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**Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra to conclude 2015-2016 season with Bizet's *Carmen*
at the Hilbert Circle Theatre June 10 and 12**

Performances to feature acclaimed mezzo- soprano Oksana Volkova as Carmen

Tickets on sale to general public beginning Monday, Aug. 10

INDIANAPOLIS –The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announced today a landmark event that will conclude its 2015-2016 indoor concert season: a special semi-staged production of *Carmen*, one of the world's most performed and favorite operas by French composer Georges Bizet. *Carmen* will be presented at the Hilbert Circle Theatre on Friday, June 10 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, June 12, at 3 p.m.

Led by ISO Music Director Krzysztof Urbański, this semi-staged version of *Carmen* will feature Metropolitan Opera soprano Oksana Volkova in the title role. Maestro Urbański conducted *Carmen* last spring with the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra, where he serves as Chief Conductor.

"I knew last spring when I conducted *Carmen* that we must do it here in Indianapolis," said Urbanski. "*Carmen* is a fantastic score, filled with Bizet's masterful orchestrations, and is a story full of passion. I'm looking forward to transforming the Hilbert Circle Theatre into an opera house for this signature event during our final concert weekend."

Mezzo-soprano [Oksana Volkova](#) is a regular at the Metropolitan Opera, where she has appeared in recent seasons in *Eugene Onegin* and *Rigoletto*, and will be appearing this coming season in Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District*. She has sung *Carmen* at the Bolshoi Theatre, and has appeared at the Royal Opera House in London and the Teatro Colón in Argentina. Tenor Evan Bowers will sing the role of Don José, the Spanish soldier who loves the captivating *Carmen*. The ISO will be joined by members of the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and the Indianapolis Children's Choir. Additional cast members will be named at a later date. The production will include English translations projected above the stage.

Carmen is set in Seville, Spain in the early 19th century. Bizet's score captures the flavor of Spain and the dramatic storyline between the characters of *Carmen*, Don José and Escamillo, as it progresses from

playfulness and seduction in the first two acts to intense and fatalistic in the finale. Although *Carmen* is arguably the most popular opera performed today, its risqué content was deemed shocking and controversial upon its Paris premiere in 1875.

Tickets to *Carmen* start at \$35 and will be available to the general public beginning Monday, Aug. 10. ISO subscribers have access to a presale opportunity from Aug. 3-7 and can take advantage of a 10 percent discount on *Carmen*.

Information

Georges Bizet's *Carmen* presented by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Friday, June 10 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 12 at 3 p.m.

Tickets range from \$35-\$105 with VIP packages available

Tickets on sale beginning Monday, Aug. 10

Order at www.IndianapolisSymphony.org or (317) 639-4300

ISO Subscribers receive 10 percent off ticket prices and can purchase early from Aug. 3-7

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