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Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announces 2016-2017 season

Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski programs major works by Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, Bartók plus a midwinter "Music of the Earth" festival

Distinguished guest conductors include Bernard Labadie, Edo de Waart, Roberto Abbado, Jun Märkl and Matthias Pintscher; renowned soloists include Hilary Hahn, André Watts, the Labèque Sisters and Gil Shaham

ISO commissions and premieres Dejan Lazić's symphonic poem, Mozart and Salieri, in a concert devoted to the one of the greatest rivalries in classical music

Former ISO music directors John Nelson and Raymond Leppard make return appearances

ISO Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly's Pops Series includes Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark Film + Orchestra, trumpeter Chris Botti and the world premiere of The Doo Wop Project

Jack Everly conducts the ISO's Opening Night Gala and pays tribute to the Hilbert Circle Theatre's 100th anniversary and Indiana's bicentennial

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra today announced its 87th season of classical and pops concerts at the ISO's historic home venue, the Hilbert Circle Theatre. The 2016-2017 season runs from September 15-June 10 and features an array of repertoire, programs, world premieres and a special tribute to the theater's 100th anniversary.

In his sixth season with the ISO, Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski has programmed large-scale masterworks, including Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, Brahms' *German Requiem*, Mahler's First Symphony ("Titan") and Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, and will collaborate with several admired soloists, including violinist Hilary Hahn and pianist André Watts. In addition, Urbanski's frequent collaboration with pianist Dejan Lazić continues this season with the world premiere of Lazić's symphonic poem, *Mozart and Salieri*, an ISO commission inspired by one of the greatest rivalries in classical music.

“I am very proud of this season of classical programs, as they represent my affection for monumental works by some of my favorite composers,” said Urbański. “Many of these pieces I haven’t presented in Indianapolis since arriving in 2011, so I’m excited to lead the talented musicians of the Orchestra in these powerful programs.”

In January of 2014, Maestro Urbański programmed his first midwinter music festival with the ISO, “Fantasy, Fate and War,” which highlighted the major musical contributions of Russian composers Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and Shostakovich. Last season, Urbański’s love of music and science inspired a three-weekend tribute to the music of the cosmos. This season, Urbański brings patrons back down to Earth with a **Music of the Earth** festival, a two-week musical extravaganza devoted to how the Earth’s beauty and majesty inspired some of the greatest masterworks in the repertoire, including R. Strauss’ *An Alpine Symphony* and Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde* (“Song of the Earth”), among others.

“My idea for a ‘Music of the Earth’ festival was a natural extension of the ‘Cosmos’ theme from last season, which was a great thrill for me as a conductor,” Urbański added. “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.”

Lilly Classical Series – Highlights

- On Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Urbański opens the classical series with pianist **André Watts** performing Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4. The following weekend, he presents an all-Prokofiev program featuring violinist **Hilary Hahn** performing the composer’s first violin concerto.
- Urbański and the ISO perform the world premiere of Dejan Lazić’s *Mozart and Salieri*, specially commissioned by the ISO.
- Urbański conducts **Bartok’s Concerto for Orchestra**; **Brahms’ German Requiem** with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir (ISC); **Mahler’s Symphony No. 1 (“Titan”)**.
- Urbański’s **Music of the Earth Festival** in January to include R. Strauss’ epic *An Alpine Symphony* and Mahler’s monumental *Das Lied von der Erde* (“The Song of the Earth”).
- The ISO closes the season with a special choral presentation of Orff’s *Carmina Burana* and **Bernstein’s Chichester Psalms**.
- Conductors making their subscription debuts with the ISO this season include **Edo de Waart**, **Joshua Weilerstein** and **Matthias Pintscher**.
- Additional guest conductors include **Bernard Labadie**, **Roberto Abbado**, and **Jun Märkl**, and renowned soloists the **Labéque Sisters** and **Gil Shaham**.
- Returning to the podium are two former ISO music directors. **Raymond Leppard** will present a program of Mozart and Elgar, and **John Nelson** will lead the ISO in works by Ravel and Rachmaninoff.

- ISO Concertmaster **Zach De Pue** and Principal Oboe **Jennifer Christen** will return as soloists this season with De Pue performing Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1 and Christen joining Gil Shaham for Bach's Concerto for Violin and Oboe.
- Other significant works presented this season include **Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 ("Eroica")**; **Stravinsky's *The Firebird***; **Debussy's *La Mer***; **Bruckner's Symphony No. 7**; and **Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5**.

Opening Night Gala

Two significant anniversaries occur in 2016 – the Hilbert Circle Theatre's centennial and the state of Indiana's bicentennial anniversaries. To celebrate these milestones, the ISO's premiere event, ***Opening Night Gala***, will celebrate the theater's early beginnings as a movie house and many of Indiana's great composers. Conducted by Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, *Opening Night Gala* takes place on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016.

Printing Partners Pops Series – Highlights

Now in his 17th season as the Principal Pops Conductor for the ISO, Maestro Jack Everly has programmed a blend of premieres, tributes and guest artists to round out the ever popular *Printing Partners Pops Series*. Highlights include:

- The world premiere of **The ISO and the Doo Wop Project**, a program that blends the "doo-wop" style with a full symphonic experience. The Doo Wop Project features five former members of Broadway's *Jersey Boys* and *Motown: The Musical* and perform everything from Frankie Valli and Smokey Robinson to Michael Jackson.
- The return of **Cirque de La Symphonie** –this time, set to the sounds of Broadway's greatest showpieces.
- The presentation of ***Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark Film + Orchestra***, just in time for the film's 35th anniversary.
- A return appearance by the Grammy Award-winning contemporary jazz trumpeter, **Chris Botti**.
- And, a weekend dedicated to the greatest music in science fiction films, including a tribute to the 50th anniversary of Star Trek in **Sci-Fi Spectacular!**

ISO Subscriptions – Free concerts with purchase

Subscriptions are the best way to experience the ISO, offering the greatest value and the most benefits. For the Lilly *Classical Series*, patrons who subscribe to the full 20-concert package will receive the equivalent of eight concerts for free; 14 concert subscribers will receive four free concerts; and eight-concert subscribers will receive one free concert.

For the *Printing Partners Pops Series*, patrons who subscribe to the eight-concert series receive one free concert.

ISO Subscriptions – on sale March 1

Patrons may renew current subscriptions or become a new subscriber beginning **Tuesday, March 1** 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 renewal is **Friday, April 22**.

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, *IPL Yuletide Celebration*, which sold out well in advance of opening night for the last three years. New subscriber benefits this season include discounted tickets to classical, pops and family concerts and an opportunity to purchase a pre-paid season parking pass to EZ Parking Garage, located at 20 N. Pennsylvania.

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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