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LeVar Burton Joins the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in May

Actor/Director to narrate Aaron Copland's Lincoln Portrait with orchestra

April 25, 2017 – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announces the addition of an exciting celebrity guest to the finale of our 2016-2017 Printing Partners *Pops Series*; LeVar Burton joins the ISO for *An American Celebration!*

Burton is well-known to fans of many ages from his starring roles in *Roots*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Reading Rainbow*, and more. He will join the ISO as the narrator for *Lincoln Portrait*, an orchestral work by American composer Aaron Copland. The piece intertwines quotes from the letters and speeches of Abraham Lincoln with popular folk songs of Lincoln's time.

Composed in 1942, *Lincoln Portrait* has featured narrators of great significance with orchestras across the country. Astronaut Neil Armstrong narrated for the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra; Samuel L. Jackson performed with the Orchestra of St. Luke's; Walter Cronkite joined the U.S. Air Force Symphony Orchestra; and former President Barack Obama accompanied the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

"The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra is honored to have a cross-generational star join us for this powerful performance," said Senior Director of Pops and Presentations Ty Johnson. "We are fortunate to wrap the pops season on such a high note with an amazing weekend of patriotic favorites featuring a star narrator, LeVar Burton."

An American Celebration is conducted by Jack Everly, Principal Pops Conductor for the ISO and Music Director of the National Memorial Day Concert and *A Capitol Fourth* on PBS. The concert features patriotic favorites of George M. Cohan, John Philip Sousa, Irving Berlin, and more; concert dates are May 12 and May 13 at 8 p.m. in the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Tickets may be purchased online at IndianapolisSymphony.org or by calling the ISO Box Office at 317.639.4300. The ISO's Pops Series is made possible by title sponsor Printing Partners and premier sponsor Raymond James & Associates.

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