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**SUBJECT: IPO's 2017-18 Season Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary through the Brilliance of Leonard Bernstein on the 100th Anniversary of His Birth**

**PARK FOREST: February 25, 2017**

The 2017-18 season marks Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's 40th anniversary as a professional orchestra. With a new venue in place (Ozinga Chapel at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights), a new executive director (Christina Salerno), a new music director to be named later this spring and a 40 year history of making beautiful music, the IPO has a lot to celebrate.

Each program will open with a selection by the new music director. From there, programs include repertoire that honors the artistic programming brilliance of Leonard Bernstein on the 100th anniversary of his birth, as well as IPO patron favorites from the past 40 years.

Opening Night on October 14 features the IPO premiere of the Beethoven Triple Concerto, for which Bernstein himself served as pianist when he conducted the work with the New York Philharmonic. IPO's performance offers a unique group of soloists with the Hersh Trio, three generations of classical musicians (Alexander, cello; Stefan, violin; Paul, piano) who will perform this concerto together for the first time on the IPO stage. Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 also appears on this program, with a nod to the 500th anniversary of the Christian Reformation and the religious roots of IPO's new venue.

November 18 highlights Ozinga Chapel's gorgeous pipe organ and soloist David Schrader with Copland's Symphony for Organ and Orchestra. Schrader received accolades for being "a dashing, effusive performer, brimming with technique and capable of electrifying energy" by Charles Ward of the Houston Chronicle. Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 fills the second half. This work was a signature piece for Bernstein and one he conducted 36 times with the New York Philharmonic.

The December 16 concert will be a matinee titled: Holiday Pops Movie Music Spectacular. This program includes the best of the best holiday movie music for the young and young at heart including selections from White Christmas, The Polar Express, The Grinch and other seasonal favorites.

February 10 celebrates the season with an all Beethoven program including his Piano Concerto No. 1 with soloist Winston Choi, named Laureate of the 2003 Honens Piano Competition and winner of France's Concours International de Piano 20e siècle d'Orléans in 2002. Symphony No. 7 ends the evening and was the last piece that Bernstein ever conducted with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood.

On March 10, the IPO brings back an audience favorite with Bernstein's own Symphonic Dances from West Side Story. Rounding out the program is Symphony No. 2 by Sibelius, which is the most popular and most recorded of his symphonies. Bernstein successfully brought Sibelius back to the concert hall at a time when this composer's work was decreasing in popularity.

The April 14 Season Finale celebrates a stellar season with lieder selections from Mahler with a guest vocalist TBA, as well as audience favorite, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. Filled with musical fireworks, this masterwork will leave the audience breathless.

All five classical concerts take place at 7:30PM with the December 16 holiday matinee beginning at 3:00PM. All concerts will be held at Ozinga Chapel on the campus of Trinity Christian College, 6601 W. College Drive, Palos Heights, where there is ample and free parking. For a fee, subscribers can take advantage of a round trip shuttle bus leaving from downtown Flossmoor and offered for every concert at Ozinga Chapel in 2017-18.

Subscriptions are currently being taken with special offers in place for new subscribers. Single tickets will go on sale later this summer. To receive a season brochure, please contact the IPO office at 708.481.7774.

#### ABOUT THE ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The IPO is YOUR Orchestra in YOUR Community! Now in its 39th season, the IPO is the only professional orchestra in the Chicago Southland. The 2016-17 concerts will feature the top five Music Director candidates, as the IPO searches for a replacement for Maestro David Danzmayr who recently finished a 4-year tenure with the orchestra. The orchestra will hold concerts at Governors State University Center for Performing Arts, as well as Lincoln-Way East, Central and West.

The IPO also stands by its commitment to music education, reaching over 3,000 students with its annual Youth Concerts, as well as sending small ensembles into area schools through its Artists in the Schools program. Further, the IPO offers \$5 student tickets (with ID) to any student grade school through college.

For more information, visit [ipomusic.org](http://ipomusic.org).

PHOTO CAPTION: The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's 2017-18 40th Anniversary Season will be performed at Ozinga Chapel on the campus of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights.

(Photo courtesy of Trinity Christian College)



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