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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Midwest holiday tradition returns: Indianapolis Symphonic Choir prepares for Festival of Carols

*Tickets on sale now! Patrons encouraged to buy early
Performances to feature Center Grove and Avon high school students, star soloist with Ind. tie*

INDIANAPOLIS (September 6, 2017) – Tickets for the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir’s annual holiday performances of *Festival of Carols* are on sale now. Due to the celebration’s popularity, and following sell-out runs in the past four years, the 2017 performances will again feature five concerts. The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir celebrates their 81st season in 2017/2018, welcoming the holidays this year at the Howard L. Schrott Center for the Arts at Butler University (Sunday, December 3 at 7 p.m.) and the Palladium at the Center for Performing Arts in Carmel (Friday, December 15 at 8 p.m., Saturday, December 16 at 3 p.m., Saturday, December 16 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, December 17 at 3 p.m.).

Tickets range from \$21-\$46 and may be purchased at indychoir.org or by calling the Palladium box office at (317) 843-3800. All ages are encouraged to attend the family-friendly show. Student tickets are available for a special price of only \$15.

The 2017 performances of *Festival of Carols* feature the 200-voice Indianapolis Symphonic Choir (among the largest and oldest choruses in the nation) joined by the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. This year, *Festival of Carols* also features two Spotlight Choirs: Center Grove High School, performing at the Schrott Center, and Avon High School performing at the Palladium. The Spotlight Choir series works to benefit high school choral music programs and achieve a balanced, complete education for young people.

Although the Symphonic Choir is best known for performing classical music, *Festival of Carols* features a selection of fan-favorite and traditional holiday music performed by chorus and orchestra. Tony Award-winner Alice Ripley will join the 2017 lineup at all five performances as a special guest soloist. Ripley is no stranger to Indiana; she attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., and performed professionally for the first time at the Red Barn Summer Theatre in Frankfort, Ind. before receiving both a Tony Award and a Pulitzer Prize.

“Words barely capture the excitement I have with a star-studded cast like this for our 2017 *Festival of Carols* performances,” shares Artistic Director Eric Stark. “With a Tony Award-winning singer like Alice, combined plus full chorus and orchestra, the magic of the holiday season leaps off of the stage and into our audience’s hearts and memories.”

“The Symphonic Choir’s Christmas concerts have grown significantly, especially in the past 5 years,” states Executive Director Michael Pettry. “Part of the concert series’ growth stems from our strategy of using radio and television broadcasts, CDs, iTunes and other media to expand our audience reach. At the same time, it really comes down to the beauty and joy of holiday music that draws audiences to the performance. There’s nothing else like it!”

Festival of Carols is made possible by presenting sponsor Stock Yards Bank & Trust.

For performance details, audio preview links, photos and ticket information, visit indychoir.org. For a sneak preview of *Festival of Carols*, watch the video [here](#).

About the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir is honored to be one of the nation's established and dynamic musical institutions, marking its 81st Anniversary Season in 2017/2018. Among the most active symphonic choruses in the United States, the Choir reaches in excess of 25,000 people each season with more than 25 performances and a comprehensive educational outreach program. The 200 volunteer singers demonstrate the Choir's commitment to musical excellence through their talent and dedication during each 42-week season. The choral partner of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Symphonic Choir was founded in 1937 at the ISO's request to perform the great choral-orchestral repertoire. This continued partnership exhibits the very best of collaborative ideals – two independent arts organizations combining their strengths to create beautifully lasting musical results. The Choir is dedicated to excellence in the performance of choral music, the creation of new choral masterworks, and to community outreach and education throughout the community. The Choir is now in its tenth year as the official choral partner of the Indianapolis Public Schools, providing teacher training, educational resources, performance experiences and free printed music. The Symphonic Choir also presents the All-City Honor Choir, a partnership with IPS for musically gifted students. For more information about the Symphonic Choir, visit www.indychoir.org.

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