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Voice & Music

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Stilian Kirov, Gibb Music Director

DECEMBER 20, 2025
2025/26 Season

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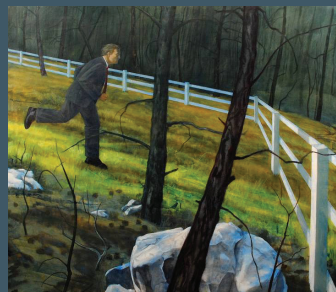


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For more information about how you can make a planned gift to IPO, please contact Executive Director Christina Salerno at 708-481-7774 or csalerno@ipomusic.org

*IPO gratefully acknowledges these legacy gifts to IPO through the Encore Society.



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Welcome to Palos Heights!

On behalf of the City of Palos Heights, I want to thank you for your support of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra and welcome you to the beautiful Ozinga Chapel on the campus of Trinity Christian College.

While you are here, I hope you will explore all that our city has to offer. From the peace and serenity of Lake Katherine to our many outstanding retail shops and restaurants, there are many ways to experience all the amenities and come alive in Palos Heights.

Finally, I want to thank the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra for enhancing our commitment to the arts by bringing live classical music to our community. I know you will enjoy the concert and I hope you will visit us again soon.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Straz
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www.palosheights.org

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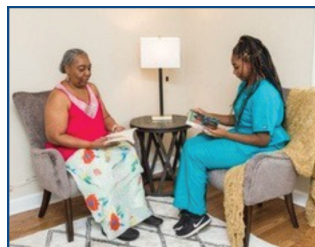
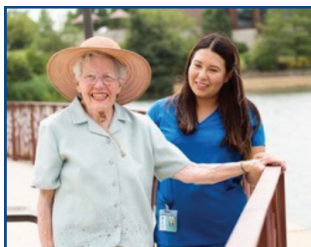
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IPO HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

A Celebration of Voice & Music

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra
December 20, 2025 | 3:00 p.m.

Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*
Chicago Community Chorus, Dr. Keith Hampton, *Artistic Director / Founder*
Dr. Michael Rogers, *Guest Conductor on Sleigh Ride*
Bill Hofmann, *Guest Percussionist on Sleigh Ride*

Tonight's Concert sponsored by



Chicago Community Chorus sponsored by
Richard and Andrea Gibb

IPO acknowledges support from



Christmas Festival..... Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)
Star Carol..... John Rutter (b. 1945)
Overture, Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, and Trepak..... Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
from *The Nutcracker Ballet*
Carol of the Bells (arr. Hayman)..... Mykola Leontovich (1877-1921) /
Peter Wilhousky (1902-1978)
Betelehemu (arr. Whalum)..... Babatunde Olatunji (1927-2003)
I Wish You Christmas John Rutter (b. 1945)
Somewhere in My Memory..... John Williams (b. 1932)
Hallelujah Chorus (arr. Mozart)..... George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

INTERMISSION

Sleigh Ride..... Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)
Star of Bethlehem John Williams (b. 1932)
Farandole from L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2..... Georges Bizet (1838-1875)
It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year (arr. Shaw) Eddie Pola (1907-1995) /
George Wyle (1916-2003)
A Klezmer Nutcracker (arr. Shoup)..... Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
Still Still Night..... Jackson Berkey (b. 1942)
Let There Be Peace on Earth (arr. Hayes)..... Sy Miller (1908-1971) /
Jill Jackson (1913-1995)
A Holiday Sing-Along (arr. Snyder / Moss)

OPENING ACT LOBBY PERFORMERS

Voices in Plainfield
Heather Reddout, Accompanist
Contact: Oksana Rodak, Artistic Director • oksanarodak@hotmail.com

Program and artists subject to change



STILIAN KIROV became the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's (IPO) Gibb Music Director for the orchestra's 2017–2018 Season. He is a First Prize Winner of the "Debut Berlin"

Concert Competition and a prizewinner at Denmark's 2015 Malko Competition and the 2010 Mitropoulos Competition. Kirov debuted at the Berlin Philharmonie in 2017 and has received numerous Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Awards (2016–2019). A former Music Director of New Jersey's Symphony in C (2015–2020), Kirov became Music Director of the Bakersfield Symphony in 2015. Mr. Kirov has proven to be not only a dynamic artistic director, but also an enthusiastic educator and community leader, continuing to build upon his previous successes as Associate Conductor of the Seattle Symphony and Associate Conductor of the Memphis Symphony.

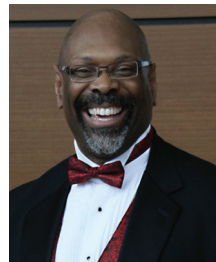
Highlights of Mr. Kirov's guest performances include appearances worldwide with the Israel Camerata, Xi'an Symphony, Minas Gerais Philharmonic Orchestra, Sofia Philharmonic, Leopold Chamber Orchestra/Ukraine, Orchestra of Colors/Athens, Orchestre Colonne/Paris, Sofia Festival Orchestra, State Hermitage Orchestra/St. Petersburg, Thüringen Philharmonic Orchestra, the Zagreb Philharmonic, the Musical Olympus International Festival in St. Petersburg, and the Victoria Symphony/British Columbia, among others. In the United States, Kirov has collaborated with the symphonies of Seattle, Memphis, Chautauqua, Omaha, Kalamazoo, South Bend, and West Virginia as well as the Amarillo Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra/Breckenridge, and the Tucson Symphony. Following his highly acclaimed debut in 2012, he also appeared regularly as guest conductor with the Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle.

