

UPCOMING IPO PERFORMANCES

NOV
18
7:30PM



PIAZZOLLA & MOZART

Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*
Azusa Tashiro, *Violin*,
IPO Concertmaster

HUỖNH

(IPO Composer-in-Residence)
World Premiere

PIAZZOLLA

The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

MOZART

Gran Partita

DEC
9
3PM

HOLIDAY CONCERT IPO HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

A Celebration of
Voice & Music

presented by



Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*
Chicago Community Chorus,
Dr. Keith Hampton,
Artistic Director/Founder

IPOMUSIC.ORG // 708.481.7774

Programs and artists subject to change

OCTOBER 14, 2023

IPO

ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Stilian Kirov, *Gibb Music Director*

**2023/24
SEASON**



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Check Out IPO proudly sponsored by



Dear Friends of the IPO,

Our 46th season is upon us, and I cannot wait to embark on another exciting musical journey filled with great music. Our orchestra continues its mission to bring outstanding concerts to our audiences with works by great composers of the past, but we also bring you new discoveries we hope you will all find very exciting.

This season, we have exceptional, world-class guest artists; world-premieres; plenty of music from all different parts of the world; and from composers of diverse backgrounds.

I am so proud of our IPO team and what we have accomplished over the past few years. The orchestra is gaining national and international recognition due to our exceptional programming and performances. Here's to a great 2023–24 Season and thank you so much for being part of Illinois Philharmonic's musical family.

Sincerely,
Stilian Kirov, IPO Gibb Music Director



Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra

The Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra is a non-profit group which aims to provide quality string opportunities in Chicago's south and southwest suburbs.

We have two string orchestras, as well as beginner violin programs in Richton Park, Palos Park, Glenwood, and Crete.

visit our website for more information
www.suburbanyouthsymphony.org



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Welcome to the IPO's 46th Season as a professional orchestra. We have grown up! Long-time concert attendees have seen the IPO mature by expanding repertoire. We have included more works by American composers, featured young emerging composers through our *Classical Evolve* program, and in recent seasons, presented more diverse programming with works by women and Black composers.

The IPO's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion efforts have introduced not only our audience but even our illustrious music director to previously unfamiliar, fabulous orchestral music! While enjoying this addition to our programming, we continue to be committed to playing the classical works our audiences have always loved.

This season begins with a celebration of Music from the Americas, both North and South, and continues with the premiere of the Concerto for Orchestra by Wynton Marsalis and a new commission by Arlene Sierra, part of the Virginia Toulmin Orchestral Commission Program for women composers.

Through the Marilyn Tannebaum Youth Music Education Institute, IPO is having an increasingly large impact on the lives of young people in the South Suburbs. As President of the IPO Board, I am very excited to be part of all we are doing and happy you are here to enjoy it with me.

Sincerely,
Barbara Sturges, IPO Board President



Letter from Trinity Christian College

Welcome to Trinity Christian College! I am delighted that you are here and that the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra calls the Ozinga Chapel at Trinity its concert home. Trinity is a Christian liberal arts college dedicated to preparing students for lives of purpose in their chosen vocation.

At Trinity, we care deeply about greater access to transformative education in the greater Chicago area and beyond. Our community is pursuing an ongoing project which aims 1) to make higher education finances more transparent and more accessible to all people, 2) to create space in the week to allow students the ability to work towards debt-free education, and 3) to build meaningful relationships with businesses and organizations in the surrounding areas with which we can build mutual partnerships.

We are actively creating a wide-reaching web of partners with which our students can receive paid internships and jobs while gaining valuable off-campus experience. Conversely, employers will be able to fill vacant positions and build rapport with younger workers who are eager to learn.

If you are interested in learning more about this transformational approach, please email president@trnty.edu. We would be honored to explore partnership with you. Trinity graduates can be found throughout the world in nearly every discipline—all faithfully serving their organizations and their communities.

We invite you to walk around campus and meet members of our community. I would also encourage you to peruse Trinity's website at trnty.edu for more information about our mission.

Again, welcome to Trinity for this IPO concert!

