



Indianapolis Symphonic Choir Conducting Fellowship

Summary of Request

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir requests a **two-year sponsorship in the amount of \$10,000 per year to support the ISC Conducting Fellowship.**

Your sponsorship will help cover the ISC portion of the tuition cost for the Butler Universities, Master of Music in Choral Conducting and stipend for a graduate student.

Conducting Fellowship

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's Conducting Fellowship provides one-of-a-kind professional mentorship opportunities for the next generation of choral conductors. Especially focusing on large-scale choral-orchestral masterworks, the Conducting Fellowship is a collaborative initiative between the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and Butler University, a 4,600-student liberal arts institution located in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The **two-year Fellowship** provides full tuition and a stipend. Upon successful completion of the program, the student will have earned a Master of Music 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.

Program Highlights:

- A full tuition waiver and stipend are included with the 2-year program
- Receive hands-on, practical experience administering one of the nation's most active symphonic choruses
- Gain podium time conducting a 150-voice chorus
- Network with partnering organizations including the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

The Butler University Master of Music in Choral Conducting program is designed for students interested in expanding their knowledge, skill, and effectiveness in conducting choral ensembles. This traditional degree program is designed with the full-time student in mind, and blends the practical experience of coached conducting experiences in front of our choral ensembles with weekly individual lessons in score study, gesture, rehearsal techniques, and repertoire knowledge. The program will be tailored to meet the needs and expectations of the individual student, whether their goals are the pursuit of conducting professional or university ensembles, or improving their performance as a choral director at the secondary level.

Since the inception of the Conducting Fellowship six Butler students have benefitted from the program over the past eleven years.

Sponsorship Benefits

In exchange for your sponsorship, you will receive the following:

- 4 tickets to Mood Indigo, Festival of Carols and Sacred Masterworks
- Recognition with your name and/or logo on our website
- Recognition in our electronic programs

Our Mission

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir is dedicated to excellence in the performance of choral music, to creating and performing new choral masterworks, and to education and outreach programming that serves the breadth and diversity of our community.

Background Information

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir is proud to be one of the nation's most established and dynamic musical institutions. This iconic and vitally important organization has been enriching the lives of so many in the Indianapolis community with its incredibly moving, inspiring, and often provocative performances for 87 seasons.

Founded in 1937 at the request of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) to perform the great choral-orchestral repertoire, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir is among the most active symphonic choruses in the United States, reaching 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. Our community is stronger, and the quality of life significantly enriched because of the singers' willingness to share their musical talents and gifts in the choral arts through the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir.

Reputation

From its inception in 1937 at the request of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir has been synonymous with choral excellence, and it continues to enjoy critical acclaim. Throughout its history spanning more than three-quarters of a century, the Symphonic Choir has been served by leaders in the choral art.

The organization has released audio recordings including the complete, two-disc recording of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, *From East to West: A Festival of Carols*, and *The Very Best of Festival of Carols*, the Symphonic Choir commissioned work *Zabur* by Mohammed Fairouz, and the *Festival of Carols* featuring two-time Grammy award-winning artist Sylvia McNair on the international label Naxos. These recordings are found on streaming platforms such as Apple Music and Spotify. In fact, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir has 1,208 monthly listeners on Spotify.

Chorus America, our nationwide choral umbrella organization with a membership of 750 choruses, regularly refers to the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir as an expert in the field and a standard of which to measure success. For the past few years, the organization has been invited to present on assorted topics and serve on panels at the annual Chorus America Conference. We are honored to be considered a leader in this space by the premier professional organization of the choral field.

Organizational Capacity and Leadership

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir is fortunate to have dedicated leaders on its staff and Board of Directors alike. Artistic Director Dr. Eric Stark recently completed his 20th season with the Symphonic Choir. In addition to his duties as Artistic Director of the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, Dr. Stark is also Professor of Music, Director of Graduate Studies, and Assistant Chair of the School of Music at Butler University's Jordan College of Fine Arts. The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's Board of Directors includes 18 persons who represent a diverse cross section of the community, including religion, ethnicity, and age.

Concluding Remarks

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir has been actively creating and providing choral music for our community for 86 seasons. Your sponsorship will allow the ISC to continue to provide this unique opportunity for Choral graduate students to further the art of choral conducting and music.