Fun Facts about the Hilbert Circle Theatre, the Home of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

- The Hilbert Circle Theatre opened in 1916 as one of the first deluxe movie palaces west of New York City to show silent films.
- In December 1996, the “Circle Theatre” had its name changed to the “Hilbert Circle Theatre,” thanks to a generous donation of $10 million from Stephen Hilbert.
- After being revamped from a movie theatre to a concert hall, it was reopened in October 1984 as the new home of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.
- To take a virtual tour inside the Theatre, click here.
- Famous people who have performed on our stage include: Frank Sinatra, Marvin Hamlisch, Michael Feinstein, Megan Hilty, Sandi Patty, Wayne Brady, Carly Rae Jepson, Matthew Morrison, Josh Kaufman, Leslie Odom Jr., John Williams, Audra McDonald, Karina Canellakis, and Indiana’s own Joshua Bell!

Fun Facts about the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra:

- The ISO was founded in 1930 by its first music director, Dr. Ferdinand Schaefer.
- The ISO’s first official concert was on Nov 2, 1930 at Shortridge High School.
- Fabien Sevitzky, in 1937, founded all educational concerts for students, known as Discovery Concerts today.
- In 1982, Joshua Bell made his performance debut with the ISO at the age of 14 years old.
- The ISO has performed on two international tours, in 1987 and 1993, to many different European countries.
- The Orchestra consists of about 80 professional musicians.
- Musicians in the ISO have come from all parts of the globe, including Japan, Russia, Poland, China, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Romania, Germany, Israel, and the Czech Republic.
- The ISO performs more than 200 concerts a year for an audience of 500,000 people.
- In 2011, the ISO named Krzysztof Urbański as its seventh music director.
DOWNTOWN BUS PARKING LOCATIONS
*Pricing & availability for buses subject to change, please call in advance

West Wabash Street Lot
130 W Wabash Street
317.237.5790

Omega Building Lot
29 E. Maryland Street
317.616.1670

Gate Ten Events & Parking
343 West McCarty Street
317.737.2036

LaRosa North Bus Parking Lot
401 S. Pennsylvania Street
www.parkwhiz.com (Pre-pay via website)

White River State Park South Lot
801 W. Washington Street
317.233.2434

NEARBY RESTAURANTS

The Indianapolis restaurant scene is booming! To find a restaurant within walking distance that best fits your group’s needs, click here.

Please be mindful of the performance curtain time. Plan to return to Hilbert Circle Theatre no later than 15 minutes before start time.

MORE TO DO IN DOWNTOWN INDY

Rhythm! Discovery Center
110 W. Washington Street, Suite A
Indianapolis, IN 46204

- Planning a field trip in downtown Indy? Check out Rhythm! Discovery Center for a fun, musical way to spend part of the day with your school group.
- For more information on group tours, click here.

The Children’s Museum
3000 N Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

- Designed with kids in mind, The Children’s Museum is a fun and educational place.
- For more information on group tickets, click here.

Soldiers and Sailors Monument
Monument Circle
Indianapolis, IN 46204

- Enjoy free admission inside or pose for a photo in front of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument conveniently located steps away from the Hilbert Circle Theater.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is there a dress code?
Many different styles are worn at ISO concerts, from casual, to business casual, to black tie. Wear what you feel most comfortable wearing.

What happens if I arrive late?
If you arrive after the concert has begun, you will be asked to wait in the lobby area until the first movement has completed or there is a break in playing.

Can I use my phone during the performance?
No. Please keep cell phones off or in silent mode during performances in the hall.

Can I take pictures inside the hall?
No. Photography or recording is strictly prohibited.

What is happening on stage when I arrive?
When you arrive, you will notice that some of the musicians are warming up their instruments on stage. Musicians are allowed to practice on stage until the stage lights get really bright. This is their signal to cease playing and watch for the Concertmaster entrance.

When do I applaud?
Applause is held until after a complete composition and not given between movements. When in doubt, refer to your program and watch for the conductor to indicate the appropriate movement or wait until others applaud. The conductor usually leaves the stage between pieces and will return to the stage to acknowledge continuous applause. If there is a soloist, the soloist will also leave the stage and re-enter with applause.