Aaron J. Kuecker, Ph.D.
President
Trinity Christian College

HISTORY OF IPO

Now in our 46th Anniversary Season, the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO) is a leading performing arts organization in Chicago's Southland, providing professional orchestral music of beauty and excellence to the region. IPO's repertoire ranges from Baroque and Classical masterpieces to world premieres and modern favorites.

During our exciting 46th season, IPO will perform five Saturday evening classical concerts and two Saturday matinee performances, one being *IPO Holiday Festival: A Celebration of Voice & Music*, our annual holiday concert in December. All season concerts are held at Ozinga Chapel at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights. IPO will also present its sixth season of *IPO Summer @ Olympia Fields Country Club*, a series of IPO musician chamber music performances in Olympia Fields, Illinois.

IPO's history dates back to 1954. Then known as the Park Forest Orchestra, it was formed at the community level with volunteer musicians. In 1978, the orchestra was reformed into a professional chamber orchestra performing in Park Forest. In 1982, the orchestra was renamed to reflect its regional mission. Instrumental to IPO's growing success was the naming of Carmon DeLeone as Music Director in 1986. During DeLeone's 25-year tenure, IPO expanded its Artists-in-the-Schools Education Program to include interactive Youth Concerts. In the 1990s, IPO performed in residence at the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University in University Park. In 2008, the orchestra began a new residency at the Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center in Frankfort, a regionally centralized location. Maestro

DeLeone became Conductor Laureate of the IPO in 2011. After an international search process, IPO appointed David Danzmayr as Music Director, serving from 2012–2016 and expanding IPO's programming to include an American work on every program. In 2017, following a search that attracted over 170 applicants from around the world, IPO's Board of Directors announced the hiring of Stilian Kirov as Music Director beginning with the 40th Anniversary Season. Kirov has expanded IPO's repertoire and developed *Classical Evolve*, the company's first Composer-in-Residence Competition.

IPO has a 46-year track record of expertly managing concerts and youth programming. Leadership, both Executive and Artistic, is bringing new vitality to the organization with an eye towards future programming growth, increased community partnerships, and strengthening the orchestra's fiscal foundation. In 2019, the orchestra unveiled an institutional commitment to address equity, diversity, and inclusion. IPO is led by a 28-member Board of Directors focused upon aligning the organization's goals to the needs of the Chicago Southland. IPO believes in the power of high-quality music and music education to transform lives.

IPO's Board of Directors and Senior staff are dedicated to utilizing their talents, connections and skillsets to broaden the quality of life in and around Chicago's Southland to include a vast array of musical offerings.

Named "Illinois Professional Orchestra of the Year" by the Illinois Council of Orchestras in 1991, 2010 and again in 2020, recognizing IPO's overall artistic excellence.

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VENUE

Ozinga Chapel at
Trinity Christian College
6601 W. College Drive
Palos Heights, IL

NEW TO IPO? YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING ...

How long will the concert run?

- Approximately 2 hours including one intermission.

How long is the intermission?

- About twenty minutes. A bell will ring shortly before the end of intermission.

When do I clap?

- Beginning of the concert when the concertmaster (the lead violinist) enters to tune the orchestra and again when the conductor and any soloists come onstage.
- There may be a brief pause between the movements, but people usually reserve their applause until after the final movement of each piece; however, this practice is a fairly modern convention, and IPO welcomes applause when you are so moved.
- At the end of the work, the conductor will lower the baton all the way, signaling that the piece is over. At that point, applause is most welcome.

WELCOME TO IPO! LET'S HAVE A GREAT NIGHT!

IPO is thrilled to have you join us in the concert hall tonight! In order to provide the best concert experience for our guests and musicians, we request the following:

Please

- Silence your cell phones
- No flash photography, concert recording or talking during the performance
- Refrain from bringing food or drink into the concert hall

Sit back, relax and enjoy the performance!

ARE YOU AN IPO REGULAR? WELCOME BACK!

Feel free to welcome any new faces to the orchestra!



MORE QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

MEET THE MUSICIAN



**KAMEN VATCHEV,
VIOLIN**

How long have you been playing music?

