



ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA RENAMES MUSIC DIRECTOR TITLE TO RECOGNIZE LONGTIME SUPPORTERS AND THEIR \$500K GIFT

Maestro Stilian Kirov to now bear the title of Gibb Music Director

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Park Forest, IL – Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO), three-time Illinois Council of Orchestras “Professional Orchestra of the Year,” has been making large strides in reaching its aggressive fundraising goal of \$5.1million for its Campaign For The Future endowment drive. Thanks to longtime IPO supporters Andrea and Richard Gibb, with the Gibb Family Trust, their cumulative \$500k gift is the largest gift to date. That brings the goal very much within reach, with now only the final \$300k left to raise.

In recognition of the Gibb’s generous contributions to the orchestra, IPO is renaming Maestro Kirov the “Gibb Music Director.” This title recognition will be in effect throughout Kirov’s tenure. In 2022, Kirov agreed to a four-year contract extension which keeps him on the IPO podium through the 2026/27 season.

The decision to recognize the Gibbs by naming the Music Director title is a natural choice for IPO. Even prior to this gift, Dick and Andrea have been supportive of IPO for decades. Dick has spearheaded a number of IPO partnerships with local corporations, even while Andrea has helped deepen music education partnerships across the south suburbs. Perhaps most importantly, the couple have been fierce supporters of Kirov since his audition and have built a lasting friendship with him since he took the baton for the 2017/18 season. Their incredible gift to the orchestra, encompassing \$300k in current contributions to the Campaign, and a \$200k bequest through the Encore Society, is one the organization felt compelled to memorialize.

Both IPO Life Directors, Andrea and Richard Gibb want not only to help secure IPO’s long-term financial stability but also to encourage others to help as well. They structured their gift such that a segment is contingent upon all active IPO Board members donating to the *Campaign For The Future*, and another segment is designated to encourage matching gifts. Thus, it is their hope that their gift will propel more giving to IPO.

IPO Executive Director Christina Salerno expressed profound gratitude for the Gibb’s continuing vision and leadership:



“Generous of their time, expertise, and spirit, Andrea and Dick are wonderful people and great advocates for IPO. Our orchestra is lucky to have them in our midst, even as we are incredibly grateful that their trust in this organization, and the music we share with our community, has been solidified through this incredible six-figure gift to IPO’s Campaign for the Future. We are humbled and touched to celebrate their gifts through the naming of Stilian Kirov as the “Gibb Music Director.”

Dick Gibb was eager to let others know why the couple chose to support IPO, stating:

“Music enriches our lives, contributes significantly to the development of youth, and provides wonderful opportunities to develop friendships with like-minded people. In our community, the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is the premier source of classical music. We enjoy the professionalism of our players, appreciate the expertise of our Staff, and take pride in our Board of Directors and their historical selection of truly talented music directors. Our current Music Director, Stilian Kirov, continues leadership critical to the continued success of the IPO. Andrea and I are pleased to support Maestro Kirov’s involvement in guiding the IPO to remain an important part of our lives and the quality of life in the southern suburbs.”

ABOUT IPO’S CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE

Launched on March 7th, 2020, unknowingly just days ahead of the world-gripping Coronavirus shutdown, IPO’s *Campaign for The Future* started with a \$3 million seed donation in 2018 by The Davee Foundation, creating IPO’s first ever endowment. Looking to build upon that transformational gift, IPO’s Executive Director Christina Salerno and the Board of Directors developed the *Campaign for the Future* initiative.

Since taking the helm in 2017, Salerno and Maestro Kirov have catapulted IPO to heights never imagined prior to their arrival. Fostering a new direction, the duo has drawn new, younger, and more diverse audiences and fostered an environment where IPO is seen as an integral partner of Chicago’s south and southwest suburbs. Thanks to their combined vision and the respect Kirov commands within the orchestral world, IPO has grown to earn a seat at the table on a national level. Examples of this include the high grade of guest artists traveling across the globe to perform with IPO, and this season securing the honor to preview a new Wynton Marsalis Concerto before its premiere with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

ABOUT ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

IPO will perform its 46th season in 2023/24. Under the leadership of Gibb Music Director Stilian Kirov and Executive Director Christina Salerno, 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 the 2023/24 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 Youth Music Education Institute. IPO also performs an annual summer chamber series, IPO Summer @ Olympia Fields Country Club, and various community events throughout the year.

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.

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