

ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA RECEIVES \$3,500 LOCAL TOURISM GRANT TO PROMOTE VALENTINE’S DAY WITH IPO

*Visit Chicago Southland grant helps market IPO’s
Valentine’s Day promotion Eat, Stay and Hear Them Play!*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 12, 2026

Park Forest, IL – Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra recently received a \$3,500 Local Tourism Grant from **Visit Chicago Southland** to promote their 2026 Valentine’s Day concert package “Eat, Stay and Hear Them Play.” The concert takes place Saturday, February 14th, 2026, at 7:30p at Ozinga Chapel @ Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL.

The \$3,500 grant will be used to promote IPO’s “Eat, Stay and Hear Them Play” 2026 Valentine’s Day concert package. With the special day falling on a Saturday, IPO is inviting people to make their Valentine’s Day plans unique as world renowned pianist **Anastasiya Poff**, wife of IPO’s esteemed Gibb Music Director **Stilian Kirov**, takes center stage to lead a romantically tinged program. The performance will include **Fanny Mendelssohn’s** Overture in C major along with **Selim Palmgren’s** Piano Concerto No. 2 and **Robert Schumann’s** Symphony No. 4.

Concert tickets start as low as \$25.

Concertgoers are also encouraged to take advantage of exclusive IPO discounts at the nearby **DoubleTree by Hilton** (Alsip) and at IPO’s partner restaurants: **Francesca’s Vicinato** (Palos Park) and **Francesca’s Fortunato** (Frankfort). The concert, hotel, and dinner are all available individually as ala carte options.

The DoubleTree by Hilton (Alsip) is offering a special rate of \$139 for a room with a King-sized bed while Francesca’s Vicinato (Palos Park) and Francesca’s Fortunato (Frankfort) are offering 15% off the bill (alcohol excluded) when concertgoers present their IPO tickets.

IPO’s February concert annually draws nearly 1,000 visitors to Palos Heights and the Chicago Southland region.

“Be it a married night out, a Valentine’s Day date, or a special evening with a valued friend, what better way to celebrate togetherness than with a magical night with Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra,” says IPO Executive Director, Christina Salerno. “With such a beautiful program



of music and the concert falling on Valentine's Day, by partnering with Visit Chicago Southland, we welcome the opportunity to entice concertgoers who might otherwise consider our concert hall a bit of a drive from their home."

Visit Chicago Southland distributes up to \$51,000 annually to Chicago Southland communities and not-for-profit organizations to promote events designed to draw visitors into the Chicago Southland region for overnight stays. These visitors contribute substantially to the Chicago Southland economy through stays in regional hotels, dining at local restaurants, shopping, recreational activities, and needed services travelers require, such as gas, oil, and sundry items.

*"The Local Tourism Grant program is a way for Visit Chicago Southland to extend its marketing reach," said **Mary Patchin, CDME, President/CEO of Visit Chicago Southland.** "The marketing efforts by our communities – in addition to marketing efforts by Visit Chicago Southland – help us better promote the many meeting facilities, group tour attractions, festivals, sports events and area attractions throughout the Chicago Southland to potential visitors."*

For more details on IPO's "Eat, Stay and Hear Them Play" Valentine's Day and hotel booking portal, visit IPOmusic.org/ValentinesDay.

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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