



IPO RETURNS FROM MID-SEASON BREAK WITH *STAR WARS AND MORE*

Concert to feature the works of legendary composer John Williams as well as homecoming performance by guest artist, world-renowned violist Matthew Lipman

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Palos Heights, IL – Though it may have been composed in a galaxy far, far away, the music of world-renowned composer **John Williams** will be performed live much closer to home on **Saturday, February 22nd, 2025, at 7:30pm.**

Led by IPO Gibb Music Director **Stilian Kirov**, **Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra** (IPO) returns to the concert stage for their first concert of the new year at their regular concert home, the stunning 1,100 seat Ozinga Chapel performance auditorium on the grounds of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights.

Among the pieces to be performed at this exhilarating concert are Williams' *Centennial Overture*, his Concerto for Viola and Orchestra, and the intergalactic favorite, *Star Wars Suite*.

An equally exciting highlight to the evening's program will be the homecoming of guest artist and world-renowned violist, **Matthew Lipman**. A native of Crete, IL and a product of the Frankfort, IL based Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO), Lipman is revered as one of the new young stars of the orchestral world, having performed with Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe at the Rheingau Music Festival, and the American Symphony Orchestra at Jazz at Lincoln Center, with additional appearances including the Munich Symphony Orchestra and the Minnesota Orchestra.

In 2023, Lipman performed chamber music by **André Previn** with violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter** at **Carnegie Hall**, and on tour at the Berlin Philharmonie, Frankfurt Alte Oper, and the Vienna Musikverein, the latter of which was recorded and released on Deutsche Grammophon and DG STAGE+.

Lipman's last appeared with IPO in April of 2023 to a sold-out concert hall to play in honor of his late instructor, longtime IPO musician **Matthew Mantell**.

In addition to the concert, there are a handful of preconcert festivities as well. Chicago Arts and Music Project Executive Director **Lindsay Frederickson** will join **Matthew Lipman** for a free Pre-Concert lecture in the concert hall at 6:30pm discussing the music of John Williams. The lecture will also feature an audience Q&A session. Following the lecture will be a free



performance in the Grand Lobby performed by the **Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO)** and presented by the Marilyn Tannebaum Youth Music Education Institute. Both the lecture and the Grand Lobby performance are free to those with a concert ticket.

Note: The concert will feature live music only. The *Star Wars* motion picture will not accompany the performance.

Concert tickets start at just \$25 and are available at IPOmusic.org. \$15 Student Tickets are available for any school age student, grade school through college.

**Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra invites members of the press and a guest to attend
Star Wars and More on Saturday, February 22nd at 7:30 p.m.**

Please RSVP to Ken Churilla by Wednesday, February 19th at kchurilla@ipomusic.org

ABOUT ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The 2024/25 concert season marks the 47th 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 utilize the universal expression of music to create profound, inspiring, and personal connections between the people and communities of Chicago's Southland..

During the 2024/25 season, IPO will perform several classical concerts at their home venue, the state-of-the-art, 1,100 seat Ozinga Chapel at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL, while building a new partnership with the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University for one concert. In addition to live orchestral concerts, IPO presents a myriad of educational youth offerings each year via its 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 American Music Project, the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University, Ozinga Foundation, Gerhard Manufacturing and Design, Cook County Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, Michuda Construction, and the Illinois Arts Council. For more information, visit ipomusic.org.

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