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American Music, Collaborations, Project Trio Residency and Festival Highlight Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's 2014-15 Season

The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra today announced the concerts, projects, and initiatives comprising its 2014 – 15 Season. The Season will include a seven-concert subscription series at the Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center in Frankfort, a three-concert series at the magnificent Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, the return of its popular *IPO Presents* series, and a week-long residency featuring Project Trio. Music Director David Danzmayr will conduct all orchestral concerts, and delivering on his commitment to championing American music, the IPO will once again perform a piece of American music on every program it presents.

Orchestral Series at the Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center

The Season opens on Saturday, October 18, at 8pm with a program featuring American composer William Grant Still's *The American Scene "The East"*, Friedrich Gulda's piano concerto, *Concerto for Myself*, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. The soloist for this program will be **acclaimed Russian pianist, Lisa Smirnova, whose debut album of works by Handel was selected as the BBC's "Instrumental Choice" of the year in 2011.**

On Friday, November 14, at 8pm vocal music takes center stage in the program *Vocal Mastery: Getty, Schubert, and Strauss*. Featuring Bavarian **soprano Kathrin Danzmayr and bass-baritone David Govertsen**, formerly of the Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera, the program opens with **the Chicago premiere** of concert versions of the Overture and aria, *No My Good Lord*, from Gordon Getty's opera, *Plump Jack*. Following this, Ms. Danzmayr and Mr. Govertsen will alternate as soloists in songs for singer and orchestra by Strauss and Schubert, including selections from the little-known orchestral arrangements of Schubert's Lieder by German composer Max Reger. The second half of the program will feature Sibelius' Symphony No. 1.

Following the success of its *Magical Music of Disney* concerts last December, the IPO will again present music of the silver screen, this time in the program *Music from the Movies* on Saturday, December 20, at 8pm (and Sunday, December 21, at 3pm at the Rialto Square Theatre). Audiences will be entertained

with music from a smorgasbord of Hollywood favorites, including *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, and *Lord of the Rings*. A second performance of this program will launch the Orchestra's series at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet.

The IPO begins the new year on Saturday, January 17, at 8pm with a program that will showcase one of the fastest rising talents on the international concert circuit, **Bulgarian violinist, Bella Hristova**. Ms. Hristova, **recipient of the 2013 Avery Fisher Career Grant**, will perform Brahms' stirring Violin Concerto. The program begins with American composer Gabriela Lena Frank's *Elegia Andina* and concludes with Elgar's powerful *Enigma Variations*.

On Saturday, March 21, at 8pm (and Sunday, March 22, at 3pm at the Rialto Square Theatre) the IPO heralds the arrival of spring with an exuberant program – *Let the Music Move You!* - performed in collaboration with the **renowned Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center**. Led by trailblazing founder and artistic director, Homer Hans Bryant, young dancers from the Center will join the IPO on stage to perform new choreography from Mr. Bryant to two pieces of American music - John Adams' *The Chairman Dances* and Lee Actor's *Dance Rhapsody*. The second half of the program will feature Shostakovich's powerful Symphony No. 12.

In May, the IPO welcomes New York-based Project Trio to Chicago for a week-long residency. With tens of millions views of their YouTube videos, **genre-busting Project Trio** is quickly redefining what classical music can be. The residency culminates on Saturday, May 2, at 8pm (and Sunday, May 3, at 3pm at the Rialto Square Theatre), with the program *The Symphony Redefined and Refined*, during which Project Trio will perform a number of original compositions and arrangements of familiar classics with the IPO. The program begins with American composer Aaron Jay Kernis' transcendent *Musica Celestis* and concludes with Brahms' Symphony No. 3.

On Saturday, May 30, at 8pm the IPO concludes its season with a program featuring **Chicago Symphony Orchestra principal percussionist Cynthia Yeh**. Ms. Yeh will be soloist in Anders Koppel's Marimba Concerto No. 1. The program begins with John Cage's 4'33" and concludes with Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

IPO at the Rialto Square Theatre

The IPO continues its partnership with the Rialto Square Theatre for a second season. For this series, the Rialto will present the IPO in three 3pm Sunday matinee performances. Programs include *Music from the Movies* on December 21; *Let the Music Move You: A Collaboration with Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center* on March 22; *The Symphony Redefined and Refined* with Project Trio on May 3. Tickets for these concerts are available beginning June 13 at the Rialto box office, 102 N. Chicago St., Joliet, by calling 815-726-6600 or online at rialtosquare.com or ticketmaster.com.

IPO Presents

For its presenting series, the IPO will offer two multi-sensory and thought-provoking projects at the Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center.

The first, ***Cello + Chocolate: An Exploration of the Senses***, takes place on Saturday, February 7, at 8pm. In partnership with Chicago's premier chocolate maker, Vosges Haut Chocolat, and **cellist Joshua Roman**, the program will feature a recital of works for solo cello, each of which will be accompanied by a truffle hand-selected by Roman. Each ticket for this event includes admission to a pre-concert talk on chocolate tasting hosted by Vosges representatives, admission to the concert, and a box of the four truffles selected by Roman.

From Friday, April 10 – Sunday, April 12, the IPO presents ***Festival 2015: The Power of Music***, a dynamic weekend-long exploration of the many powers of music. The Festival opens on Friday evening with a screening of the new film *Following the Ninth: In the Footsteps of Beethoven's Final Symphony*, which explores the power Beethoven's final symphony has had in different social and political contexts around the globe. Saturday starts with a guest lecture on the use of music in mass media by University of Michigan musicologist Dr. Jason Geary and ends with an evening recital by the **celebrated Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Martinez** in collaboration with IPO principal musicians. The Festival concludes on Sunday afternoon with *Rising Stars* showcase, an educational event produced by the IPO's support group *Friends of the IPO* that will feature some of the most promising young musicians from across Chicago's Southland in concert.

Project Trio Residency

From Monday, April 27 – Sunday, May 3, the IPO will present a week-long community residency, featuring the **genre-busting, YouTube sensations, Project Trio**. With innovative programs and endless amounts of energy, the three musicians of Project Trio – flutist Greg Patillo, cellist Eric Stephenson, and bassist Peter Seymour – have taken the classical music world by storm. And for seven days, they will turn the Chicago Southland into one giant concert hall. Their residency will include serving as narrators and soloists on four education concerts, leading public workshops, master classes, and seminars in local schools, libraries, and community centers, and serving as soloists on the IPO's sixth subscription program.

Subscription packages for the Lincoln-Way North orchestra series are available now, with single tickets going on sale in mid-August. Single tickets for the Rialto Square Theatre go on sale June 13 at 9am through the Rialto. The season is generously sponsored by BMO Harris Bank, with additional support provided in part by Great Lakes Bank and Bimba.

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit ipomusic.org or call 708.481.7774.

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About the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra:

The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the finest orchestras in the Great Lakes region. Under the leadership of acclaimed Austrian Music Director, David Danzmayr, the orchestra has garnered critical acclaim for its compelling performances and for being the only orchestra in the Mid-West to perform a piece of American music on every concert it presents. The IPO is in residence at the Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center in Frankfort, and also presents performances at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet and the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park in downtown Chicago. More information on performances and events can be found at ipomusic.org.

The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is generously supported by Season Sponsor, BMO Harris Bank.

The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is a member of the League of American Orchestras and the Illinois Council of Orchestras.