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## MESSAGE FROM CEO JAMES M. JOHNSON

In a year marked by public cancellations and personal isolation across the globe, here in Indianapolis the city's orchestra found a way to make music. Not only did the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra perform life-affirming symphonic music in the 2020-21 season, it offered enriching educational opportunities, connected with the community in new ways, and laid the groundwork for a successful financial future. During the pandemic-hued 2020-21 season, the ISO was tested—as most institutions were—in ways unforeseen and unimagined. It is a tribute to the ISO's remarkable people and our supportive community that we emerged resilient, innovative, and optimistic for the future.

The 2020-21 season began in September 2020 without concerts but with the promise of music to come. On September 9, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and the ISO's musicians announced a one-year agreement providing both health benefits at no cost to the musicians and a financial stipend as part of a pathway to return world-class music to Central Indiana. Along that pathway, the ISO would provide virtual programming and live performances starting in spring 2021.

At the beginning of 2021, our musicians and staff made plans to make live music once again on the Hilbert Circle Theatre stage. In all respects, the safety of our musicians, staff, volunteers, and patrons was paramount. A COVID-19 mitigation committee of musicians and staff formed in late 2020 to develop procedures for the safe return of music to Hilbert Circle Theatre. Guided by medical experts, the team developed a strategy to bring a small group of musicians to the stage for concerts that would be recorded and shared free of charge with patrons. Thanks to a significant grant from the Arts Council of Indianapolis supported by funding from the Lilly Endowment, the ISO was able to acquire sophisticated air filtration equipment for the auditorium, backstage, and theater lobbies. In addition to protecting the performers, our plans called for steps to protect audiences, including reducing capacity to approximately 400 and seating patrons at least six feet apart. With these measures in place, the stage was set.

On Tuesday, March 9, 2021, the musicians returned to the stage of the Hilbert Circle Theatre for the first time in 364 days. The project that brought them together was the brainchild of Resident Conductor Jacob Joyce. Knowing that we could not fit a full orchestra on stage with social distancing protocols then in effect, he conceived a musical exploration of the Baroque era, when composers wrote for ensembles of about a dozen or so musicians. With funding from the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation,



the ISO's Virtual Baroque Series was recorded over a week's time, hosted by Jacob Joyce, and released in a series of eight videos over the course of spring 2021.

This initial approach to musical programming gave the ISO confidence to launch next the Spring Inspirations series for an audience in person at Hilbert Circle Theatre. On May 13, 2021, thunderous applause greeted the musicians and guest conductor Peter Oundjian, who gave the downbeat to Beethoven's Egmont Overture, the first music heard by an audience at the theater in 429 days. With audience capacity limited, the ISO elected to stream these concerts live—reviving a program begun several years ago to bring the ISO to a wider audience through video streaming.

Among the proudest moments of these spring 2021 concerts was the ISO's June 23 performance at White River State Park to inaugurate the new TCU Amphitheater. The free concert was the orchestra's gift to the community for its exceptional support during the pandemic year. Thousands of concertgoers stood and cheered the return of the ISO to the great outdoors—a cheer echoed days later when the ISO opened the Kroger Symphony on the Prairie season at Conner Prairie that continued through the summer.

The story of the ISO in the 2020-21 season is not only this joyous return to making music. It is also of ties to the community made stronger through community engagement and education programs that never ceased during the pandemic. The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra—our flagship youth and family development program led by Krystle Ford—found creative ways to continue making music. In addition to the MYO, our education initiatives included a first-ever virtual Teddy Bear program for very young children, The Runaway Strings, reimagined by the creative force behind Teddy Bear, writer/arranger/ violinist Victoria Kintner. Our Discovery Concerts program went virtual with videos intended for elementary school students, produced with support from Community Health Network. For adults who never stop learning, the ISO's Art of Leadership program featured Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly sharing insight into leadership styles through his experiences as a conductor. Numerous Central Indiana business executives attended these virtual seminars.

