

Closing concert

By **Jessi Virtusio** Daily Southtown

May 27, 2015

- [Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#)

IPO music director: "It's really rare that an orchestra the size of IPO tackles a piece like Mahler 5."

Season finales often leave people wanting more.

That could be the case after Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's "Season Finale - Mahler 5" on May 30 at Frankfort's Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center.

"It's really rare that an orchestra the size of IPO tackles a piece like Mahler 5. It's not a piece that gets programmed so frequently," said IPO music director David Danzmayr of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

"It's a chance for people in the south suburbs, without a very long drive, to see one of the biggest and most wonderful pieces of music ever written right close to them," he said.

"It would be great to have as many people in the hall as possible for the season finale because we want to share the passion for music with people. It's going to be a great big event."

The concert also features Cynthia Yeh, principal percussionist for Chicago Symphony Orchestra, performing Anders Koppel's Concerto No. 1 for marimba. "She's a fantastic player and she's, of course, part of the Chicago community," said Danzmayr, an Austrian native who lives in Naperville.

The time-exploring John Cage's 4'33" is part of the finale for IPO, which is billed as the only Midwestern orchestra to perform a piece of American music at every concert.

"When I started here, I made this pledge," Danzmayr said. "For me, it was just important that American music is played. Of course it's a good thing."

IPO recently announced the search for a new music director since Danzmayr is in final negotiations to be music director of Croatia's Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra.

"It was very nice to be asked by a European orchestra so close to my home country, and where I often made holidays in, to become the new music director," said Danzmayr, who noted his role at IPO marked his first time leading an orchestra.

He will lead IPO's 2015-16 season. Guest conductors will appear for the 2016-17 concerts before the new music director takes over for the 2017-18 season.

"Change is something that is important nowadays. That has nothing to do with the relationship with Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra. We have an extremely good working relationship and are working hard to collaborate as much as possible," Danzmayr said.

"It's still very exciting. After some time, it's good to bring in some fresh blood and, for me, it's always good to look forward."

A tongue-in-cheek drama about Mahler at 7 p.m. in LWN's Choir Room is free with a paid concert ticket. IPO board member Charles Amenta, of Flossmoor, wrote "Settling the Score" starring his wife, Marie Grass Amenta, as Natalie Bauer-Lechner and Mary Jane Guymon, of Frankfort, as Alma Mahler.

Virtusio is a freelancer.

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra

When: 8 p.m. May 30

Where: Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center, 19900 S. Harlem Ave.,
Frankfort

Tickets: \$35, \$45 or \$55; \$5 for students with identification; free for Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210 students with ID

Information: 708-481-7774 or ipomusic.org

Etc.: "Season Finale - Mahler 5" features Chicago Symphony Orchestra principal percussionist Cynthia Yeh