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Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra reports fiscal year results, elects new Directors at Annual Meeting; Yvonne Shaheen named new Chair of ISO Board of Directors

INDIANAPOLIS (Dec. 5, 2016)—The Indiana Symphony Society (ISS) released its audited financial results for the 2015-2016 season at its Annual Meeting held today at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. It also elected six new members of its Board of Directors, and the Society Board of Directors appointed Yvonne Shaheen as its new Chair.

Vince Caponi, outgoing ISS Board Chair, reported that ISO's total ticket sales increased 15 percent over FY15, for a total of \$8.49 million, marking an all-time high in income from ticket sales and the fourth consecutive increase since FY13. Subscription revenues increased by 1 percent over FY15, and the ISO sold 9,392 student tickets, the most ever in a single season and double the number of student tickets sold in FY13. *Marsh Symphony on the Prairie* ticket sales were lower than projected due to unusually bad weather, but total revenues were still higher than any other summer since the popular series began 35 years ago.

Annual fundraising of \$9.3 million surpassed the total raised in FY15 and marked the fourth consecutive year that annual contributions have exceeded \$9 million. All told, operating revenues increased 6.2 percent over FY15.

The ISS attributed much of this increase to the artistic achievements of Krzysztof Urbanski's fifth season as ISO Music Director and several milestone events, including the 30th anniversary of IPL *Yuletide Celebration* and the 20th anniversary of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra.

"It is gratifying that as the relationship between our Music Director and Orchestra continues to grow, so does our attendance and community support, demonstrating that the ISO's music is reaching far and wide into our community," said ISO Chief Executive Officer Gary Ginstling.

"As we reflect on the many wonderful accomplishments of the past season, the Board of Directors reaffirms its commitment to achieving our artistic goals while operating the institution in a fiscally responsible manner," said Vince Caponi. "On behalf of our Board,

I express my gratitude to Krzysztof, Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, the wonderful ISO musicians, our staff, patrons, and community for their ongoing dedication to the ISO.”

Artistic accomplishments mentioned at the meeting included Urbański’s second annual midwinter music festival, the Cosmos Music Festival; the staged production of Bizet’s *Carmen*; the first INfusion Music Fest, which explored connections between music and environmental awareness and included environmental partners from across central Indiana; and the selection of the ISO to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in the second annual SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras during the 2017-2018 season.

Another highlight of the season was the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ISO’s Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (MYO), led by founder and artistic director Betty Perry. MYO is a youth and family development initiative that engages students in kindergarten through 12th grade and their families in music through lessons, coaching, and ensemble opportunities. Other educational programming such as the *Teddy Bear Series*, performed at the Indianapolis Public Library, and the sold-out Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield *Discovery Concerts* were recognized for introducing students to the joy of orchestral music.

The ISS also acknowledged the new three-year collective bargaining agreement that was reached more than a year in advance of the expiration of the current CBA.

The ISO’s 2015-2016 Financial Summary, ending Aug. 31, 2016

- Total operating income from FY16 was \$25.25 million, an increase of 6.2 percent over last year; however, the ISO ended the year with a \$561,000 deficit, due largely to a 78 percent increase in medical claims expense and inclement weather during the Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* season, two factors out of its control.
- Ticket sales reached \$8.49 million, an all-time record for the ISO, and were 15 percent over FY15 sales.
- Overall attendance for the year totaled 275,923 people.
- The ISO sold the most student tickets in a fiscal year ever, at 9,392, up by 4 percent over FY15 and double the number of total student tickets sold in FY13.
- Season subscription ticket sales increased 1 percent over FY15.
- IPL *Yuletide Celebration* achieved record-setting sales, with 98.82 percent paid attendance.
- The ISO raised \$9.3 million in annual fund contributions, surpassing the total raised in FY15.

- The ISO also received a one-time \$10 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., the bulk of which was earmarked to fund the musicians' defined benefit pension plan.

Highlights of the 2015-2016 Season

Krzysztof Urbanski's fifth season as Music Director for the ISO started on a high note with the sold-out *Opening Night Gala* featuring Joshua Bell in a program inspired by Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." In the Lilly *Classical Series*, the ISO presented a midwinter Cosmos Music Festival that achieved 85 percent paid capacity over three weekends of masterworks. The ISO concluded the indoor season with a staged production of Georges Bizet's *Carmen*, one of the world's favorite operas, featuring Metropolitan Opera soprano Oksana Volkova.

In the Printing Partners *Pops Series*, Maestro Jack Everly welcomed guests such as Kenny Rogers and Pink Martini, and presented four sold-out performances of a Sinatra centennial celebration. The special screening of *Back to the Future* with full orchestra attracted 325 new households to Hilbert Circle Theatre—the most in a single concert for the season.

The ISO continued reaching new audiences with the second season of the Duke Energy *317 Series*, the Fifth Third Bank *Lunch Break Series*, Telamon *Classical Series at the Palladium*, and at the first Haunted Hilbert "black carpet" fundraising event, sponsored by FORTE, ISO's young professionals group.

Concertmaster Zachary De Pue performed his final season with ISO artists-in-residence Time for Three at three Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* concerts designed especially for young professionals. The ISO also partnered with Time for Three to produce a new INFusion Music Fest that celebrated the connections between music and the environment and featured special appearances by notable indie artists and presentations from local environmental partners.

The IPL *Yuletide Celebration*, featuring Sandi Patty and conducted by Jack Everly, celebrated its 30th anniversary with all-time records in attendance and sales. Even with 11 of 28 performances affected by weather, more than 111,000 attended a performance at the ISO's 35th Marsh *Symphony on the Prairie* season, many of whom enjoyed the view from the new Terry Lee Hyundai and Terry Lee Genesis ISO Sunset Lounge.

For an online version of the 2015-2016 annual report, [click here](#).

ISO Recognizes 25 Years of Service

The following staff and musician were recognized for 25 years of service to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra:

- Beth Perdue Outland, Vice President, Community Engagement & Strategic Innovation

- Richard Graef, Assistant Principal, Horn

Election to the Indiana Symphony Society Board of Directors

The following individuals were elected to the Indiana Symphony Society Board of Directors: Kiamesha Colom, Craig Fenneman, Liz Kyzr, Karen Mangia, Patrick Sells, and C. Daniel Yates.

The following individuals were re-elected to the ISS Board of Directors: Charlene Barnette, Michael Becher, John A. Bratt, Bryan Brenner, Trent Cowles, Martha D. Lamkin, Bruce McCaw, Michael P. O'Neil, Alice K. Schloss, Yvonne Shaheen, J. Albert Smith Jr., Peter Ward, David Wilcox, and Jennifer Zinn.

Election of Indiana Symphony Society Officers

The following individuals were elected as officers of the Indiana Symphony Society: Yvonne Shaheen, Chair; Michael Becher, Vice-Chair and Treasurer; and Charlene Barnette, Secretary.

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