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Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announces 2017-2018 season

Superstar soprano Renée Fleming to make her ISO Debut in Opening Gala

Distinguished roster of guest conductors and soloists to include Bramwell Tovey, Karina Canellakis, Gustavo Gimeno, Nikolaj Znaider, Thomas Hampson, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Joshua Bell, Augustin Hadelich, Kirill Gerstein, Garrick Ohlsson, Yefim Bronfman, Emanuel Ax and more

Printing Partners Pops Series to feature ISO Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly and stars of Broadway including Kelli O'Hara, Audra McDonald, Josh Kaufman and more

Music Director Krzysztof Urbański highlights ISO Concertmaster Zach De Pue and Principal Cello Austin Huntington in Brahms' Double Concerto

Rare opportunity to experience all five of Prokofiev's brilliant piano concertos performed by three renowned pianists in one weekend

Lilly Classical Series wraps with two-week festival taking an in-depth look at the music of Mozart's final year – from his haunting Requiem to a staged version of his light-hearted opera The Magic Flute

Special screening of 2017 Academy Award-nominated film La La Land, starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone and with the ISO performing the soundtrack

ISO to participate in SHIFT Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. in a performance that will include the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and Indianapolis Children's Choir

INDIANAPOLIS – The 88th season of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra brings extraordinary guest artists, a broad range of concert experiences, Hollywood blockbusters and more to the Hilbert Circle Theatre.

Music Director Krzysztof Urbański has curated a riveting array of performances for his seventh season with the Orchestra. From all five Prokofiev piano concertos (in one weekend!) and the ISO debut of lyric soprano Renée Fleming, to Tchaikovsky's beloved Fifth Symphony and the return of virtuoso violinist Joshua Bell, the 2017-2018 season has something for everyone.

“The talented musicians of the ISO and I have the privilege of sharing a wide variety of music week after week, deepening our audiences connections to that music, and encouraging new listeners to experience the orchestra,” said Krzysztof Urbański . “The 2017-18 season offers us many opportunities to build on this partnership with our audiences and take them on new musical journeys.”

“The 2017-18 season is an example of why the ISO is considered one of America’s most talented and flexible orchestras,” said Gary Ginstling, ISO Chief Executive Officer. “Along with Krzysztof’s imaginative programs, we are offering an extraordinary lineup of guest conductors and soloists, Jack Everly’s visionary Pops leadership, and a wide range of special concerts and events. This season demonstrates the ISO’s commitment to serving the broadest possible audience and ensuring the finest music-making in the Hilbert Circle Theatre.”

The culmination of the *Lilly Classical Series* is **Mozart’s Final Year**, continuing the ISO’s recent tradition of incorporating an engaging and enriching music festival into the season. Rather than skimming the surface of Mozart’s body of work, Maestro Urbański and the orchestra take a two-week deep dive into the composer’s last year. This unique approach explores the incredible music Mozart created shortly before his death at the age of 35.

The first week of the festival features the amazing Emanuel Ax playing the composer’s last piano concerto, along with Mozart’s *Requiem*, one of his most haunting works. After the success of the ISO’s first staged opera – Bizet’s *Carmen* – in 2016, the ISO will once again turn the Hilbert Circle Theatre into an opera house, concluding the festival and the season with Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*. Experience the drama, humor, and incredible arias of this iconic opera.

Two nights, three piano virtuosos, and five amazing works: the ISO welcomes some of the world’s greatest pianists in a rare opportunity to experience **all of Prokofiev’s piano concertos** in one weekend. In this once-in-a-lifetime musical experience, three guest soloists – Anna Vinnitskaya, Garrick Ohlsson, and Alon Goldstein – will bring all five Prokofiev concertos to the Hilbert Circle Theatre stage for what will certainly be one of the highlights of the season.

The ISO is one of only four orchestras invited to participate in the Kennedy Center’s **SHIFT Festival**. The festival is composed of weeklong mini-residencies; the ISO will present education events, symposia, and community events around Washington, D.C. In addition to showcasing the important education and community work the ISO offers central Indiana, the SHIFT Festival will present the ISO in a performance on April 13, 2018 that will feature the music of Krzysztof Urbański’s homeland through the works of two essential Polish composers: Witold Lutoslawski and Krzysztof Penderecki. The program, featuring Lutoslawski’s Cello Concerto with acclaimed cellist Alisa Weilerstein, and Penderecki’s monumental *Credo*, will also include the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and Indianapolis Children’s Choir. This performance at Kennedy Center provides a unique opportunity to showcase not only the ISO but the richness of the Indianapolis arts scene. Indianapolis audiences can preview the Kennedy Center program at a special *Bon Voyage* concert scheduled for April 11, 2018 at the Hilbert Circle Theatre.