The ISO's groundbreaking concerts and innovative education programming in the 2020-21 season would not have been possible without the exceptional guidance of the orchestras' artistic leaders. In May 2021, the ISO announced that Jun Märkl would serve as Artistic Advisor, providing musical leadership to the orchestra while a search is underway for the next music director to succeed Krzysztof Urbański, who stepped down in June 2021. A

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favorite of the orchestra and its audiences for more than a decade, Märkl first conducted the orchestra in August 2000 at Symphony on the Prairie and has been invited as guest conductor every year since the 2009-10 season. In his role, he will fulfill a key function in the process of auditioning new musicians as well as assist in the development and support of the artistic programs of the ISO. The other hand on the musical rudder of the ISO is Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, who is committed to serve in that capacity through the 2024-25 season. Serving as Resident Conductor through the 2022-23 season is Jacob Joyce, who has earned two promotions since joining the orchestra as Assistant Conductor in 2018.

At the heart of the ISO, of course, are the musicians who devote their talents and energy to the orchestra's mission to bring incomparable musical experiences to or region. Prior to the end of the fiscal year in August 2021, the ISO and its musicians announced a three-year agreement to provide music to Central Indiana through the 2023-24 season. The length of this contract provides the necessary time to stabilize the ISO's administrative and artistic leadership, evaluate and improve its financial position, and devise a long-term strategy for the organization. While this agreement provides an opportunity for institutional rebuilding after the pandemic, it makes no reduction in the number of weeks of performances the orchestra will give each year, including 20 weeks of classical music performances. Further, the agreement demonstrates a commitment to rebuilding the orchestra by restoring the number of full-time musicians in the orchestra to 76 over the course of the three-year contract. New to this agreement is a program giving the opportunity for each musician to provide up to six hours of voluntary activity each year in support of the orchestra's mission.

Guiding every facet of our work is the recognition that the ISO can and must become a more inclusive organization if we are to continue to provide value to our community. During the 2020-21 season, our stakeholders invested time and resources in ongoing initiatives concerning diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB). Working with consultant Jessica Schmidt of Orchestrate Inclusion for a third year, our DEIB committee—chaired by board member Kiamesha Colom and comprised of board, musicians and staff—focused on diversity practices both internally among our stakeholders and externally through representation on stage (performers and pieces performed) and in our audience. The initiatives included artistic programming that highlighted underrepresented voices in classical music (composers and musicians from around the world who are less often centered in the western orchestra experience because of their gender, race, or ethnicity) and engagement strategies to welcome underserved central Indiana audiences. In addition, we deepened our partnership with the Sphinx Organization, a social justice organization dedicated to transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts. After successfully engaging Sphinx solo artists in the 2020-21 season, we will expand the partnership to include a series of concerts with Sphinx musicians playing alongside ISO musicians in the 2021-22 season.

In this space last year, I wrote of the financial challenges caused by the pandemic. Concert cancellations, for example, resulted in the loss of nearly \$8 million in ticket revenue between mid-March 2020 and the end of August 2020. In the 2020-21 season, the ISO cancelled 101 previously scheduled concerts. The human cost was no less impactful, with more than two-thirds of the ISO's full-time employees experiencing temporary or permanent job loss and remaining

employees experiencing reductions in compensation and benefits. Faced with financial uncertainty, the board of the Indiana Symphony Society, the group that governs ISO operations, took a cautious approach, limiting expenditures while continuing to raise funds for the programs the ISO could continue to offer during the pandemic. In FY20, that approach resulted in a loss from general operations of only \$39,000, a significantly smaller deficit than the previous two years and less than 2% of the overall budget. In FY21, the Society's board continued this conservative approach. The difference maker in FY21 was the substantial funding available from the federal government to ameliorate business losses and retain employees during the pandemic. This funding primarily took the form of a grant from the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program, Employee Retention Credits, and forgiveness of a Paycheck Protection Program loan made to the Society in the 2020 fiscal year. As shown below, this funding provided nearly \$10 million to the Society.

