

ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AWARDS TRISH HALPIN 2024 LEO MICHUDA IPO AWARD FOR LIFETIME SERVICE

Longtime IPO Stalwart Recognized for Her Decades of Dedication



PARK FOREST, IL (April 15th, 2024) - Before the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra took the stage for a full concert of Mozart, Bologne and Haydn on April 13th, 2024, the organization honored their longtime employee Trish Halpin with the 2024 Leo Michuda IPO Award for Lifetime Service.

One of the highest honors IPO can bestow upon an individual, the qualifications for the Michuda Award include Excellence in Leadership, the Securing of Resources vital to the success of IPO, and the Application of Extraordinary Efforts to enhance the image or promote the artistic mission of IPO in the greater Chicago metropolitan area.

“Trish Halpin has been the backbone of IPO for nearly 20 years,” exudes IPO Executive Director Christina Salerno. *“Her exuberance for the orchestra has kept things running smoothly behind the scenes, allowing fantastic performances to flourish on the stage. Leo Michuda and his family have given so much to the orchestra - talent, time, resources, encouragement - and it is extremely fitting that Trish receive this award for her lifetime service to IPO in Leo's extraordinary memory.”*

Halpin first became associated with IPO in August of 2005 when IPO's then Director of Education Programs Amy Hemingway needed help with a project, so she invited a friend to assist her. Trish Halpin was that friend.

Trish continued working at IPO past that initial project, albeit very part time as she could only work a few hours a week. It wasn't long until even as a part time employee, she began taking on more responsibilities over the next few seasons.

At the time, IPO performed at Governors State University and worked with GSU to execute box office duties. As subscriptions came into the IPO office, Trish would inform GSU who would then print the tickets. Trish would pick up the tickets and bring them to the IPO office to mail out to the patrons. Additionally, tickets for IPO's Sunday Matinée performances at the Lincoln Way High Schools were purchased through a different ticket vendor but also had to be sorted and mailed out by Trish.

Over time, Trish shifted to full time and became the official IPO Box Office Manager. Together with then Executive Director Ed Feingold, the pair struck an Agreement with TicketSage to develop IPO's own, in-house Box Office. She soon added IPO Office Manager duties to her repertoire, maintaining office supply

levels and keeping the office organized and running efficiently. When Christina Salerno took over as Executive Director in 2017, Halpin took over accounts receivables and accounts payable.

“I do a variety of things,” says Halpin, “but my favorite is talking to our patrons. I see myself as the first line of contact for whomever calls the office or stops in. It is important to have a positive attitude and keep smiling. When you smile, people can hear it in your voice!”

Having grown up in Oak Park, IL, Trish and her husband Patrick currently reside in Olympia Fields where they raised their three daughters Colleen, Katie and Mary.

“I truly love IPO and everyone who has been part of it with me; both the patrons and staff that surround me today as well as so many of those that have come and gone. To be named the recipient of such a prestigious award, I am beyond humbled and honored. Although I do have to say, I find it very strange to be awarded for something that I love to do!”

ABOUT THE LEO MICHUDA IPO AWARD FOR LIFETIME SERVICE:

Leo Michuda was an Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra benefactor, board member, and 30-year member of the violin section. He was the proud patriarch, along with his wife Anne, of a family dedicated to the musical performing arts and hosted many benefits and receptions for the IPO family in their beautiful home, the “Villa di Musica.” After Leo’s death in 2014, the IPO Board of Directors created this award to honor his memory and those who showed similar sustained, outstanding contributions and exemplary service to the orchestra.

ABOUT ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The 2023/24 concert season marks the 46th for Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, the three-time Illinois Council of Orchestras “Professional Orchestra of the Year.” 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, IPO 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.

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, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. For more information, visit ipomusic.org.

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