

## **A Magical Midwinter Reprieve, ISO's Music of the Earth Festival Begins Jan. 7**

*Third annual multi-week, multi-venue music festival features R. Strauss' An Alpine Symphony, Mahler's "The Song of the Earth," and two renditions of Vivaldi's The Four Seasons*

INDIANAPOLIS —Audiences in need of a midwinter reprieve can immerse themselves in spectacular orchestral performances, breathtaking views of the Alps, yoga, and other spiritual and environmental programs at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Music of the Earth Festival January 7 - 22.

"The Music of the Earth Festival is a natural extension of the Cosmos theme from last season, which was a great thrill for me as a conductor," explained Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski. "Now I'm drawing inspiration from those composers who were captivated by our beautiful planet in order to present another landmark moment in music-making with the ISO."

This is the third consecutive year that Maestro Urbanski has programmed a midwinter music festival for the ISO. This year's centerpiece events are two weeks of performances at Hilbert Circle Theatre, both conducted by Urbanski. The first week's program, beginning Jan. 12, includes Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Strauss' *An Alpine Symphony*, performed to projected images by noted photographer and musician Tobias Melle. The following weekend, the ISO presents Mahler's epic *Das Lied von der Erde* ("The Song of the Earth") and Hans Richter's remix of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, with violinist Alexi Kenney.

Richter's avant-garde version of *The Four Seasons* was first performed in 2012 and has had critics talking ever since. While he said he discarded 75 percent of Vivaldi's original composition, audiences will recognize many of the familiar melodies in what Richter describes in an interview with *The Guardian* as "throwing molecules of the original into a test tube with a bunch of other things, and waiting for an explosion."

To emphasize the contrast between compositions, seven ISO musicians will perform Vivaldi's original *The Four Seasons* at a free concert at the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Hospital on Jan. 16.

Several other programs and performances are scheduled to take place around the city as part of the festival. Venues include the Circle City Industrial Complex, Indy Reads Books, The Center for the Performing Arts, and Marian University. Ball State, Purdue, and Indiana universities will also participate.

Here's the full lineup of activities, many of which are free and open to the public:

### **ISO Chamber Players at Indy Winter Farmers Market**

Saturday, Jan. 7, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

FREE

Circle City Industrial Complex

Buy local, healthy food while feeding your soul at [Indy Winter Farmers Market](#) with music provided by ISO players at one of Indy's newest downtown venues, the [Circle City Industrial Complex](#) near Mass Ave and 10<sup>th</sup> St.

### **Yoga with the ISO**

Monday, Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.

\$15, limited to 50 participants each

Hilbert Circle Theatre | Wood Room

The ISO's principal flute Karen Evans Moratz and yoga instructor Laura Potter lead two yoga classes like no other—accompanied by live orchestral music. Participants should bring a mat and will receive a buy-one-get-one Music of the Earth concert voucher.

### **From Concerts to Countries: Exploring the Earth in Stories and Pictures**

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6 p.m.

FREE

Indy Reads Books | 911 Mass Ave

ISO musicians join former ISO staff member Margaret Henney to talk about their travels across the globe. Whether camping in tents or staying at hostels, traveling to Canada or venturing to Vietnam, these travelers have great stories to share. A Q&A session follows the presentation. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

### ***Lilly Classical Series***

## ***An Alpine Symphony and Appalachian Spring***

Thursday, Jan. 12, 11 a.m. (*Coffee Classical Series*)

Friday, Jan. 13, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 14, 5:30 p.m.

Tickets start at \$15

Hilbert Circle Theatre

Krzysztof Urbanski, Conductor

Tobias Melle, Photographer and Musician

Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski begins the first of the *Music of the Earth Festival* concerts with Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. What follows will be, by far, the biggest piece the ISO will play this season. The hour-long performance of [R. Strauss' \*An Alpine Symphony\*](#) requires approximately 120 musicians on stage. With images by Tobias Melle of the Alps as a backdrop, this epic performance will take audiences on a musical journey representing the emotional highs and strain of an 11-hour mountain adventure from daybreak to nightfall.

- One hour before the evening concerts on Friday and Saturday, award-winning author of 20 fiction and non-fiction books [Scott Russell Sanders](#) will speak about how we too easily take for granted the natural wealth that sustains us—the soils and waters, the forests and prairies, the benign climate, and all our fellow creatures.
- The Bloomington, Ind. resident and distinguished professor emeritus of English at Indiana University recently published a collection of his eco-science fiction stories, “Dancing in Dreamtime.” Many of his books will be available to purchase.
- [Growing Places Indy](#)—a nonprofit that empowers personal, family, and community wellness through urban agriculture, access to food, and mind-body education—will be on site during the performances, as will Sun King Brewery, Purdue University's Discovery Park Center for Global Soundscape, and a display highlighting Marian University's Jensen gardens.

## **Special Performance: Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons***

Monday, Jan. 16, noon

FREE

Eli Lilly and Company Foundation Concourse | Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Hospital

Seven ISO musicians, led by violinists Sherry Hong and Charles Morey, will take listeners on a poetic journey through an intimate performance of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*.

**Beyond Words: Music of the Earth with ISO Associate Conductor Vince Lee**

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.

FREE

Marian University Theatre at Marian Hall

Maestro Vince Lee shares how Gustav Mahler's struggle to align his vision of earthly beauty with his faith and sense of mortality resulted in one of his greatest artistic achievements. Lee's presentation will illuminate the unique ability of music to represent humanity's complex physical and spiritual relationship to our planet through discussion and live musical performances.

**Lilly Classical Series**

**"*Song of the Earth*" and *The Four Seasons***

Friday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 22, 3 p.m. (Telamon Classical Series at the Palladium)

Tickets start at \$15

Hilbert Circle Theatre

Krzysztof Urbański, Conductor

Alexi Kenney, Violin

Sasha Cooke, Mezzo-Soprano

Paul Groves, Tenor

The ISO is joined by Grammy Award-winning mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, American tenor Paul Groves, and violin soloist Alexi Kenney in a moving performance of Mahler's poignant *Das Lied von der Erde* conducted by Maestro Urbański. Drawn from delicate lines of Chinese poetry, Mahler's serene "[The Song of the Earth](#)" is the first of his great farewells: music as life giving, life sustaining, and life loving as the Earth itself. The concert begins with a fresh take on Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, as recomposed by Max Richter for violin, harpsichord, and orchestra.

- A new, three-year initiative of Ball State University Emerging Media, [ReMix the Symphony](#) will challenge preconceived notions about classical music through interactive experiences in the Hilbert Circle Theatre lobby during evening performances.
- Students from Purdue University also will present interactive activities that support the discovery and preservation of Earth's natural acoustic heritage with the Discovery Park Center for Global Soundscape exhibit.
- An hour prior to performances on Friday and Saturday evening, Dr. Jim

Larner, Professor of Music and Humanities at Marian University, will give a special presentation, "Going Gently into that Good Night," that explores how the death of his beloved daughter and own heart ailment led Mahler to confront his grief and mortality in "*The Song of the Earth*."

Eli Lilly is the title sponsor of The Music of the Earth Festival. The presenting sponsor is Salesforce.com.

Tickets for festival events and concerts can be purchased at [IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://IndianapolisSymphony.org), the ISO Box Office, or by calling [317.639.4300](tel:317.639.4300).

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