COVID-19 FUNDING RELIEF	
Shuttered Venue Operators Grant	\$ 5,339,220
Employee Retention Credits	1,366,702
PPP Loan Forgiveness	2,929,185
Other	158,223
	\$ 9,853,330

When coupled with the fiscal restraint exercised by the Society during the fiscal year, this extraordinary government funding enabled the Society to show a surplus from operations in FY21 of \$13,640,559. This truly remarkable turnaround in the Society's finances gave the Board of Directors confidence to approve a plan to return the ISO to full operations in the 2021-22 season despite the lingering impact of the pandemic on ticket sales and contributions.

Given this astonishing change in the Society's financial outlook, it is appropriate to recognize and thank the Board of Directors for their leadership and support of the ISO. The officers in the 2020-21 season included Yvonne Shaheen in her fifth year as chair, Michael Becher as vice chair, Greg Loewen as treasurer, and Christina Bodurow as secretary. Together with their fellow board members, they contribute countless hours to the ISO, offering expertise and financial support, and making critical connections to leaders across our community.

One year ago, when times were even more uncertain than today, we offered the following pledge to our supporters. In everything we do, look for common themes to define our path ahead:

- A commitment to serve our community in all its facets. Finding connections and embracing collaborations with community partners will help the ISO achieve far more than it can on its own.
- A dedication to growing our audiences. A more welcoming venue, combined with new tools to enliven the concert experience, will help retain and expand our base of patrons.
- The relentless pursuit of excellence in all we do. Each day, we strive to make Indianapolis proud to be the home of an orchestra that would be the envy of any city around the globe.

It was true then and remains an even more powerful message today: Never has the support of our community been so meaningful. We are grateful for your support and pledge to remain an important and lasting part of what makes this city great.

James M. Johnson Chief Executive Officer

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## FY2021 OPERATING INCOME BY SOURCE



## **Operating income by source**

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION (in thousands of dollars)	August 31 2021	August 31 2020
ASSETS		
Cash	6,242	462
Pledges & Other Receivables (net)	4,217	2,187
Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets	489	511
Property & Equipment (net)	2,116	2,063
Interest in Net Assets of the ISO Foundation	120,029	99,726
TOTAL ASSETS	133,093	104,949
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	1,658	962
Other Liabilities	376	453
Deferred Revenue	1,643	1,681
Refundable Advance	-	2,929
Intercompany Loans	-	250
Bank Line of Credit	123	7,043
Bank Note Payable	2,500	-
Pension Liability	970	3,325
TOTAL LIABILITIES	7,270	16,643
NET ASSETS		
WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS		
General Operating	4,399	(9,241)
Pension Plan	(1,896)	(4,251)
TOTAL NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	2,503	(13,492)
WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS		
Society	3,291	2,072
ISO Foundation	120,029	99,726
TOTAL NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	123,320	101,798
TOTAL NET ASSETS	125,823	88,306
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	133,093	104,949

SUMMARY OF GENERAL OPERATING RESULTS AND CASH FLOWS (in thousands of dollars)	August 31 2021	August 31 2020		
REVENUE				
EARNED REVENUE				
Ticket Sales & Fee Income	2,897	5,859		
Rental Income	235	406		
Program Advertising	-	111	FY2021 OPERATING EXPENSE	
Education	54	166		
Other Earned Revenue	15	26	BY FU	NCTION
TOTAL EARNED REVENUE	3,201	6,568		
CONTRIBUTED INCOME				
Annual Fund	7,032	7,497	20%	7
COVID-19 Funding	9,853	-		9%
TOTAL CONTRIBUTED INCOME	16,885	7,497		776
ISO FOUNDATION	4,537	5,700		
TOTAL REVENUE	24,623	19,765		
EXPENSES			71%	
Orchestra Operations	3,039	8,885		
Concert Production	1,883	3,149	Programs	,
General & Administrative	1,931	2,479	. rogramo	Fundraising
Marketing	662	1,125		
Facilities	1,209	1,345	Management	
Development	945	1,107	and	General
Learning Community	521	693		
Patron Services	200	315	Operating expense by function	
Depreciation	484	491		
Other TOTAL EXPENSES	40 <b>10,914</b>	215 <b>19,804</b>	_	7,698,725
	,.	,	Management &	General2,239,138
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE NONOPERATING LOSS	13,709	(39)	Fundraising	976,456
Loss on Disposal of Property & Equipment	(68)	-	Total	10,914,319
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS, GENERAL OPERATING	13,641	(39)		
ADJUSTMENTS TO CALCULATE NET CASH FLOW				
Depreciation Expense	484	491		
Capital Expenditures	(606)	(53)		
Advances/(Payments) on Intercompany Loans, net	(250)	(186)		
Advances/(Payments) on Debt, net	(4,420)	(206)		
Forgiveness of Debt	(2,929)	-		
All Other Cash Flows, net	(140)	300		

