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Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announces 2014-2015 season

In his fourth season with the ISO, Music Director Krzysztof Urbański plans several large symphonic works – Mahler’s Fifth, an all-Russian festival concluding with Shostakovich’s “Leningrad” Symphony and Beethoven’s Ninth with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir

Former ISO Music Directors Raymond Leppard and Mario Venzago make return appearances

ISO Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly pays a symphonic tribute to the legendary Marvin Hamlisch, the Beatles and Broadway’s leading men and welcomes instrumentalist Kenny G and Broadway star Megan Hilty for her ISO debut

ISO’s Opening Night Gala includes orchestral excerpts from Carmen and Beethoven’s first piano concerto with renowned musician Jeremy Denk

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra today announced its Lilly *Classical Series* and Printing Partners *Pops Series* subscription concerts for 2014-2015 season – the ISO’s 85th season and its 30th year performing in the historic Hilbert Circle Theatre.

2014-15 marks Krzysztof Urbański’s fourth season with the ISO as Music Director. Urbański’s artistic vision for 2014-15 centers around powerful, large-scale symphonic works by Brahms, Beethoven and Mahler. In addition, the season will include a multi-week themed festival of music and culture. Through music, art and educational programs, “Fantasy, Fate and War: A Midwinter Russian Festival” will enlighten the community on the culture of Russia and will focus on major and lesser-known works by Russian composers Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev. “Fantasy, Fate and War” concludes with the ISO’s first-ever performance of Shostakovich’s monumental Seventh Symphony, the “Leningrad.”

“I’ve programmed the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra’s classical season with music that inspires me personally and challenges me as a conductor,” said Urbański. “I love the sounds of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, especially the stories and events in history told through works by Russian composers and the power portrayed in late-Romantic works. It’s gratifying to present a season of music that the Orchestra loves to play and audiences will love to hear.”

The 2014-15 season will include former ISO Music Directors Raymond Leppard and Mario Venzago returning to the podium for performances of works by Elgar and Beethoven's "Eroica," respectively. In addition, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra will premiere eight works on the season, including the world premiere of Principal Trombone Jim Beckel's Brass Concerto.

Another highlight of the season will be the ISO's first performance of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, with a libretto by famed author and Indianapolis native Kurt Vonnegut.

Lilly Classical Series – Highlights

- On Sept. 14, Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski kicks off the 2014-2015 season during *Opening Night Gala* with excerpts from Bizet's *Carmen* (Suites 1 and 2) and Beethoven's first piano concerto with renowned pianist Jeremy Denk.
- Maestro Urbanski conducts symphonic masterpieces: Brahms' Symphony No. 4, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 ("Leningrad"), Beethoven's Symphony Nos. 8 and 9 and Piano Concerto No. 3 and Mahler's Symphony No. 5.
- Guest conductors include ISO debuts of Matthew Halls, Christopher Altstaedt, Cristian Macelaru and Han-Na Chang, who serves as Principal Guest Conductor in Trondheim alongside Maestro Urbanski as Chief Conductor. Returning to the ISO podium are esteemed conductors Andrey Boreyko, Nicholas McGegan, Miguel-Harth Bedoya, Jeffrey Kahane and Jun Märkl.
- Guest artists making debuts with the ISO are pianists Alice Sara Ott and Vadym Kholodenko, winner of the 2013 Van Cliburn Competition, and violinist Arabella Steinbacher. Renowned artists returning to center stage include pianists Shai Wosner and Kirill Gerstein; violinists Augustin Hadelich, Philippe Quint and Zach De Pue (ISO Concertmaster); and soprano Twyla Robinson.
- Other significant works performed this season include Mozart's *Requiem*, Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 ("Reformation") and the ISO premiere of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* with libretto written by Kurt Vonnegut.

Printing Partners Pops Series

In the Printing Partners *Pops Series*, Maestro Everly has programmed a season with a nod to the leading men – the artists, composers, singers, songwriters, actors and creators – who left a significant mark on American music and film in the 20th century. Highlights include:

- The *Pops Series* opens with the ever-popular Classical Mystery Tour paying tribute to the Beatles and the group's 50th anniversary of its Indianapolis concert in 1964.

- Two weeks later, the unparalleled career of the late Marvin Hamlisch – longtime friend of Everly and the ISO – and his legendary songbook is celebrated with three performances of “A Tribute to Marvin Hamlisch.”
- Everly continues his nod to the Great White Way in March, with the signature songs from Broadway’s leading men in productions such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Guys and Dolls* and *West Side Story*.
- Back by popular demand, world-renowned saxophonist Kenny G returns to the Hilbert Circle Theatre stage for two performances with the ISO and performs the numerous hits that have made him the top-selling instrumentalist in history.
- For Valentine’s weekend, the Hilbert Circle Theatre returns to its movie palace roots with the presentation of *Casablanca*, with full orchestra accompaniment conducted by Everly.
- Guest conductors for the *Pops Series* include Michael Krajewski leading concerts featuring the music of Simon & Garfunkel and New York Pops Music Director Steven Reineke bringing the music of the “Mad Men” era.
- Last but not least, the spotlight is turned to the leading lady when Everly welcomes singer Megan Hilty, whose credits include NBC’s *Smash* and Broadway’s *Wicked* and *9 to 5: The Musical*. Led by Everly, the ISO and Hilty will be performing many of her songs from her solo album, *It Happens All the Time*, as well as many Broadway favorites and contemporary hits.

symFUNy Sundays Series presented by Dow AgroSciences

Children can wiggle and giggle in their seats during the Orchestra’s *symFUNy Sundays* presented by Dow AgroSciences concert series, which are Sunday matinee performances that feature engaging music and interactive entertainment at family-friendly prices. During *symFUNy Sundays*, families are encouraged to take part in pre-concert activities in the lobby and are invited to meet the artists after the performance. The programs are approximately one hour in length, with no intermission and are designed especially with the young listener in mind.

This season’s programs will include *Life and Times of Beethoven* on Nov. 9; a performance of *Yuletide Celebration* on Dec. 7; a celebration of the worldly nature of music through the instruments and artists in *The Worlds of Sound and Space* on March 15; and Saint-Saëns’ imaginative and colorful *Carnival of the Animals* on Apr. 19.

ISO Subscriptions – Free Concerts with Purchase

This season, the ISO is making subscriptions more valuable than ever before for all series. Free concerts will be given for these Lilly *Classical Series* packages: six free concerts with the 18-concert package; four free concerts for the 14-concert package and one free concert for the eight-concert package.

For the Printing Partners *Pops Series*, patrons who subscribe to the eight-concert series receive one free concert. For every adult subscription purchased to *symFUNy Sundays*, a child subscription is free.

ISO Subscriptions – On Sale Feb. 17

Patrons may renew current subscriptions or become a new subscriber beginning at 10 a.m., **Monday, Feb. 17**, by visiting the ISO's website at www.IndianapolisSymphony.org, by phone at (317) 639-4300, by mail or in person at the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office. The deadline for subscription renewals is **Friday, April 11**.

Among many of the benefits of becoming an ISO subscriber is advance ticket buying opportunities for and discounts to special events such as *Opening Night Gala* and the annual holiday tradition, *Yuletide Celebration*, which last year sold out well in advance of opening night.

For more information about all Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra presentations, call the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300. Outside Indianapolis, call toll free (800) 366-8457.

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