Jacob Joyce Named Resident Conductor

In recognition of his talents and leadership, the Indianapolis Symphony has named Jacob Joyce as resident conductor for the next two seasons. The promotion, Joyce’s second since joining the ISO in 2018 as associate conductor, is indicative of his impact during his tenure to date.

“While his musical gifts are exceptional, it is his desire to use innovative ways to grow the audience for classical music that makes him a cut above and has earned him a growing national recognition,” says James Johnson, CEO.

Joyce says he is looking forward to deepening his connection to both the community and ISO musicians. “This world-class orchestra is a delight to work with every day, and I look forward to furthering both my artistic and personal relationships with the musicians,” he says. “Indianapolis has been my home for the last three years, and the many connections I have built with members of the community here are a big reason why I am so excited to be staying. I look forward to continuing to work with the ISO on growing the audience for classical music in our city, furthering our outreach to underserved areas, and performing thrilling concerts.”

Since joining the ISO, Joyce has become a dynamic presence in the community but never more so than when COVID-19 dramatically limited the ISO’s abilities to make music and reach its audience. Even prior to the pandemic he launched “Conversations on Music” – taking listeners behind the scenes to tell how orchestras work to serve the community and artform. In the midst of the pandemic, he launched “Attention to Detail,” a primer for classical music newcomers as well as facilitating numerous socially distanced chamber orchestra concerts wherever an audience could gather.

Perhaps his single greatest accomplishment since joining the ISO is the recent DeHaan Virtual Baroque Series, presenting Baroque music in a modern context to a livestreamed audience. The eight episodes of music and commentary conducted, written and produced by Joyce were performed and videotaped at Hilbert Circle Theatre.

“While the series was sparked by the gift to the ISO of a harpsichord once owned by the ISO’s late Conductor Laureate Raymond Leppard, the inspiration was all Jacob who has made it his mission to entice a new generation to fall in love with classical music,” says Johnson.

Prior to joining the ISO, Joyce served as the Conducting Fellow for the Fort Worth Symphony, with whom he collaborates frequently, and has also held positions as the Associate Conductor of the Yale Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Berkeley College Orchestra, Music Director of the Opera Theater of Yale College, and Cover Conductor of the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston. An avid promoter of contemporary music, Joyce has conducted several premiers of orchestral and operatic works.

Joyce studied orchestral conducting with Hugh Wolff at the New England Conservatory. He attended the Tanglewood Music Center and the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen, where he was awarded the Robert Spano Conducting Prize. Joyce was a semifinalist in the LSO Donatella Flick Conducting Competition and was also a semifinalist in the Solti International Conducting Competition, where he conducted the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Frankfurt Museumsorchester. Joyce graduated from Yale College in 2014, with a bachelor’s degree in Music and Economics. He also received a master’s of music in Violin Performance from the Yale School of Music in 2015, studying with Syoko Aki.

About the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

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. The ISO continues to engage new audiences through innovative programming including the DeHaan Classical Series, the Printing Partners Pops Series, the holiday traditions of AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration, the Stella Artois Happy Hour at the Symphony Series, and the popular Bank of America Film Series. Support from individuals, corporations, and foundations is vital in helping our orchestra fulfill its mission. For more information, visit www.IndianapolisSymphonyOrchestra.org.