

Indianapolis Symphony Society Annual Meeting Highlights Artistic Achievements, Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Results

(December 2, 2019) – With attendance nearing 300,000 patrons for Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra concerts, the Indiana Symphony Society (ISS) reflected on a year of evolution and focus on the future as it released its audited financial results during its Annual Meeting held Monday at the Hilbert Circle Theatre.

2018-2019 Season Highlights

- Showcasing the versatility of the orchestra, Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski, and Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly through the two-week Paris Festival.
- Taking ISO patrons through the entire Brahms symphony cycle under the direction of Krzysztof Urbanski on the Lilly *Classical Series*.
- Performing all of Rachmaninoff's works for piano and orchestra in one weekend with legendary pianist Garrick Ohlsson.
- Celebrating a 10-year partnership with Printing Partners as sponsor of the *Pops Series*.
- Becoming the first orchestra to perform the entire Harry Potter film franchise, following the 8-movie saga to completion in the Bank of America *Film Series*.
- Energizing 16,000 students with an exploration of musical and scientific breakthroughs in 12 multi-media *Discovery Series* Concerts that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.
- Publishing its first children's book, as ISO violinist Victoria Griswold's story *The Garden Symphony* moved from the stage to the page. (The ISO's second book – *Monkey's Jungle Jam* – was published at the beginning of the current season.)
- Continuing to support the growth and success of more than 200 Metropolitan Youth Orchestra students and their families.

In addition to the remarkable success of the ISO's Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, the ISO expressed its commitment to deepening its community engagement in 2020:

- The ISO has begun a journey to thoughtfully address gaps in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and determine how our community can work together to find solutions. Thanks to a grant from the Catalyst Fund, diversity training sessions are available to staff, musicians, and board members; the ISO has also engaged a specialist to assist in these crucial first steps of the conversation.
- Kroger Symphony on the Prairie patrons will experience an even more family-friendly atmosphere, as children under 12 will receive free admission with an accompanying adult.

Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Summary

- Ticket sales revenue passed \$11 million for the second year in a row.
- Annual fund contributions totaled \$8.4 million.
- Total operating income for FY19 was \$27.4 million, with audited results reporting a general operating loss of \$751,000.
- Overall attendance totaled 297,899 patrons.
- More than 13,000 new households attended ISO concerts during FY19.

At the meeting, CEO James Johnson commented, “last summer, we began an unprecedented program to evaluate and, as needed, change every aspect of the way we do business. As a staff and board, we are engaged in better planning, collaboration among and across departments, open communication, greater accountability, and fiscal transparency. Our financial reporting and planning will take a heightened priority to assure that we are thoughtful and disciplined in continuing our tradition of providing the highest caliber performances throughout this remarkable community.”

“We are confident these changes will allow us to better anticipate challenges and take advantage of opportunities in the current fiscal year and for the long-term strength and stability of our organization,” Johnson stated.

Johnson previewed meaningful additions coming to ISO: a new concertmaster could be named as soon as early in the new year, and the search is beginning to identify the successor to ISO Music Director Krzysztof Urbański, whose esteemed tenure will conclude following the 2020-2021 season.

“With our Senior Management Team now fully in place, and the support of our board directors, musicians, staff, volunteers, donors, and patrons, I look forward to taking the necessary steps to secure this treasured institution so that it can serve our community for many years to come.”

Election to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors

Steve Rake, Senior Vice President and Indiana Regional Director of Huntington Private Bank, was elected to the Indiana Symphony Society Board of Directors:

The following individuals were re-elected to the ISS Board of Directors: Kiamesha Colom, Craig Fenneman, Liz Kyzr, Karen Mangia, C. Daniel Yates, Michael Becher, Bryan Brenner, Trent Cowles, Bruce McCaw, Michael P. O’Neil, J. Albert Smith Jr., Pete Ward, David Wilcox, John A. Bratt, Alice K. Schloss, and Yvonne H. Shaheen.

Election of Indiana Symphony Society Officers

The following individuals were elected as officers of the Indiana Symphony Society: Michael Becher, Vice Chair; Greg Loewen, Treasurer; and Deborah Ware Balogh, Secretary. Society Chair Yvonne H. Shaheen enters the second year of her two-year appointment in 2020.

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About the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra:

Under the leadership of Music Director Krzysztof Urbański and Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra has become a leading orchestra in the nation with its commitment to artistic excellence, diverse and creative programming inside and outside its historic Hilbert Circle Theatre home, its engagement with communities throughout the state of Indiana and its ambitious approaches to music education, performance and collaboration. In the decades since its founding in 1930, the ISO has presented a range of classical, pops, family and holiday programming to hundreds of thousands of people each year; received national and international acclaim with its radio broadcasts, tours and recordings; and became the first major orchestra with a resident ensemble.

The ISO continues to engage new audiences through innovative programming including the Fifth Third Bank Lunch Break Series of casual 45-minute performances each summer, the holiday traditions of the IPL Yuletide Celebration, the Stella Artois Happy Hour at the Symphony Series, and the popular Bank of America Film Series.

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