



ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 2025/26 SEASON

*2025/26 season presents a sterling mix of popular favorites,
classical masterpieces, and seven IPO Premieres
for its 48th season*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Park Forest, IL – Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of Gibb Music Director **Stilian Kirov**, proudly announces its 2025/26 season of seven concerts. With something for everyone, from the symphonic novice to the most well-traveled orchestral fan, IPO is excited that the 2025/26 season will create profound, inspiring, and personal connections between the people and communities of Chicago’s Southland.

All but one of the season’s concerts will take place at the state of the art, 1,100 seat Ozinga Chapel performance venue on the campus of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL. *NIGHT MOVES: The Planets, E.T. and Star Trek* will take place at the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University in University Park, IL.

“IPO’s 48th Season is a celebration of orchestral music,” exudes **Christina Salerno**, Executive Director of IPO. “Some of the most memorable and recognizable works - including **Beethoven’s** 5th Symphony with its four famous first notes and the *Harry Potter* theme with its ethereal, magical invitation to listen more closely - will be featured alongside newer masterworks by **Joan Tower** and **Jessie Montgomery**.

“Art is life. Art is a reflection of life. And here at IPO, we welcome anyone curious and *everyone* looking for inspiration and fun to join us during our 2025-26 musical journey.”

Along with live full-orchestral concerts, IPO initiates a wide-variety of youth educational programs. In total, IPO reaches over 13,000 individuals in and around the Chicago Southland, more than 3,000 of whom participate in IPO Marilyn Tannebaum Youth Music Education Institute opportunities including *Meet the Maestro, Artists in Schools, Pre-concert Performances*, and more. IPO also performs an annual five concert summer chamber series, *IPO Summer @ Olympia Fields Country Club*.

2025/26 Season Subscriptions are on sale now with new subscribers receiving 40% off the regular ticket prices. In addition to monetary savings, season subscribers enjoy a variety of

benefits including a Free Bring-A-Friend Voucher, Complimentary Ticket Exchange privileges, Discounts on additional tickets, Invitations to Special Events, and more. To order, or for more information, visit IPOmusic.org or call the IPO Box Office at 708.481.7774.

Individual concert tickets, along with student tickets (\$20), and specially priced group tickets (available with a minimum of ten patrons) will go on sale later this summer.

Ozinga Chapel is located at 6601 W. College Drive on the campus of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights. The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway University Park, IL 60484-0975. IPO Concert Box Office opens one hour before each concert.

ABOUT THE 2025/26 IPO SEASON

OPENING NIGHT:

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 5 & Violin Concerto

OCTOBER 25th, 2025 5:30pm

Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*

Ade Williams, *Violin*

- **Beethoven** *Prometheus* Overture
- **Beethoven** Violin concerto
- **Beethoven** Symphony No. 5

The 48th IPO season opens in thundering fashion at 5:30pm October 25th, 2025, with a resounding performance of one of music's most celebrated and well-known works, **Beethoven's** Symphony No. 5. The evening leads off with his *Prometheus* Overture as well as one of the world's best-known and most regularly performed violin concertos, performed by Sphinx artist and Chicago native, **Ade Williams**.

Act II, IPO's annual Opening Night post-concert celebration event including dinner and a "mix and mingle" with Maestro Kirov and IPO musicians, will take place directly after the concert.

NIGHT MOVES: The Planets, E.T. and Star Trek

NOVEMBER 22nd, 2025 3:00pm

Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*

- **Williams** *E.T. Adventures on Earth*
- *Star Trek Through The Years* (arr. Calvin Custer) **IPO Premiere**
- **Holst** *The Planets* (Visuals by Adrian Wyard)

The nighttime sky will never look the same after our November 22nd, 2025, NIGHT MOVES concert! Climb aboard our audio version of the U.S.S. Enterprise as IPO takes you on an auditory adventure with *Star Trek Through the Years* (arranged by Calvin Custer), a compilation of some of the series' most notable musical pieces. **John Williams' E.T.**

Adventures on Earth contributes to this out of this world evening, as does the closing work, **Gustav Holst's** *The Planets* which takes the audience on a journey throughout all the known planets of the Solar System seen from Earth at the time of its writing, and their corresponding astrological character. A video accompaniment with visuals by Adrian Wyard accentuates this other worldly experience.

This celestial concert features a matinee start time of 3pm and takes place at the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University in University Park, IL.

IPO HOLIDAY FESTIVAL: A Celebration of Voice & Music

DECEMBER 20th, 2025 3:00pm

Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*

Chicago Community Chorus

IPO's traditional holiday celebration returns with this family-friendly matinee program featuring a POPS laden program accentuated by our longtime performance partners, the Chicago Community Chorus.

VALENTINE'S DAY with IPO

FEBRUARY 14th, 2026 7:30pm

Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*

Anastaysia Poff, *Piano*

- **F. Mendelssohn** Overture in C major **IPO Premiere**
- **C. Schumann** Piano concerto **IPO Premiere**
- **R. Schumann** Symphony No. 4

In an evening custom built for Valentine's Day, world renowned pianist **Anastaysia Poff**, wife of IPO Gibb Music Director **Stilian Kirov**, takes center stage to lead this romantically tinged program. The performance includes **Fanny Mendelssohn's** Overture in C major along with **Clara Schumann's** Piano Concerto and her husband **Richard Schumann's** Symphony No. 4.

VIVALDI: The Four Seasons

MARCH 14th, 2026 7:30pm

Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*

- **Vivaldi** *The Four Seasons* **IPO Premiere**
- **Dvořák** Serenade in E major op. 22 **IPO Premiere**

Welcome spring with one of classical music's most recognizable works, Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. **Antonín Dvořák's** cheerful and melodic piece for string orchestra, Serenade in E. major op. 22 is known for its light, graceful character, often described as idyllic and peaceful.

LEGENDARY MUSIC OF THE MOVIES

APRIL 18th, 2026 7:30pm

Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*

- *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
- Theme from *Jurassic Park*
- *Jaws* suite
- Theme from *Schindler's List*
- *Superman* march
- *Flight to Neverland*
- *Raiders March* from *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*
- Excerpts from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*
- Theme from *Star Wars*

They call it Tinsel Town for a reason! Hollywood has inspired some of classical music's most beloved compositions and IPO brings them to life this evening. Some of the silver screen's most precious gems are in line for this bombastic night.

AMERICA TURNS 250

MAY 16th, 2026 7:30pm

Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*

- **Tower** *Fanfare No. 1*
- **Montgomery** *Coincident Dances* **IPO Premiere**
- **Sousa** *Liberty Bell March*
- **Sousa** *Washington Post March*
- **Sousa** *Stars and Stripes Forever*
- **Copland** *Billy The Kid suite* **IPO Premiere**
- **Copland** *Lincoln Portrait*

IPO lowers the curtain on our 48th season by celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This **Semiquincentennial** celebration features music by **Joan Tower, Jessie Montgomery, John Philip Sousa** and concludes with **Aaron Copland's Lincoln Portrait**.

Programs and artists subject to change.

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ABOUT ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The 2025/26 concert season marks the 48th for Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra. 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.

Whoever you are, IPO welcomes you to be inspired by what you hear and see, meet others who share your interest or love of music, and find your own joy in the shared experiences of live symphonic music.

During the 2025/26 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 acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council, the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University, Ozinga Foundation, Gerhard Manufacturing and Design, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Michuda Construction. For more information, visit ipomusic.org.

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