

Pitch Perfect

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Dear friends,

Welcome to the opening moments of the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's 81st season! On the heels of a remarkable 80th anniversary season that elevated the art form and our institution to new heights, we invite you to plug-in to concerts and events of the upcoming months.

The recently-completed 80th anniversary season featured multiple high-water marks including our return to Carnegie Hall in October 2016 for the first time in nearly 40 years, and statewide television broadcasts of *Festival of Carols*. Plus an international recording release on the Naxos label of our performance of the oratorio *Zabur*

and the launch of a \$3.75 million endowment campaign to provide for the Choir's needs well into the future. The anniversary season was full of milestones.

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir has grown to be a leader in the classical choral field not just locally, but across the United States. In comparing audience size, operational resources, and number of performances, this musical institution is in the top 1% of the nation's 250,000+ choruses. Our Board of Directors and staff look forward to guiding the Symphonic Choir into its next 80 years of service to the community and to the choral artform.

Join us. Don't miss a note! The 2017/2018 season offers familiar classics, new repertoire never before performed in Indianapolis, and opportunities for you to invite others to experience what you already know to be so extraordinary about the Symphonic Choir.

Michael Pettry
Executive Director





Festival of Carols | Tickets now on sale

All Tickets On Sale

We're offering a new way to buy tickets to Symphonic Choir performances this season. Tickets are now available for every concert of the entire season – a click or a call away.

Your calendar gets busy, life sometimes gets in the way. Earlier access to all performances of our season ensures you have concert dates marked on your calendar and your tickets in-hand. Not only does this provide you with the opportunity to select your preferred seat without delay, it also allows our audiences the choice to buy any and all tickets immediately rather than waiting for an 'on sale' date.

Highlighting just a few concerts of the new season, the 27th annual *Festival of Carols* includes five performances this December. Opening night of the annual holiday concert series occurs at The Schrott Center at Butler University, a venue that boasts ample parking and incredible sight lines, with the following four performances at The Palladium. As a special Christmas gift to the audiences, we welcome Tony Award-winner Alice Ripley as special guest soloist for all five *Festival of Carols* performances. Having attended DePauw University prior to winning a Tony Award and Pulitzer

Prize for her work on Broadway, Alice is overjoyed to return to Indianapolis this holiday season.

Although it's become a cliché, you will want to act quickly to secure your tickets for the February 3, 2018 Sacred Masterworks performance as the concert is expected to sell-out. The Symphonic Choir and orchestra will perform Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* for the first time in more than two decades, which is paired opposite Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem*, a work of particular meaning to Artistic Director Eric Stark.

"*Dona Nobis Pacem* offers a message of peace to all generations. Sung in English with both sacred text and poetry by Walt Whitman, the piece speaks to the head and the heart alike," shares Stark. "And the Stravinsky," he adds. "What can I say! I've been eager to present this work with the Symphonic Choir since I began my tenure here 16 seasons ago. The day is now upon us!"

Tickets for these performances—and all concerts of the 2017/2018 season—are available today. Most patrons will find it easiest to purchase tickets online through our website indychoir.org. You may also purchase tickets via phone for many of the concerts. Phone numbers for the various concert venues are located on our website.



Special guest Tony Award-winner Alice Ripley

ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN: A Campaign For The Future



Artistic Director Eric Stark and the Symphonic Choir at Hilbert Circle Theatre

Director position, and \$1.75 million toward endowing our performance of masterworks – such as Handel’s *Messiah*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, *Carmina Burana*, newly commissioned masterworks and much more.

Led by campaign co-chairs Paul and Martha Schmidt, the campaign already has raised 73% of the goal with more than \$2.75 million in outright gifts and pledges to-date.

“It matters deeply to us to offer an opportunity to give something very special, even spiritual, and a chance to gather others to join us in this remarkable step forward,” state the Schmidts who were among the first donors to the campaign. “We know the Choir means so much to so many people from throughout the community, and this \$3.75 million goal will be achieved by the conclusion of the campaign in summer 2019.”

Martha served as President of the Board of Directors in the mid-1990s and knows first-hand how having an endowment will elevate the Choir’s financial stability for future generations. Through times of abundance and the leaner years alike, an endowment provides a consistent revenue stream, ensuring continued service to the community and the art form.

If the Symphonic Choir has made a meaningful impact on your life or in the lives of those you know and love, consider being a part of the campaign. Gifts to the Choir come in many forms including as the beneficiary of an insurance policy or a retirement plan (such as an IRA), or as a bequest through a will or trust. Other options are outright gifts of stock or cash. In addition to the tremendous charitable impact on the Symphonic Choir, you may also wish to consider the tax advantages to such a gift.

More information about the endowment campaign is found on our website, indychoir.org or by calling (317) 940-9057.



Celebrate the holidays with your office party, fraternity, alumni, book club or social group at Festival of Carols this December. In addition to a group rate for large blocks of tickets, reception space for pre-show, intermission and post-show events are available to group purchases.