I started when I was about six years old. My older brother was

already playing the violin, and I wanted to be busy like him and avoid putting away the toys or do other chores while he was practicing. Little did I know that the violin would keep me busy for the rest of my life.

What instruments do you play, other than what you play in IPO?

I played piano for about seven years. It was obligatory and part of our curriculum. I got pretty advanced, but at some point, I had to choose between that and the violin. From time to time, I also strum the guitar.

How gratifying is it to be able to have a career as a professional musician?

What keeps us spending countless hours learning and improving our craft, playing and teaching, is the thought that we are making a difference in people's lives and opening the eyes and hearts of kids and adults to the beauty and richness of the music.

Who has been the most significant influence on your musical career?

My father. He had a beautiful voice, loved to sing and even played the violin, when he was young. He started me on the violin, didn't let me quit during tough times, and cherished every success in my early musical career.

What is your favorite thing about IPO?

The genuine care and support we receive from our board, management, and audience

Please share one of your favorite IPO memories.

The annual potluck, when we get to enjoy homemade food and socialize with our fellow musicians and supporters from the board

Do you perform outside of IPO and if so, where?

I perform regularly with Northwest Indiana Symphony, South Shore Orchestra, Chicago Opera Theater. Occasionally and over the years, I have performed with most orchestras and groups in Chicagoland.

Tell us some more about yourself

(outside interests, family, etc.) I live with my wife and a cat in Munster, IN. Our son is a computer science student at Purdue University. As a musician, I don't have much free time, but when I do, I love traveling and visiting friends.



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Kate Lano
Linda Lager
Carmen Abelson
Kristen Wiersum
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Tamara Glassburg

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Matthew Barwegen,
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BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



DON RANSFORD

What kind of musical background do you have—as a musician or as a lover of music—starting from when you

were in school? I have no official musical background, I never played; however, music was instrumental growing up. Jazz was the soundtrack of my youth.

What initially drew you to IPO? Pat & I had dear friends who were already involved in IPO. Their passion inspired us to get involved. What a wonderful blessing it has been.

How / why did you join the Board? I was concerned about the future of classical music & wanted to ensure we could attain audience growth and community relevancy.

How has your Board experience been? Outstanding! I enjoy the leadership and the focus of the board's commitment to excellence all while having a great time. It's very inspiring!

What are some things you enjoy about IPO both personally and what you enjoy that IPO brings to the community?

Friendship, social gatherings and community involvement are the first thoughts that come to mind. I enjoy celebrating classical music with others and the opportunity to educate the community about how accessible classical music really can be. We also love bringing classical music to the schools and seeing the excitement in the children's eyes as they experience the music.

Tell us a little about your profession.

Professionally retired! I now focus my time volunteering on multiple community services and fundraising events. I enjoy traveling, seeing family and loving life!

Are you a native of the south suburbs? If so—where did you grow up? If not—when and why did you come to the south suburbs? I grew up on Chicago's South Side. My family moved to Park Forest in 1950.

Tell us about your family – kids, grandkids, pets, etc. We have three kids: 2 sons and 1 daughter; three grand daughters and three grandsons; and, one amazing grandpup, Satchmo.

**SOUTHLAND
ARTS**



For more information please contact Jeff Stevenson at jstevenson@govst.edu

IPO is a proud member of Southland Arts

Southland Arts, is an economic and community development organization. Its mission is to build stronger communities, neighborhoods, and economies by uniting wide-ranging cultural resources with an expanding business community to enrich the lives of the diverse population of Chicago's southern suburbs.

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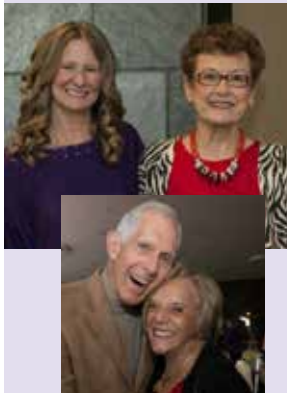
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of the
IPO

"I joined the Friends of the IPO because of the unique opportunity to support the orchestra and its mission to bring music to young people and to the Southland community. Membership in the Friends connects us with others who share our love of music and enjoy creating special programs and events in partnership with the orchestra." – Pamela McDonald



The Friends of the IPO is a dedicated group of extraordinary volunteers committed to sustaining IPO—the only professional orchestra based in the Chicago Southland. In addition to fundraisers and other social and community events, we showcase young South Suburban musicians in our Rising Star Showcase each spring, host an annual Symphony of Style fall fashion show and luncheon, and provide hospitality for the orchestra throughout the season. Individual membership is \$30, and a Family membership is \$45 annually. For more information about Friends of the IPO, call (708) 481-7774.