5,780

307

**NET CHANGE IN CASH** 

## ISO NEWS

## MESSAGE FROM JUN MÄRKL, ARTISTIC ADVISOR



As the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra works to identify its next music director, Jun Märkl is serving as artistic advisor for the 2021–22 season. A favorite of the orchestra and its audiences for more than a decade, he first conducted the orchestra in August of 2000 at *Symphony on the Prairie* and has been invited as guest conductor every year since the 2009–10 season. The ISO had the chance to learn a bit more about him earlier this year.

"My parents were professional musicians, and my siblings are also in the music business. My younger brother plays violin in a German orchestra, and my sister had been

working for EMI classics when they still were producing recordings in Germany. Because my family was so involved in classical music, it was very natural while growing up for me to learn the instruments my parents had been playing. I started with the violin at age 4 and piano at age 5. The instruments were the toys of my childhood and the perfect way to express my contradicting feelings as a teenager. So early on, I developed a profound and deep relationship with music as a way to express emotions and to communicate with others. I was attracted to conducting because the need and joy of communicating with other musicians and creating something so great and beautiful in a team is the most enjoyable and satisfying experience for me. Conducting Wagner's Ring Cycle in Tokyo, Vienna, Berlin, and London has been certainly a highlight of my career."

"I'm looking forward to a lot with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. The ISO has a very special character and quality. It is a very good orchestra with an excellent playing style. At the same time, the orchestra keeps up a friendly, warm, family-like attitude. This combination is unique among orchestras and, in my opinion, a wonderful way to achieve great musical results. In the 2021-22season, I am excited to be taking patrons on a virtual musical voyage around the world, where I hope they will enjoy the music cultures both familiar and unknown. I am also proud of the work done by the ISO to create an incredibly diverse season featuring several works by 'Unheard Voices:' composers who are Black, indigenous, female, and people of color."

## **CELEBRATING THE LEADERSHIP OF JACK EVERLY, PRINCIPAL POPS** CONDUCTOR

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra is grateful for the leadership of Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly as the organization navigated through the pandemic during the past year. Maestro Everly joined the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra as the music director of AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration in 1994 and became the Principal Pops conductor in 2002. Maestro Everly's vision provides both a strong foundation for the ISO as well as creative paths to forge future success.

Maestro Everly conducted the Spring Inspirations series in a program celebrating the ISO's musicians, along with the ISO's triumphant performance in June at White River State Park. His guidance was evident during the Kroger Symphony on the Prairie season at Conner Prairie, which



served as another milestone for ISO patrons who were eager for a return to normalcy.

Whether on-stage or behind the scenes, Maestro Everly's presence is always impactful. The ISO's virtual Yuletide Celebration initiative in December 2020 connected deeply with ISO patrons thanks to his contributions. His participation in the ISO's earliest virtual interactions with donors was critical, and he continued to connect with key stakeholders

virtually on a regular basis. He also led *Art of Leadership* workshops for future business leaders in Central Indiana.

Maestro Everly continued to be an in-demand guest conductor at orchestras across the country in the 2020-21 season. He led the nationally televised National Symphony Orchestra in the National Memorial Day Concert and A Capitol Fourth, America's Independence Day celebration.