Stilian Kirov has assisted many distinguished conductors including the late Bernard Haitink with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as well as Stéphane Denève, the late Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Christoph von Dohnányi, and Andrew Davis, all with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Kirov is a graduate of The Juilliard School's orchestral conducting program, where he was a student of James DePreist. He also studied with the late Kurt Masur, Michael Tilson Thomas, the late Gianluigi Gelmetti, George Manahan, Robert Spano, and Asher Fisch, among others.

Also a gifted pianist, Stilian Kirov was Gold Medalist of the 2001 Claude Kahn International Piano Competition in Paris.

StilianKirov.com



KEITH HAMPTON, affectionately known as "Doc", is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Chicago Community Chorus (CCC). In addition, Dr. Hampton is an organ performer,

conductor, composer, educator, church musician, adjudicator, and workshop clinician. He is the president of Dr. KT Productions, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. Keith and the Director of Music/Organist at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Classically trained as an organist and conductor, he has served as Music Director/organist-choir director of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Country Club Hills, Illinois; Wesley United Methodist Church, Aurora, Illinois; Bryn Mawr Community Church; Congregational Church of Park Manor; Park Manor Christian Church, and Assistant Director of Music at Trinity United Church of Christ, all in Chicago.

A specialist in the field of Gospel Music, the North Central American Choral Directors Association in 2010 selected Dr. Keith Hampton as one of the top 25 Contemporary Composers "whose composition, Praise His Holy Name, should be standard repertoire for choirs today and for the next 25 years." Dr. Hampton has guest conducted the, ACDA Eastern Division High School Honors Choir, Alabama All State Junior High School Honors Chorus, Baltimore All County High School, Georgia All State Collegiate Chorus, Ithaca College Gospel Festival, Oklahoma All State Junior High School Honors Choir, Rhode Island All State Chorus, Virginia All State Honors Choir, Wisconsin All State Middle Level Chorus and District Choruses in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin. Keith Hampton earned a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Westminster Choir College, a Master of Arts Degree from Marywood University, and a Doctor of Music Degree in Church Music from Northwestern University. Dr. Hampton has been awarded the Service Playing, Choir Master, and Associate certificates from the American Guild of Organists.

Dr. Hampton was twice chosen as one of 14 conductors to participate in the Oregon Bach Festival Conducting Master Classes. The festival is held at the University of Oregon under the direction of Helmuth Rilling and Thomas Somerville. He also was chosen to conduct in an A Cappella Music workshop sponsored by Chorus America. In the summer of 2013, Dr. Hampton participated in the Choral Conducting Symposium held at the University of Michigan under the direction of Jerry Blackstone, Julie Skadsem and Eugene Rogers.

At Dr. KT Productions, Inc., Keith provides music transcriptions of Black Gospel Music with the use of Finale by Make Music. He produced the CD, Celebrate, in 2009, and published the book, Praise His Holy Name ... And Other Songs in the Gospel Style, in 2011. In 2012, Dr. Hampton produced two organ CDs, Organ Masterworks, Volume I and French Organ Music, Volume II. As a published composer, Dr. Hampton's arrangements of Spirituals and Gospel Songs are available through Augsburg Fortress Press, Choristers Guild, earthsongs Publications, Hal Leonard Corporation, Hinshaw Music, and Dr. KT Productions, Inc.

Additional information about Keith Hampton's musical activities can be viewed at DrKeithHampton.com.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM



A HOLIDAY SING-ALONG

Arranged by Audrey Snyder

Deck the Hall *Traditional Welsh Carol*

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, fa la la
Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la...
Don we now our gay apparel, fa la la...
Troll the ancient yuletide carol, fa la la...

Fast away the old year passes, fa la la...
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, fa la la...
Sing we joyous all together, fa la la...
Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la...

Jingle Bells *J. Pierpont*

Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go laughing all the way,
Bells on bobtail ring, making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight! Oh,
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh,
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!

O Christmas Tree *Traditional German Carol*

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches,
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches.
Not only green in summer's glow but ever green mid winter snow,
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas *Traditional English Folksong*

We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Glad tidings we bring to you and your kin;

Glad tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas,

We wish you a Merry Christmas,

(Slower)

And a **Happy New Year!**

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IPO gratefully acknowledges all of the individuals, corporations and organizations whose contributions were received between June 1, 2024 and May 31, 2025. To view a complete list of these individuals, corporations and organizations, please scan the QR code.



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SAVE *the* DATE

MARCH 22, 2026
RIISING STAR SHOWCASE

APRIL 25, 2026
IPO GALA



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Gifts contributed in the name of a friend, loved one, or colleague are a unique expression of thoughtfulness. Donations given to the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra in memory of others are listed below. Thank you for your generosity.

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