



**Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's *Festival of Carols* CD
to be released via Naxos Records on November 8**

Tickets on sale now for 2019 Festival of Carols performances – Patrons encouraged to buy early!

INDIANAPOLIS (November 4, 2019) — The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's second release on major recording label Naxos Records, *Festival of Carols* will be available beginning Friday, November 8 at (<https://naxos.lnk.to/FestivalOfCarols>). *Festival of Carols* features a selection of fan-favorite and traditional holiday music performed by chorus and orchestra, along with musical surprises for the whole family. The collection of beloved Christmas repertoire was recorded live at the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir *Festival of Carols* concerts in 2015 and 2016, featuring the 180-voice Indianapolis Symphonic Choir (among the largest and oldest choruses in the nation) along with GRAMMY award-winning soprano Sylvia McNair and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Symphonic Choir Artistic Director Eric Stark.

"We are extremely honored to be making our second release on the world renowned Naxos label with our *Festival of Carols* CD, and especially to feature our wonderful friend and GRAMMY-winning recording artist Sylvia McNair," said Stark. "With familiar carols, lush new holiday works and a few special surprises, it's a collection that is sure to become a listener favorite."

"The Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra congratulates our dear friends at the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir on the release of their new recording with Naxos," says ICO Music Director Matthew Kraemer. "Our longstanding collaboration with the Symphonic Choir has resulted in many exceptional musical performances and our musicians are delighted to have contributed their talents in this superb new endeavor."

Tickets for the 2019 Indianapolis Symphonic Choir performances of *Festival of Carols* are on sale now. Due to the celebration's popularity, and following sell-out runs in the past five years, the 2019 performances will again feature five concerts: Two at the Warren Performing Arts Center at Warren Central High School, on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8 at 3 p.m., and three at the Palladium at the Center for Performing Arts in Carmel on Friday, December 20 at 8 p.m., Saturday, December 21 at 3 p.m., and Sunday, December 22 at 3 p.m.

New in 2019, sign language interpretation (ASL) will be featured at the performances on Sunday, December 8 at 3 p.m. and Saturday, December 21 at 3 p.m.

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir will be joined by the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra for all performances. Broadway favorite and east-side Indianapolis native Michele McConnell, who recently completed eight years of performances as Carlotta in Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway in New York, will again join the lineup at all five performances as a guest soloist. Audiences can also look forward to special guest and renowned national gospel recording artist Rodnie Bryant, and a visit from Santa himself.

The 2019 *Festival of Carols* performances will also feature two Spotlight Choirs: Mt. Vernon High School choir performing at the Warren Performing Arts Center, and Herron High School choir performing at the Palladium. The Spotlight Choir series works to benefit high school choral music programs, underscoring the integral role the Symphonic Choir believes the arts play in cultivating a well-rounded education.

Tickets range from \$21-\$57 and may be purchased at indychoir.org and by calling the Warren Box Office at (866) 710-8942 or 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 for performances at the Palladium.

Festival of Carols is made possible by corporate sponsor Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, and presenting sponsor Indianapolis Monthly.

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

About Naxos Records

Naxos Records is the world's leading classical music label as measured by the number of new recordings it releases and the breadth of its catalogue. Naxos was founded in 1987 by Klaus Heymann, a German-born entrepreneur based in Hong Kong. Under his continuing leadership, Naxos has developed from being known primarily as a budget label into a global music group encompassing downloading and streaming platforms, a significant catalogue of multimedia products, a vast international logistics network, a recording engineering arm, a publications division, and a licensing department. Naxos Records is part of the Naxos Music Group. For a comprehensive presentation of the group's services and products, please visit www.naxosmusicgroup.com.

About the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, celebrating its 83rd season in 2019-2020, is proud to be one of the nation's most established and dynamic musical institutions. Among the most active symphonic choruses in the United States, this organization reaches more than 25,000 persons each season through performances and education/community engagement programs. The 180 volunteer singers demonstrate the Choir's commitment to musical excellence through their talent and dedication during each 11-month season. The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir is led by a professional staff and governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Founded in 1937 at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's request to perform the great choral-orchestral repertoire, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir continues to be the choral partner of the ISO. In 2018, the Choir joined the ISO at The Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.) for SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras. In 2015, the Symphonic Choir commissioned and premiered Mohammed

Fairouz's oratorio *Zabur*, which was released internationally by Naxos Records (2016) and also featured the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and the Indianapolis Children's Choir. The Choir's newest recording, also released by Naxos in 2019, is *Festival of Carols* featuring Grammy Award-winning artist Sylvia McNair and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. For more information about the Symphonic Choir, visit www.indychoir.org.

About the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra

The mission of the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra (ICO) is to advance and promote music composed for the small orchestra through professional performances and education programs. Under the direction of Music Director Matthew Kraemer, the ICO presents a subscription concert series drawing on a body of musical literature spanning four centuries, including the silent film and theatrical genres. In addition to presenting the full breadth of chamber orchestra repertoire, the ICO has commissioned several new works and performed a number of world and American premieres. The ICO is Orchestra-in-Residence at the Schrott Center for the Arts, Butler Arts Center. The ICO is also frequently engaged to provide professional accompaniment for area arts and educational institutions, such as Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and American Pianists Association. This year, the ICO will serve its thirteenth year as Orchestra-in-Residence for the Indiana State University Contemporary Music Festival. The ICO is featured prominently in Indianapolis media with its weekly radio broadcast on WFYI, 90.1 FM. In May 2015, the ICO released its first commercial CD, *Momentum 21*. While *Momentum 21* is a milestone in the ICO's growth and development, it also speaks of the forward momentum and direction of contemporary music composed for chamber orchestra, and of the dynamic talent that is adding to the body of music literature in the 21st century. ICO Composer-in-Residence James Aikman wrote *Peacemakers*, which premiered in 2016 and became the subject of an Emmy Award-winning PBS documentary in 2017. www.icomusic.org.

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