



For Immediate Release

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IPO begins 41 Years of Making Beautiful Music with an "American Originals" program featuring Violinist, Simone Porter.

PARK FOREST, September 18, 2018

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO) celebrates 41 years of bringing beautiful music to the Southland as it opens the 2018-19 season with the "American Originals" program on Saturday, October 20, 2017, at 5:30PM at Ozinga Chapel in Palos Heights. Maestro Stilian Kirov leads the orchestra for his second season with IPO. After the concert, the opening night festivities will continue with the Act II Opening Night Post-Concert Celebration Dinner at Midlothian Country Club.

"It's a great new beginning for the IPO and I am thrilled for us to continue building excitement and bringing inspiration to our audiences" says Kirov

"It is a program that includes some of our very favorite American tunes. We also welcome a brilliant young violinist - Simone Porter who is one of the top rising stars in the musical field today. From *American in Paris*, to the movie themes in Korngold's Violin Concerto, and the first premiere of our Composer-in-Residence Ben Ash this promises to be a fantastic beginning of the 18-19 season!"

IPO begins its 41st season celebrating with a red, white, and new opening night of American Originals program as part of the Southland Arts, Municipalities and Business Alliance's (SAMBA) *Made in America Festival*. The concert is IPO's nod to American classic Broadway and film scores, which is something people of all ages will enjoy.

Bernstein's *Candide* Overture and Gershwin's *American in Paris* pair with Korngold's Violin Concerto draws on movie themes from 1930s-era films scored by the composer. American violin prodigy, Simone Porter, who has debuted with the New

York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic over the past few years, will bring her passionate interpretation of the Concerto. Rounding out opening night will be the World Premiere of IPO's first Composer-in-Residence work, written by Ben Ash, winner of the 2018 inaugural composer competition, Classical Evolve. Opening night's community partners are Tall Grass Arts Association and SAMBA.

The night will continue to Midlothian Country Club for Act II Opening Night Post Concert Celebration Dinner beginning at 7:30pm. Tickets are sold for \$100. We welcome everyone to join us in the celebrating the beginning of another successful season of IPO.

Concert single tickets start at \$27 in advance. Student tickets are \$10, and group tickets are available with a minimum of seven patrons. Ticketing fees may apply. Great new subscriber rates of up to 40% off are still available for 3, 4, 5 or all 6 concert packages.

To order, or for more information, visit ipomusic.org or call 708.481.7774. Ozinga Chapel is located at 6601 W. College Drive on the campus of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights. The IPO Ozinga Chapel box office opens one hour before the performance on concert night.

ABOUT THE ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is celebrating its 41th Season in 2018-19. From its community orchestra roots in Park Forest, the 70-member orchestra has grown into a critically acclaimed professional regional orchestra.

Under the leadership of Music Director Stilian Kirov and Executive Director Christina Salerno, the mission of IPO is to provide concerts of compelling professional symphonic music, support music education, and expand audience awareness of musical excellence for the diverse communities of the greater Chicago region.

Beginning in the 2018-19 season, IPO will perform seven classical concerts at their new single venue, Ozinga Chapel at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights. In addition, the orchestra performs four educational youth concerts each year, serving over 4,000 students in the Chicago Southland and a summer chamber series, IPO @ Ravisloe Golf Club.

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is supported in part by: Bimba/IMI Precision Engineering, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

For more information, visit ipomusic.org or call 708.481.7774.

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