

## ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA WELCOMES ROOSEVELT GRIFFIN III Ed.D. TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Harvey Native and Award-Winning Music Educator Returns Home*

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**Park Forest, IL** – Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra recently welcomed Roosevelt Griffin III Ed. D. as the newest member of the IPO Board of Directors.

Born and raised in Harvey, IL and an accomplished musician himself, Griffin spent much of his early life playing bass guitar, trombone, and tuba and was recognized as the top high school tubist in the state of Illinois by his senior year. His talents earned him the principal tubist position with the Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra for multiple years. As a student, he was also a participant at the Birch Creek Orchestra Camp and was awarded a full scholarship to college to play with the Northern Illinois University Philharmonic Orchestra.

While at NIU, Griffin joined all the college’s top ensembles including Brass Quintet, Jazz Combo, Wind Ensemble, and the world-renowned NIU Jazz Ensemble, ultimately graduating with a B.M. in Tuba Performance. He would go on to work with some of the greatest musicians of our time.

“I served as production assistant for names such as Luciano Pavarotti and Diana Ross, and performed with others such as Jimmy Heath, Billy Preston, and Gerald Wilson. After years of performing and touring, I decided to take my experiences back to Harvey, hoping to make a difference in the community that gave me so much,” remarks Griffin.

“Throughout my 18 years in my hometown, I grew an understanding of the process of music education - an understanding that would allow my students to experience music in an impactful way and allow them to become examples for music programs throughout the country.”

Today, Griffin is an enthusiastic educator who is passionate about the development of communities through music education.

“I believe that music education, especially at primary and secondary schools when valued and supported, can truly transform the world. When students are presented with transformative experiences, they become transformed. They become the catalyst for true change. I have a unique set of skills and experiences that I plan to employ for many years to come, assisting with the unification and strengthening of humanity.”

In addition to his work with IPO, some of Griffin's other current affiliations include (but are not limited to): Jazz Council / NAFME (National Association for Music Education), Education Committee / Jazz Education Network, Director of Ensembles at Chicago Jazz Philharmonic's Jazz Academy and VanderCook College of Music's Dyett Chair for Jazz Studies, Diversity and Inclusion.

To learn more about Griffin's work, visit [www.rooseveltgriffin.com](http://www.rooseveltgriffin.com)

### **ABOUT ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

*IPO celebrates its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary season in 2022-23. Under the leadership of Music Director Stilian Kirov and Christina Salerno (2022 Illinois Council of Orchestras 'Executive Director of the Year'), the mission of IPO is to provide compelling professional symphonic music, support music education, and expand audience awareness of musical excellence for the diverse communities of the greater Chicago region.*

*During this milestone anniversary season, the three-time Illinois Council of Orchestras "Professional Orchestra of the Year" will perform several classical concerts at their home venue, Ozinga Chapel at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL. In addition, the orchestra performs a myriad of educational youth offerings each year via their educational arm - The Marilyn Tannebaum Educational Institute. IPO also performs an annual summer chamber series, IPO Summer @ Olympia Fields Country Club.*

*From its community orchestra roots in Park Forest, the 69-member orchestra has grown into a critically acclaimed professional regional orchestra. Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is supported in part by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation, Ozinga Foundation, the Walder Foundation, Gerhard Manufacturing and Design, Northern Trust, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. For more information, visit [ipomusic.org](http://ipomusic.org).*

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