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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indianapolis's 'Festival of Carols' to be Broadcast Nationally this December

In a first for the 27-year musical holiday tradition, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's Seasonal concert series goes coast-to-coast in markets from NYC to LA, Miami to Chicago

INDIANAPOLIS (December 6, 2017) – The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's annual holiday concert series *Festival of Carols* will be broadcast on public television stations across the United States for the first time this December. The one-hour television special features the Symphonic Choir with special guest, Grammy Award-winning soprano Sylvia McNair.

"The *Festival of Carols* concerts have become such a tradition in central Indiana that it made good musical sense to broadcast this cultural gift nationally," states Executive Director Michael Pettry. "We've learned that public television stations across the U.S. are interested in fresh, seasonal offerings much like *Festival of Carols*."

The television broadcast will be aired on public television stations including in major metropolitan areas New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Philadelphia, plus smaller markets like Birmingham, Oklahoma City and Grand Rapids. A complete list of all air dates and locations is available at www.indychoir.org. Local, central Indiana broadcast stations include WFYI (Indianapolis), WIPB (Muncie) and WTIU (Bloomington). The listing online will be updated as additional stations become available.

"What an honor! To think our Indianapolis chorus will be in homes from New York to California, Miami to Minneapolis – this is a major step for our organization," adds Artistic Director Eric Stark. "This speaks volumes of the support from our local community in cultivating the arts and culture as a core value of who we are as citizens of the Circle City. This says to the nation that Indy has stunning music going on, and we want to share it with you."

In addition to the television broadcast, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir is in the midst of its live *Festival of Carols* performances with five concerts throughout December. The remaining four performances are at 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.

Although the Symphonic Choir is best known for performing classical music, the 2017 *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. The Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra partners with the Choir for both the televised broadcast and the live concerts this December.

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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