Thank you so much to the Friends of IPO for all of your support!

Come Alive!
IN PALOS HEIGHTS



Welcome to Palos Heights!

On behalf of the City of Palos Heights, I want to thank you for your support of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra and welcome you to the beautiful Ozinga Chapel on the campus of Trinity Christian College.

While you are here, I hope you will explore all that our city has to offer. From the peace and serenity of Lake Katherine to our many outstanding retail shops and restaurants, there are many ways to experience all the amenities and come alive in Palos Heights.

Finally, I want to thank the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra for enhancing our commitment to the arts by bringing live classical music to our community. I know you will enjoy the concert and I hope you will visit us again soon.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Straz

Robert S. Straz
Mayor



www.palosheights.org

ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

OCTOBER 14, 2023 | 5:30 P.M.

Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*
Stella Chen, *Violin*

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <i>Danzon No. 2</i> | Arturo Márquez (b. 1950) |
| Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 14 | Samuel Barber (1910–1981) |
| I. Allegro moderato | |
| II. Andante | |
| III. Presto in moto perpetuo | |

INTERMISSION

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <i>Solaris</i> for Violin and Orchestra <i>World Premiere</i> | Jon Cziner (b. 1991) |
| <i>Estancia: Four Dances</i> , op. 8a | Alberto Ginastera (1916–1983) |
| I. <i>Los trabajadores agrícolas (The Land Workers)</i> | |
| II. <i>Danza del trigo (Wheat Dance)</i> | |
| III. <i>Los peones de hacienda (The Cattlemen)</i> | |
| IV. <i>Danza final (Malambo – Final Dance)</i> | |

Programs and artists subject to change

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This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

STILIAN KIROV, GIBB MUSIC DIRECTOR



Now in his seventh season as the newly retitled Gibb Music Director of Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO), Maestro **STILIAN KIROV** led IPO to being named the 2020 Orchestra of the Year by the Illinois League of Orchestras. The year prior, he was awarded the 2019 Career Assistance Award of the Solti Foundation U.S., the fourth time he received the award of the foundation. In addition, Kirov was awarded first prize at the “Debut Berlin” Concert Competition and made his debut in June 2017 with the German National Orchestra at Berlin Philharmonic Hall. In his work with IPO, Kirov has established IPO’s Composer-in-Residence competition, *Classical Evolve*, and he has enhanced the performance repertoire of IPO.

In 2022, Maestro Kirov signed a contract extension with IPO, ultimately keeping him on the IPO podium through the 2026/27 season, bringing his total time with IPO at that point to ten years. This new contract marks the second time IPO has renewed Kirov.

Along with serving as IPO Gibb Music Director, Maestro Kirov is the Music Director of the Bakersfield Symphony in California. A dynamic artistic director and an enthusiastic educator and community leader, Kirov continues to build upon his previous successes as Associate Conductor of the Seattle Symphony, Associate Conductor of the Memphis Symphony, and Music Director of Symphony in C.

Worldwide, Mr. Kirov has appeared with the Minas Gerais Philharmonic, Leopold Chamber Orchestra/ Ukraine, Orchestra

continued page 20

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American violinist **STELLA CHEN** garnered worldwide attention with her first-prize win at the 2019 Queen Elizabeth International Violin Competition, followed by the 2020 Avery Fisher Career Grant and 2020 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award.

Since then, Stella has appeared across North America, Europe, and Asia in concerto, recital, and chamber music performances. She recently made debuts with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Baltimore Symphony, Belgian National Orchestra, and many others and appeared at the Vienna Musikverein and Berlin Philharmonie. In recital, recent appearances include Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Phillips Collection, Rockport Music Festival, and Nume Festival in Italy. She appears frequently with

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center both in New York and on tour.

