



Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's annual *Festival of Carols* celebrates 30 years, will air on MyINDY-TV 23 December 21

Performance will feature Indianapolis native and world-renowned soprano Angela Brown, and premiere of "Heart of God," winner of annual Christmas Carol Commission Competition

INDIANAPOLIS (September 22, 2020) — A Midwest holiday tradition and season highlight for the city of Indianapolis, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's annual *Festival of Carols* will celebrate 30 years with a special broadcast of the performance on MyINDY-TV 23 on Monday, December 21 at 7 p.m. Following sell-out runs across multiple live performances over the last five years, the 2020 broadcast performance comes in lieu of a live audience due to ongoing COVID-19 precautions.

Although the Symphonic Choir is best known for performing classical music, *Festival of Carols* features a selection of fan-favorite and traditional holiday music, along with musical surprises for the whole family. The performance will feature Indianapolis native and world-renowned soprano Angela Brown, whose presence has been at the forefront of opera, concert and empowerment through music across the globe.

"Though the format may be different, this year's 30th anniversary presentation of *Festival of Carols* will feature the same seasonal exuberance and choral beauty that have been hallmarks of our annual production for decades," said Indianapolis Symphonic Choir Artistic Director Dr. Eric Stark. "We are delighted to share the virtual stage with Angela Brown, one of the world's great opera singers and musical stars from right here in our own backyard, as we help Hoosiers celebrate the joy of this year's holiday season."

"We're honored to bring *Festival of Carols* into the homes of Central Indiana television viewers," said DuJuan McCoy, owner, president, and CEO of Circle City Broadcasting. "Circle City Broadcasting is committed to providing a robust and diverse schedule of local programming to viewers and we're looking forward to bringing this family-friendly, arts broadcast to MyINDY-TV 23 in December."

Festival of Carols will also feature the world premiere of "Heart of God," winner of the 11th Annual Christmas Carol Commission Competition, an initiative as part of the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's ongoing commitment to the future of choral music. "Heart of God" was composed by internationally awarded Spanish composer Francisco

Carbonell while he was isolated in a single room with COVID-19 symptoms in March. The music director and organist at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Indianapolis, Carbonell's music has been performed in countries across the world and by prestigious choirs such as Christ Church Cathedral of Oxford, The Australian Voices and the Metropolitan Chorus of Tokyo. He is pursuing his doctoral degree at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome. For more information, visit carbonellmusic.com.

"This award is very special to me. Indianapolis has become my home since I came from Spain in 2013," said Carbonell. "Of my four children, three are Hoosiers. Indianapolis has a very special place in my heart, and the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir has a remarkable reputation. Combined with the outstanding direction of Dr. Stark, it is a choir every composer would love to write music for."

For your GRAMMY® consideration, and the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's second release on major recording label Naxos Records, *Festival of Carols* (released in 2019) features the 150-voice Indianapolis Symphonic Choir performing a collection of beloved Christmas repertoire along with GRAMMY award-winning soprano Sylvia McNair and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Symphonic Choir Artistic Director Eric Stark. For more information, and to purchase a copy of the *Festival of Carols* CD, visit indychoir.org.

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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 150 volunteer singers demonstrate the Choir's commitment to musical excellence through their talent and dedication during each 10-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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