



Indianapolis Symphonic Choir announces Butler University student, Wabash alumnus as new conducting fellow for 2020-2022

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir Conducting Fellowship provides one-of-a-kind professional mentorship opportunities for the next generation of choral conductors

INDIANAPOLIS (June 9, 2020) – The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir announces Alejandro Reyna as its newest conducting fellow for the 2020-2022 academic years. Reyna, a Houston native, is a 2017 graduate of Wabash College and is currently pursuing a master's degree in music at Butler University with a dual focus on choral conducting and voice performance.

Focusing on large-scale choral-orchestral masterworks, the Conducting Fellowship is a collaborative initiative between the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and Butler University. The two-year Fellowship provides full-tuition and stipend. Upon successful completion of the program, the student will have earned a master's degree in choral conducting from Butler University and gained practical and applied experience addressing the artistic and administrative needs of leading symphonic choirs. The Conducting Fellowship provides a 360-degree experience in the guidance of a premier symphonic chorus, including artist programming, development, communications, governance, and outreach initiatives.

Reyna will participate in all aspects of the choir's activities, from staff meetings, auditions and rehearsals, performances, and working with soloists and other conductors. He will gain podium time as well, leading the choir in warm-ups and rehearsals throughout the season.

"Alejandro's excellent preparation, very high level of musical talent, and strong recommendations from respected colleagues bode well for his work with us," said Indianapolis Symphonic Choir Artistic Director Eric Stark. "His love of singing and being in choirs will make him an ideal advocate for the Symphonic Choir. We look forward to having him on the team."

After graduating from Wabash College, Reyna returned to his alma mater as Fellow for the Center for Innovation, Business & Entrepreneurship where he guided students through creating, managing, and completing consulting projects for local non-profits. Prior to beginning his graduate studies, Reyna served as the Associate Choir Director at First Christian Church in Crawfordsville, Ind., and as an intern for the Wabash College Glee Club. When not in a classroom or a rehearsal room, he is watching a film, reading, or composing music for a poem.

"Thank you to Dr. Eric Stark and the rest of the staff for this incredible opportunity to grow and learn with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir," Reyna said. "Words cannot capture how excited I am, and I look forward to my time with this community of professional musicians as the new conducting fellow and as a fellow chorister."

For more information on the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir Conducting Fellowship, visit indychoir.org/outreach/conducting-fellowship/.

About the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, celebrating its 84th season in 2020-2021, 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, the Choir reaches more than 20,000 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 was founded in 1937 at the request of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra 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. Following the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's acclaimed performance at Carnegie Hall during the 2016-17 season, the group traveled to Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center as a guest of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra during the SHIFT festival in April 2018. The Choir's latest recording, *Festival of Carols*, was released by Naxos in 2019 and features two-time Grammy Award-winning artist Sylvia McNair. The Choir is dedicated to excellence in the performance of choral music, the creation of new choral masterworks, and to community outreach and education. For more information about the Symphonic Choir, visit www.indychoir.org.

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