The ISO is honored to welcome a host of new and returning guest artists including:

Debut Conductors

- Karina Canellakis
- Gustavo Gimeno
- Bramwell Tovey
- Nikolaj Znaider

Returning Conductors

- Andrey Boreyko
- Hans Graf
- Michael Francis
- Nicholas McGegan
- Jun Märkl
- Matthew Halls

Debut Artists

- Benjamin Beilman, violin*
- Renée Fleming, soprano
- Alon Goldstein, piano
- Jennifer Koh, violin*
- Orli Shaham, piano
- Javier Perianes, piano

**Classical Series Debut*

Returning Artists

- Emanuel Ax, piano
- Joshua Bell, violin
- Yefim Bronfman, piano
- Kirill Gerstein, piano
- Vadim Gluzman, violin
- Karen Gomyo, violin
- Augustin Hadelich, violin
- Thomas Hampson, baritone
- Jennifer Koh, violin
- Kelly O'Connor, mezzo-soprano
- Garrick Ohlsson, piano
- Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano
- Anna Vinnitskaya, piano
- Alisa Weilerstein, cello

Lilly Classical Series – Highlights

- Indianapolis favorite guest artists – conductor **Jun Märkl** and violinist **Joshua Bell** – join the ISO for music of Bruch and Schumann
- **Concertmaster Zach De Pue** and **Principal Cellist Austin Huntington** take center stage as soloists for Brahms' Double Concerto, conducted by Krzysztof Urbański
- Dazzling Mezzo Soprano **Kelley O'Connor** and incomparable Baritone **Thomas Hampson** join the ISO for Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*. This work was described by Mahler's protégé Bruno Walter, saying "Everything that moved him was there – nature, piety, longing, love, parting, night, the world of spirits..."
- Acclaimed violinist **Nikolaj Znaider** makes his conducting debut with the ISO, taking the podium for Elgar's Symphony No. 2. Piano sensation **Kirill Gerstein** also joins the ISO for Beethoven's *Emperor* piano concerto.
- Krzysztof Urbański leads the ISO for **Dvorák's Symphony No. 7** and Beethoven's third piano concerto, featuring the return of pianist **Yefim Bronfman**. This is Bronfman's first performance with the ISO in five years.
- Conductor **Matthew Halls** presents an intriguing program of Bach and Sibelius, and will lead the orchestra from the harpsichord.

- Up and coming conductor **Karina Canellakis** makes her ISO debut in a program featuring Rachmaninoff's lush Symphony No. 2
- The ISO presents Indy premiere of new co-commissioned work by award-winning composer **Andrew Norman**, his Violin Concerto featuring **Jennifer Koh**

Opening Night Gala

The ISO is proud to open the 2017-2018 season with a mega star: **Renée Fleming**. The great lyric soprano is making her ISO debut at the ISO's **Opening Night Gala**, presented by the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, on Saturday, September 23, 2017. With Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski at the podium, four-time Grammy winner Fleming will present an evening of music you won't want to miss.

Printing Partners Pops Series – Highlights

Maestro Jack Everly presents an exciting lineup for his 18th season as Principal Pops Conductor with the ISO. Our patrons will enjoy the best of Broadway, Hollywood, jazz, and more in the Printing Partners *Pops Series*. Highlights include:

- Tony Award winner Kelli O'Hara joins the ISO for an evening of favorites from **The Golden Age of Broadway: Rodgers & Hammerstein**, a tribute to one of Broadway's most influential songwriting duos.
- The popular Film + Orchestra program returns with the soaring John Williams score to **E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial**.
- Popular guest artist **Audra McDonald** returns to the Hilbert Circle Theatre for a program of her favorite show tunes, movie themes, and original works written especially for the Tony, Grammy, and Emmy-winning singer.
- Indiana's own winner of *The Voice*, **Josh Kaufman** makes his return to the ISO after hosting the 2016 IPL *Yuletide Celebration*.
- And, a tribute to Satchmo himself: trumpeter and vocalist **Byron Stripling** is featured in A Salute to Louis Armstrong.

Special Events

The ISO is one of the first orchestras to program the acclaimed blockbuster **La La Land**, which the ISO will screen with live orchestral underscore on Wednesday, September 13. *La La Land*, an Academy Award winner for best original score and best original song at this year's awards, is one of the first "first-run" films made available to orchestras, and one of the first full-fledged big studio musicals to be produced in many years.

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 19-concert package will receive the equivalent of seven concerts for free; the 14-concert package includes four free concerts; and the eight-concert package receives one free concert. For the Printing Partners

Pops Series, patrons who subscribe to the eight-concert series receive the equivalent of one free concert.

ISO Subscriptions – on sale February 27

Patrons may renew current subscriptions or become a new subscriber beginning **Monday, February 27** 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 28**.

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.

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