"...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,"

# JACOB JOYCE NAMED RESIDENT CONDUCTOR

In recognition of his talents and leadership, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra named Jacob Joyce as resident conductor for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 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," said James Johnson, CEO.

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 creation of the 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 from March to May 2021, were performed and recorded at Hilbert Circle Theatre.

Joyce graduated from Yale College in 2014, with a bachelor's degree in Music and Economics. He also received a Master of Music in Violin Performance from the Yale School of Music in 2015, studying with Syoko Aki.

# ISO DEHAAN VIRTUAL BAROQUE SERIES

Beginning March 24, 2021, friends and patrons of the ISO were invited to view an online, eight-week program series of Baroque music, under the creative leadership of Resident Conductor Jacob Joyce. Each episode included approximately 15 minutes of

performance and an additional 10 minutes of interviews and commentary about the music and was available for free viewing via Vimeo.

The catalyst for the project was the donation by Dr. John Bloom of the late Conductor Laureate Raymond Leppard's harpsichord to the ISO. Leppard served as music director of

the ISO from 1987 to 2001, when he raised the international profile of the orchestra through tours, recordings, and broadcasts.

Leppard's harpsichord, which was made by English harpsichord maker Robert Goble, is ideally suited for music of the Baroque era and was restored through a gift from Dr. Bloom.



The ISO is grateful to Jack for this extraordinary instrument, which was played by Tatiana Lokhina, a doctoral student from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She was one of two Iacobs School students who joined ISO musicians for these performances. The ISO also welcomed oboist Donovan Brown.

Series special guests included:

- Wynton Marsalis, who made several recordings of classical trumpet with Leppard
- Nicholas McGegan, music director laureate, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale
- Jeannette Sorrell, artistic director, Apollo's Fire
- Marianne Tobias, ISO program book annotator

• Ann DePrez, Board Chair, Christel House Schools, representing Christel DeHaan Family Foundation.

This video series was generously underwritten by the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation. Christel DeHaan was a passionate advocate for the arts whose long friendship with Raymond Leppard made this program especially poignant.

PERHAPS HIS SINGLE GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT SINCE JOINING THE ISO IS THE CREATION OF THE DEHAAN VIRTUAL BAROQUE SERIES.

## **ISO SPRING INSPIRATIONS SERIES**

With the blooming of flowers along Meridian Street and the revving of engines at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, spring arrived at Hilbert Circle Theatre as the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra returned to the stage for a new Spring Inspirations Series. The unique, four-week series featured both classical and pops performances and ran from May 13 to June 12.

Performances were offered to limited in-person audiences at Hilbert Circle Theatre and virtually through a livestream. The music chosen for these classical and pops concerts was intentionally uplifting and



familiar, with a goal of bringing hope and happiness to the listeners.

Spring Inspiration Series sponsors included the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, Printing

Partners, One America, and the Indianapolis Colts. Livestreaming was generously supported in part by Tom and Dawn Bennett, and all concerts were generously supported by Dr. Kenneth and Mrs. Debra Renkens.

## KROGER SYMPHONY ON THE PRAIRIE

After the only hiatus in its 40-year history, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra—in partnership with Conner Prairie—returned to the Symphony Bowl at Conner Prairie to welcome more than 88,000 patrons back to Kroger Symphony on the Prairie. In celebration of the return to live music, more than two dozen concerts took place at the Symphony Bowl, including Revolution: The Music of the Beatles with the ISO, the popular Star-Spangled Symphony, The Temptations, Frankie Moreno, and more.





