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IPO Announces Hiring of New Executive Director

PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS : October 7, 2014

Coinciding with the opening of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's 37th season, the IPO Board of Directors is pleased to announce the hiring of new Executive Director Agnieszka ("Eska") Laskus.

Laskus will officially take the helm on October 27, 2014, but will attend both the Prelude Dinner and the Opening Night concert on Saturday, October 18.

"The board of directors is pleased that Eska is joining the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra," said board president Bill Donne. "We are confident that her musical and managerial background will serve our organization well."

Laskus, a League of American Orchestras Orchestra Management Fellow, comes to the IPO with a wealth of experiences. Currently, she serves as the Associate Director of Individual Giving for the Pacific Symphony in Santa Ana, California. Previously, Laskus served within multiple areas of orchestra operations for organizations like the Grant Park Music Festival, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Aspen Music Festival. In addition, she gained valuable marketing and administration experience through her time at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance and The Colburn School in Los Angeles, California. She also spent seven years as a professional violinist, first with the Arizona Opera and later with the Eugene Symphony.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be joining the IPO family and thrilled to get a chance to work alongside Maestro David Danzmayr and the board of directors. Right away, the IPO struck me as an artistically vibrant and exciting institution," Laskus shared.

Maestro Danzmayr echoed Laskus' enthusiasm. "It will be wonderful to partner with Eska, who I believe shares my passion for excellence," Danzmayr affirmed.

Tickets for the Prelude Dinner (benefiting the orchestra) and the Opening Night concert can be purchased online at ipomusic.org or by calling 708.481.7774. The Opening Night program includes William Grant Still's *The American Scene (The East)*, Gulda's "Concerto for Myself" for piano and orchestra with BBC award-winning artist Lisa Smirnova on piano and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. The performance begins at 8 p.m. at the Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center, 19900 S. Harlem Avenue in Frankfort. Concert tickets range from \$35-\$55. Student tickets are \$5 with ID. Prelude Dinner tickets (\$80 each) sold separately.

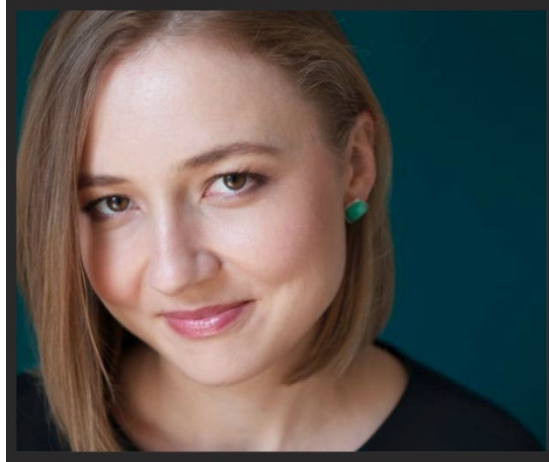


PHOTO CAPTION: Agnieszka ("Eska") Laskus officially takes the helm as Executive Director of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra on October 27, 2014.

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 praise for its compelling performances and for being the only orchestra in the Midwest 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 offers performances at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet. 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.