



## **ISO Welcomes Steve Hackman as Creative Director of 2019-20 Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* Series**

(May 16, 2019) – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announces the next chapter of the Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* series, as conductor/arranger Steve Hackman joins the ISO as Creative Director of the series for the 2019-20 season.

Hackman’s relationship with the ISO is nearly a decade in the making, as his first concert at the Hilbert Circle Theatre took place in January 2010. In addition to collaborating with Hackman on many genre-bending concerts during Time for Three’s residency with the orchestra, the ISO has premiered several of Hackman’s distinctive fusions, including this week’s *IGOR DAMN. STRAVINSKY*. These fusions, arranged by Hackman, blur the distinction between classical and modern music by blending the work of improbable pairs such as Brahms and Radiohead or Tchaikovsky and Drake. The most recent fusion, premiered on May 15 by the ISO, combined Stravinsky’s *Petrushka* with Kendrick Lamar’s Pulitzer Prize-winning *DAMN*.

As Creative Director, Hackman will drive the artistic focus of the ISO’s four *Happy Hour* concerts. Two of the performances will feature the musicians of the ISO on Hackman’s fusions – the coming season’s combinations include *Firebird: Remix | Response* and *Resurrection Mixtape*. *Firebird* blends Stravinsky’s breakthrough work with Hackman’s original compositions, and *Resurrection* combines Mahler’s Second Symphony with the work of legendary rappers Tupac and Notorious B.I.G.

“We need to continue to stretch, evolve, and challenge the norms of what is expected,” said Hackman. “That’s the kind of art people are gravitating to.”

In addition to the two fusion concerts, the upcoming season will include two concerts featuring independent contemporary artists performing their original songs with orchestral accompaniment by the ISO. The orchestra has made a mark on the industry by performing concerts of this nature with artists including Amos Lee, Andrew Bird, Carly Rae Jepsen, and more – and the trend will continue with new artists to be announced in the coming months.

###

### **About the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra:**

Under the leadership of Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski 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*.

**About Steve Hackman:**

Conductor, composer, arranger, producer, and songwriter Steve Hackman is increasingly in demand as one of the most compelling artists contributing to a new landscape in hybrid music. Fluent in both classical and popular repertoire, he crafts and conducts virtuosic, cross-genre works and performances that intrigue the established audience and engage an excited new one.

He has held positions of Creative Director of FUSE at the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the 'Mash-Up' series at the Colorado Music Festival, and is founder/creative director of his music brand Stereo Hideout. Beginning in the 2019-2020 season, Hackman will be the Creative Director of the Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony* at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

Media Contact: [kcutler@indianapolissymphony.org](mailto:kcutler@indianapolissymphony.org)  
Kristin Cutler, Director of Communications, 317.229.7082