



ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH LOCAL BALLET COMPANY AS WELL AS HOSTING THE ANNUAL IPO HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

*IPO to serve as live pit orchestra for Beyond the Nutcracker and partner
with Chicago Community Chorus for the IPO Holiday Festival*

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Park Forest, IL – The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra will be busy this holiday season as it performs not only at its annual *IPO Holiday Festival* but serves as the live orchestral accompaniment for Ballet 5:8's production of *Beyond the Nutcracker*.

"The holidays are always better when celebrated with music and cheer," says IPO Executive Director Christina Salerno. "IPO is fortunate to be able to celebrate the holidays this year alongside so many other talented musicians and performers to provide what promises to be incredible holiday memories."

This weekend, December 13th and 14th, IPO will settle into the orchestra pit at Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center in Frankfort, IL as they perform the live score to Ballet 5:8's performances of *Beyond the Nutcracker*. There are three performances to choose from including 2pm and 7pm on Saturday and 3pm on Sunday. Tickets for these performances are available at Ballet58.org.

Next Saturday, December 20th at 3pm, IPO will once again host the *IPO Music Festival: A Celebration of Voice & Music* at Ozinga Chapel, the state-of-the-art performance hall located on the grounds of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL. The orchestra will be joined onstage by the famed Chicago Community Chorus for a program of holiday favorites, including a full audience sing-along. Free holiday cookies will also be provided for patrons at intermission. A longstanding IPO holiday tradition, tickets to this family friendly concert start at just \$25 and can be purchased at IPOmusic.org.

IPO is led by Gibb Music Director Stilian Kirov while Chicago Community Chorus is headed by Artistic Director and Founder Dr. Keith Hampton.

ABOUT ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



The 2025/26 concert season marks the 48th 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 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 continuing to strengthen a 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 Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University, Ozinga Foundation, Gerhard Manufacturing and Design, Michuda Construction, Old National Bank, and the Illinois Arts Council. For more information, visit ipomusic.org.

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