the Conner Prairie Amphitheater for two performances, Aug. 23 and 24 at 8 p.m., as part of the Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* series.

For 15 years, River City Brass has been one of the most popular bands at the Conner Prairie Amphitheater. Featuring 20 brass and percussionists players, River City Brass presents audiences with a wide mix of musical styles from light classical and jazz to pop standards, swing-era and patriotic favorites. The band regularly performs in a 56-concert series in eight different venues in Western Pennsylvania and tours extensively throughout the United States with an additional 20 performances each year.

The gates to the amphitheater 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 are MacAllister Machinery Company, Erie Insurance Company, REI Construction, DCG: Digital Color Graphics.

Artist Biography

In 1981, a musical renaissance took place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Under the baton of conductor Robert Bernat, the **River City Brass** took to the Carnegie Music Hall stage for its inaugural concert on November 21. It was an evening of musical excellence and determination – determination to bring about the revival of the grassroots tradition of the American brass band.

That determination has paid off. Today, the River City Brass performs a 56-concert series in eight different venues in Western Pennsylvania. In addition, the 20-piece ensemble tours extensively throughout the United States with more than 20 performances each year as part of its community concert series, major symphony pops series and arts festivals. Building upon the long-standing tradition of brass bands popularized in Great Britain and the United States, RCB features 20 brass players and three percussionists. This configuration allows the band to present a sweeping repertoire: American tunes, Big Band swing and jazz, music from Broadway and Hollywood, classical and contemporary masterworks and traditional marches.

From California to New York (and everywhere in between), River City Brass has delighted audiences with its signature style. The band has been a featured performer at the Adelaide Festival of the Arts (Australia), Musikfest (Pennsylvania), Chautauqua Institution (New York), New Zealand International Festival of the Arts, Interlochen Center for the Arts, (Michigan) and Thalian Hall (North Carolina), among many other venues.

Each year, as many as 100,000 people thrill to the signature sound of the River City Brass. From Pasadena to Pensacola to Pittsburgh, River City Brass provides high quality entertainment that is fun and meaningful to audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

James Gourlay, a native of Scotland, played in the local school brass band and became Scottish National solo champion at junior and senior levels. He studied tuba performance at the Royal College of Music, London, but left to take up a full-time position in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Three years later, he became Principal Tuba of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in London and became involved with the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. At that time, he also performed on the sound tracks of Superman II and III, Batman and Yentl, to name a few.

After 10 years at the BBC, Gourlay became the solo tubist of the Zurich Opera House Orchestra, where he developed his skills as a conductor. He became head of the Wind, Brass and Percussion department at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and later returned to Scotland to become Deputy Principal at the The Royal Scottish Academy of Music.

As a conductor, he works with some of the world's leading brass groups and with orchestras such as the Sinfonica in Campinas, Brazil, the Orquestra Casa da Musica in Porto, Portugal and is a regular guest conductor of the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain (NYWO). He has made five solo CDs and more than 20 CDs with brass bands and wind bands.

In Brief:

River City Brass returns to the Conner Prairie Amphitheater as part of the Marsh Symphony on the Prairie series.

Performers: River City Brass

Conductor: James Gourlay

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

Date & Time: Fri. & Sat., Aug. 23 & 24, 8 p.m.

Repertoire: Return of River City Brass

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

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