## **2021 TICKET SALES**

PRODUCTION	Total Ticket Comp Count	Total Ticket Paid Count	Total Ticket Count	Total Ticket Paid Amount
20-21 Baroque Series	752	0	752	\$0.00
20-21 Classical Live Streaming	25	233	258	\$2,753.99
20-21 Coffee Pops	44	166	210	\$7,924.00
20-21 Evening Classical	233	1,375	1,608	\$65,882.50
20-21 Evening Pops	181	627	808	\$34,517.00
20-21 Pops Live Streaming	6	2	8	\$35.00
20-21 SOTP Tix & Value Packs	16,604	71,527	88,131	\$2,473,474.40
GRAND TOTAL	17,845	73,930	91,775	\$2,584,586.89

## PHILANTHROPY HIGHLIGHTS

## DONOR SUPPORT HELPS ISO SHINE

In FY21, YOUR support kept the ISO strong as we prepared to emerge from the pandemic and welcome the community back to the Hilbert Circle Theatre to experience the joy of live music with friends and family again. Your unwavering support raised over \$7.2 million in direct operational support of the ISO, surpassing the original fundraising goal by \$1 million!

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra felt the immense support of its generous individuals, corporations, and foundations despite the challenge of a limited concert season. In FY21, a total of \$7.2 million was contributed to support the ISO. We are incredibly grateful for our donors and sponsors, who helped us continue to carry out our mission and ensure our community is enriched with programming of the highest artistic level. This support allowed the ISO to emerge from the height of the pandemic with a sound financial standing while also eliminating debt.

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# DONOR ENGAGEMENT NEVER STOPS

## Musical Tastings with Jacob Joyce

ISO Resident Conductor **Jacob Joyce** hosted three virtual events, guiding guests through selections of classical music and showcasing his knowledge of wine as he and guests paired the music with wine selections.

## Bringing AES Yuletide Celebration to you

With support from Yuletide Celebration title sponsor Indianapolis Power & Light (now AES Indiana), our patrons were rewarded in December 2020 with virtual content, musical greetings, and delightful surprises, including festive Yuletide care packages sent to more than 700 families. In all, more than 30,000 Yuletide Celebration fans viewed the digital content produced especially to thank them for decades of support.

## A Romantic Evening

For Valentine's Day, the ISO partnered with **Huse Culinary Group** for an at-home date night. Along with a special Valentine's Day menu, attendees enjoyed performances by ISO musician couples, who played a selection of love songs and treated the audience to stories about how they met.

## A YEAR OF INNOVATION

## Maestro Open

June brought a familiar scene as the ISO hosted another successful Maestro Open event, presented by Garmong Construction. The event went off without a hitch: We had a full roster of foursomes and raised over \$60,000 to support the work of the ISO. Be sure to save the date for Maestro Open 2022: Tentatively set for June 13.



## Kroger Symphony on the Prairie

The long-awaited return of Kroger Symphony on the Prairie brought music back to the outdoor venue allowing larger groups of people to enjoy the ISO and many other musical acts throughout the summer.

As we were able to carefully emerge from limited indoor engagements to

bring music back to larger groups, your support made it all possible. We are grateful for the continued generosity of our individual supporters, foundation grantors, corporate sponsors, and community who provide their financial support and their time to help amplify the mission of the ISO to bring excellent musical experiences of all kinds to the Central Indiana Community.

# **FISCAL YEAR 2021** DEVELOPMENT DOLLARS

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 - AUGUST 31, 2021** 





# **TOTAL RAISED: \$7,195,848**











## ISO ASSOCIATION: ANSWERING THE CALL

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Association's (ISOA) 500+ volunteers enthusiastically support and promote the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and its musicians through fundraising, educational programs, and audience development. Our Vision Statement is to expand the arts education programs and vibrancy of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

The pandemic in 2020 caused many of our fundraisers and activities to be canceled or postponed. Our pledge to the ISO was reduced to \$65,000; however, we were still able to raise \$72,222 for the ISO through new and creative fundraisers and

donation programs. Our members continued volunteering with a total of 7,186 hours during 2020-2021.