Group Sales:
Contact
(317) 940-9057
groupsales@indychoir.org

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT:

Spotlight Choirs

“Performing in Festival of Carols to this day is one of the highlights of their high school career. They still talk about ‘Dream Isaiah Saw’ even in the new school year! They got to feel like they were a part of something bigger than themselves.”

– KATHERINE DOTY, MUSIC EDUCATOR, SOUTHPORT HIGH SCHOOL

Near to the heart of our programming is an abiding commitment to provide quality educational opportunities for persons of all ages throughout the city. Some of our education initiatives are tailored to adults with extensive musical experience, while other programs are for adults with minimal arts interaction. Still other Symphonic Choir educational programs are geared to the youth of the community such as our Spotlight Choir program.

WHAT IS THE SPOTLIGHT CHOIR ANYHOW AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each autumn two area high schools are selected to partner with the Symphonic Choir during the academic year. The schools range from large public schools in the townships and suburbs, to urban schools in Indy’s core, but each school illustrates a commitment to (and understanding of) the importance of choral music in a balanced education. Imperical data and anecdotal feedback illustrate the unparalleled value of music in K-12 education. One choir—generally the advanced, mixed-voice ensemble—from each of the two schools is selected as a Spotlight Choir.

The selected Spotlight Choirs each join the Symphonic Choir for side-by-side rehearsals and performances throughout the fall, culminating in singing together at *Festival of Carols*. Although the students receive superior music education throughout the sequence of rehearsals, master classes and the performance, something even greater is being taught.

Communication, innovation, creativity, time management, problem solving, maturity and a personal understanding of the word “community” all bubble to the surface throughout the months-long partnership between the Symphonic Choir and the students in the Spotlight Choir program. The students grow not only as musicians, but also as soon-to-be leaders in our community who will be faced with opportunities and challenges that only those so-called “soft skills” can address.

We are honored to announce the 2017/2018 Spotlight Choirs: Avon High School and Center Grove High School. Both programs provide students with diverse musical experiences and offer the Symphonic Choir an opportunity build relationships with our southern and western geographic areas of the community.

Past Spotlight Choirs include Herron, Perry Meridian, North Central, Warren Central, Plainfield, Franklin Central, Manual, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Beech Grove, Lawrence North high schools and many others. Watch the Symphonic Choir’s Facebook page for more information as the Spotlight Choir program launches its 15th season this fall.



Warren Central High School with the Symphonic Choir



Brownsburg High School at Festival of Carols

From Carnegie to Kennedy Center

Only 18 months after our recent performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City, the Symphonic Choir will travel to Washington, D.C., for a concert on the nation's stage at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Best of all, you are invited to be a part of the once-in-a-generation experience!

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir joins the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, plus the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and the Indianapolis Children's Choir in representing the Circle City at the SHIFT Festival, "A salute to American orchestras," in concert on Friday, April 13, 2018. The Symphonic Choir will perform Penderecki's *Credo*, a work debuted in 1998 by the Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra and Choir with Helmuth Rilling conducting that won the Grammy Award in 1998 for Best Choral Performance.

As was the case with our 2016 concert tour to Carnegie Hall, we are offering the opportunity for friends from the Indianapolis community to travel with us to D.C. to enjoy the performance and experience a few special activities in the nation's capital. You can be a part of the excitement of the occasion as a non-singing traveler and create memories with your friends and family.

The 3-day (2-night) travel package includes round-trip airfare between Indy and D.C., plus hotel accommodations in the heart of Washington, D.C., only blocks from the Capitol, Smithsonian and other attractions. The package also includes concert tickets to the Friday, April 13 performance of the Symphonic Choir, ISO and ICC at The Kennedy Center, plus special receptions

and tours not available to the general public. Travel dates are Thursday, April 12 (outbound) and Saturday, April 14 (return).

Recognizing the Symphonic Choir's signature, classy style that permeates our concerts, receptions, *Gala Bel Canto* and other special events, this concert tour package has limited availability due to its unique, tailored "Symphonic Choir style." Full details, including pricing (varies depending on lodging preferences) and activities are available on our website indychoir.org. Registration for the tour is now open and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact General Manager Andrew Lannerd (317) 940-9057 or tour@indychoir.org for more information.



Join the Symphonic Choir's tour to Washington, D.C., during the Cherry Blossom Festival in April 2018.

*Register to join us
by December 31, 2017*

Auditions for new singers were held on August 26.

Unlike most of our peer choruses, the Symphonic Choir does not charge membership dues from its singers. We believe talent and a love for choral music are key to participation in the Choir.

The Board of Directors welcomed three new members at

the start of the 81st season.

We salute **Kevin Kerswick** (Crowe Horwath LLP),

Dr. Laura Nisenbaum (Eli Lilly), and **Jeff Qualkinbush**

(Barnes & Thornburg LLP).

The 80th anniversary season ended in a strong financial position and annual reports will be available beginning November 1, 2017 at indychoir.org.



THANK YOU FOR GENEROUSLY SPONSORING THE INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONIC CHOIR IN THE 2017/2018 SEASON.

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