Stella has appeared as a chamber musician in festivals including the Ravinia, Seattle Chamber Music, Perlman Music Program, Music@Menlo, Bridgehampton, Rockport, Kronberg Academy, and Sarasota. Chamber music partners include Itzhak Perlman, James Ehnes, and Matthew Lipman.

She is the inaugural recipient of the Robert Levin Award from Harvard University, where she was inspired by Robert Levin himself. Teachers and mentors have included Donald Weilerstein, Itzhak Perlman, Miriam Fried, and Catherine Cho. She received her doctorate from the Juilliard School where she serves as teaching assistant to her longtime mentor Li Lin.

Stella plays the 1700 ex-Petri Stradivarius, on generous loan from Dr. Ryuji Ueno and Rare Violins In Consortium, Artists and Benefactors Collaborative and the 1708 Huggins Stradivarius courtesy of the Nippon Foundation.

STILIAN KIROV, MUSIC DIRECTOR *continued*

of Colors/Athens, Orchestre Colonne/Paris, Sofia Festival Orchestra, State Hermitage Orchestra/St. Petersburg, Thüringen Philharmonic Orchestra, the Zagreb Philharmonic, the Musical Olympus International Festival in St. Petersburg, and the Victoria Symphony/British Columbia.

Highlights of Mr. Kirov's 2017/2018 and 2016/2017 seasons included guest performances with the symphonies of



Read more about Stilian Kirov on page 25 of our digital program

Danzón No. 2 **ARTURO MÁRQUEZ**

In the struggle for success in life, it is good to have a champion (or two) for one's cause. This is especially true for the composer of classical music. The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is doing its part in championing young composers, and we will have a fine example of this tonight with the World Premiere performance of Jonathan Cziner's *Solaris* which was commissioned on the basis of his very successful stint as Composer-in-Residence here last season.



Violin Concerto **SAMUEL BARBER**

The origin of the composition of the Barber Violin Concerto has an unusual tale associated with it. It is gossipy, even snarky, and essentially fanciful or exaggerated. In its bare outlines the story goes like this: To promote his budding career as a violinist, the adopted son of a wealthy businessman commissioned fellow Curtis Institute graduate Samuel Barber to compose a violin concerto for his debut. The student didn't admire the quality of the Concerto, whose first two movements had been completed, especially as it didn't allow for virtuosic display. Barber protested and as a result, some sort of jury of faculty members of the Curtis Institute was convened to assess the Concerto as performed by another one of the Institute's students. They found that the Concerto was of high quality and that the objections of the commissioning violinist were so egregious that he should relinquish his claim to perform the premiere. The story often continues with the tale that Barber then, almost as a spiteful riposte, composed a finale to the concerto that was

so virtuosic that the commissioning violinist didn't have the technique to perform it, so he not only relinquished the premiere, but never performed the piece that had been commissioned for him.



Solaris for Violin and Orchestra **JONATHAN CZINER**

I've always had a bit of an infatuation with the cosmos. Over the last few years, I've composed pieces which take various elements of the heavens as inspiration (including my first symphony, *Celestial Symphony*, which the IPO premiered in November of 2022). *Solaris*, which in Latin means "of the sun," was composed for my friend Stella Chen, whose name in Latin means "star." Rather than a full length concerto, I wanted to write a piece that highlights her dynamic and versatile abilities as a violinist, as well as her intelligence and bubbly personality.



Estancia, Four Dances op. 8a **ALBERTO GINASTERA**

Is there a natural human urge to divide the works of great composers into three stages ("youth," "middle," and "late")? Though there is considerable controversy as to the appropriateness of the Beethovenian stages of "Classical," "Heroic," and "Late" (one early biographer who couldn't appreciate the last works termed this final stage as "Decadent"), one thing is certain: Beethoven, himself, didn't sort his works into those or any such terms.



Read more about each of these works on page 27 of our digital program



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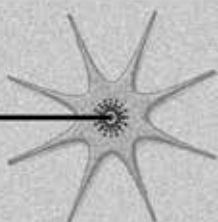
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