



Indianapolis Symphony, Urbański Announce Leadership Transition in 2021

(May 10, 2019) – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, along with Music Director Krzysztof Urbański, is preparing for a transition in artistic leadership in 2021. The 2020-21 season will conclude Maestro Urbański's tenure with the ISO, marking a decade of artistic partnership in Indianapolis.

Urbański began his term as Music Director of the ISO in 2011; at the time, he was the youngest artistic leader of any major American orchestra. Under the leadership of Maestro Urbański, the ISO has seen multiple years of record ticket sales, participated in the Kennedy Center's SHIFT Festival of American Orchestras, and continues to be one of the most versatile orchestras in the nation.

"In an era when orchestras across the globe are vying for top-tier artistic direction, the ISO has benefited from a decade of stellar leadership from Maestro Urbański," said CEO James Johnson. "Krzysztof's passion for musical excellence has taken the artistic quality of our orchestra to new heights. His ability to attract musicians of the highest caliber has resulted in the hiring of 19 new musicians – including 7 principal players – who have become ambassadors of our art form in the community. We look forward to two more years of his leadership, including his innovative and engaging programming."

"The last eight years with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra have proven to be artistically rewarding in every respect," said Urbański. "Making music with my colleagues in Indianapolis is a thrilling experience, an occasion for audiences to be amazed by the virtuoso performances of the many new musicians who have joined the orchestra in recent years as well as to appreciate the artistic depth of the orchestra's long-serving veterans. It has been my pleasure to commission new music, survey larger themes through our annual festivals, and allow important solo artists to explore the greatest musical repertoire in depth across multiple concerts. I am eager to continue this work over the next two seasons and look forward to sharing our plans with the wonderful community of listeners in Indianapolis."

In addition to his partnership with many of the world's leading classical soloists, Urbański's artistic direction of the ISO has introduced a series of engaging music festivals to Indianapolis. Under his baton, the ISO explored the Cosmos, Music of the Earth, Mozart's Final Year, and Paris. In the next two seasons, the ISO will take a deep dive into all of Beethoven's symphonies as part of the global *BTHVN 2020* celebrating the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth. Maestro Urbański's artistic vision has also resulted in the ISO commissioning many new works for the orchestra during his tenure.

Along with his leadership of the ISO, Urbański maintains an international presence by appearing as guest conductor for numerous orchestras around the world, including the Münchner Philharmoniker, Gewandhausorchester, Tonhalle Orchestra Zürich, Wiener Symphoniker, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony and National Symphony Orchestra, among others. He has served as Principal Guest Conductor of the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra since 2015. In June 2015, Urbański became the first conductor to receive the prestigious Leonard Bernstein Award at the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival.

The ISO will conduct a search for a new music director as Maestro Urbański's term comes to a close, ensuring a smooth transition of leadership. A search committee will be formed for this purpose, with ISO musicians, staff, and board represented in the process.

###

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*.

Media Contact: kcutler@indianapolissymphony.org
Kristin Cutler, Director of Communications, 317.229.7082