In 2021, we were able to have the Champagne Brunch/Purse Auction spring fundraiser netting \$7,108. The ISOA sponsored a Musical Evening, "Summer Songs," at the Ft. Ben Cultural Arts Campus Theatre. The concert featured the Castleton Quartet and Micah Young, pianist and co-winner of the Michael Ben and Illene Komisarow Maurer Young Musicians Contest. Our Meet the Concertmaster program was done virtually with the ISO's new concertmaster, Kevin Lin, being interviewed by James Johnson.

Our largest fundraiser, the 2021 Fall Jubilee was held in October, after being postponed three times. The successful event raised more than \$88,000 for the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra. During the Fall Jubilee, the Lifetime Service Award was presented to two very deserving members, Janet Barb and Dorothy Miller, and an ISOA Honorary Membership was given to Amy Kniffen, ISO Acting Associate Principal Violist. We were fortunate to wrap up the year with a new and exciting event, the "Yuletide Celebration—Behind the Stage" tour which was created for the ISOA membership with the support of the ISO Staff.

## METROPOLITAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA



## **ADAPTING** TO NEW **REALITIES**

MYO was thrilled to get back to some sense of normalcy for the 2020-2021 season. We were able to start rehearsals in person in our large groups. Although we were still masked and distanced, the students were so grateful to see and play with each other again. Our teachers were also able to get together for an in-person orientation filled with team building games, and ISOA volunteers helped us prep more music stands.

Our annual Halloween rehearsal was still a big hit. Our student leadership team—the League of Leaders—resumed their monthly DEI meetings and launched an MYO merchandise store! Occasionally we had to go virtual but that didn't stop us from being creative with our material. Our virtual orchestra sessions were filled with playing, music theory games and even conducting lessons! We also still managed to find fun ways to thank our donors.





Our concerts and recitals were a bit modified. Some were in-person, but most of the performances involved watching pre-recorded videos over Zoom. In some ways, this was beneficial as there were out-of-town relatives who could attend the performance online. Despite the virtual environment, the students still had that fun MYO energy that they bring to performances.

Some of the core themes that surround MYO's mission involve gaining life skills. Another key theme is learning how to face challenges and overcome hard things. Every year MYO has navigated some sort of significant obstacle, and this season proved no different. We lost our dear violin teacher Mr. Jesse Hawkins. Mr. Jesse had been with MYO for over 15 years and he was living Black history for us. He taught numerous students over the years and impacted countless lives.

MYO, in partnership with Art of the Soul, was able to provide virtual counseling for the students and parents. Many of them drew pictures and wrote meaningful tributes to their teacher while parents gained skills on how to help their children navigate grief. We are going to miss Mr. Jesse's big smile, endless story telling about his travels around the world, and of course his magnificent playing. Whether it be his solo over our annual canon in D performance, or just hearing him warm up in the halls of Broadway United Methodist, his presence will be missed. We

dedicated our last Canon in D performance to Mr. Jesse by having 3 alumni play the solo with the Orchestra A and B students. It was a moving performance and we hope we made him proud.

We ended our season with a 50-day practice challenge—students vs. teachers vs. parents. It was definitely a test of endurance to say the least! Hundreds of videos were submitted over the course of the challenge and in the end, the parents pulled through with a win. We can't wait to see what the next season has in store!

Some of the core themes that surround MYO's mission involve gaining life skills. Another key theme is learning how to face challenges and overcome hard things.

## MUSICIANS OF THE ISO

## **FIRST VIOLIN**

Kevin Lin, Concertmaster

Philip Palermo, Associate Concertmaster

Peter Vickery, Assistant Concertmaster, The Meditch Chair+

Michelle Kang, Assistant Concertmaster, The Wilcox Chair

Michelle Black

Sophia Cho

Anna Czerniak\*\*

Sherry Hong

Vincent Meklis

Maria Semes\*\*

Wei Wei

Hán Xiè

## **SECOND VIOLIN**

Mary Anne Dell'Aquila, Assistant Principal

Jennifer Farquhar, Acting Assistant Principal, The Taurel Chair, The Dick Dennis Fifth Chair\*

Patrick Dalton-Holmes

Melissa Deal

Victoria Kintner

Hua Jin

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