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INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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Dear Friends,

This year marks the 39th Annual AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration, a holiday tradition here in

Indianapolis for nearly four decades, and we are honored to continue powering this festive event. Yuletide is more than a performance – it's a celebration of the arts that brings loved ones together to experience the joy of the season alongside Maestro Jack Everly, the talented orchestra, and an incredible cast of vocalists and dancers.

At AES Indiana, we believe that powering what matters to you goes beyond the flip of a switch. It means investing in the cultural experiences that make our community vibrant and supporting our customers when they need us most. As we celebrate the holidays, please consider joining us in supporting our neighbors in times of need by contributing to the AES

Indiana Power of Change program. This initiative provides one-time grants to income-qualified customers facing financial difficulties. The holidays are a time to reflect on what truly matters – connection, compassion, and community.

For more information, visit www.aesindiana.com/power-change.

On behalf of all our people at AES Indiana, *thank you for being a part of the Yuletide Celebration and for joining us in this beloved tradition!*

With gratitude,

Brandi Davis-Handy
AES Indiana President



Power of Change

This holiday season, as we cherish traditions and community, let's also remember the spirit of giving. AES Indiana's Power of Change program assists those facing financial challenges by offering a one-time grant to income-qualified customers. As we come together in celebration, consider joining us and supporting our neighbors in need by contributing to Power of Change.



To donate visit:
www.aesindiana.com/power-change

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Activities are made possible in part by Noblesville Creates, Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Board of Directors

Founded by Ferdinand Schaefer in 1930
Maintained and Operated by the Indiana Symphony Society, Inc.

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*Matthew Gutwein**, Vice Chair
*James M. Johnson**, Chief Executive Officer
*Christina Bodurow**, Ph.D., Secretary
*Eric Sutphin**, Treasurer

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Mission of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra:
The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra inspires and unites our community through music.

Musicians of the ISO

Jun Märkl, Music Director • Jack Everly, Principal Pops Conductor
Hannah Schendel, Assistant Conductor • Enrico Lopez-Yañez, Principal Guest Conductor of Pops

First Violin

Kevin Lin, *Concertmaster, The Ford-West Chair*
Peter Vickery, *Acting Associate Concertmaster, The Meditch Chair*
Michelle Kang, *Assistant Concertmaster, The Wilcox Chair*
Vincent Meklis, *Acting Assistant Concertmaster*
Michelle Black
Sophia Cho
Ziqing Guo
Sherry Hong
Shomya Mitra**
Fangming Shen
Hán Xiè

Second Violin

Bryson Karrer, *Principal*
Byul (Bella) Seo, *Associate Principal*
Marisa Votapek, *Assistant Principal, The Taurel Chair*
*The Dick Dennis Fifth Chair**
Melissa Deal
Jennifer Farquhar
Hua Jin
Yeajin Kim
Jayna Park
Lisa Scott
Claire Thaler**

Viola

Yu Jin, *Principal, The Schlegel Chair*
Zhanbo Zheng, *Associate Principal*
Zachary Collins, *Acting Assistant Principal*
Caleb Cox
Nicholas Gallitano**
Yang Guo
Amy Kniffen
Li Li
Emily Owsinski**

Cello

Austin Huntington, *Principal*
Jiyeon Kim, *Associate Principal*
Stephen Hawkey, *Assistant Principal*
CJ Collins**
James Cooper
Nicholas Donatelle
Jonah Krolik
Sam Viguerie

Contrabass

Ju-Fang Liu, *Principal*
Robert Goodlett II, *Assistant Principal*
Mitchell Ballester
Joseph Everett**
Sharif Ibrahim
Brian Smith
Bert Witzel

Flute

Alistair Howlett, *Acting Principal*
Dianne Seo**

Oboe

Jennifer Christen, *Principal, The Frank C. Springer Jr. Chair*
Tanavi Prabhu
Roger Roe, *Assistant Principal*

English Horn

Roger Roe, *The Ann Hampton Hunt Chair*

Clarinet

Juliana Darby, *Principal*
Cathryn Gross
Samuel Rothstein, *Assistant Principal, The Huffington Chair*

Bass Clarinet

Samuel Rothstein

Bassoon

Ivy Ringel, *Principal*
Michael Muszynski
Mark Ortwein, *Assistant Principal*

Contrabassoon

Mark Ortwein

Horn

Robert Danforth, *Principal, The Robert L. Mann and Family Chair*
Richard Graef, *Assistant Principal*
Julie Beckel
Alison Dresser
The Bakken Family Chair
Jeanne Getz

Trumpet

Mark Grisez, *Principal Trumpet, The W. Brooks & Wanda Y. Fortune Chair*
Daniel Lewis
Alexander Schwarz**, *Acting Assistant Principal*

Trombone

Derek Gullett, *Principal*
Ryan Miller, *Acting Assistant Principal*

Bass Trombone

Riley Giampaolo
The Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Test Chair

Tuba

Anthony Kniffen, *Principal*

Timpani

Jack Brennan, *Principal, The Thomas N. Akins Chair*
Craig Hetrick, *Assistant Principal*

Percussion

Pedro Fernández, *Acting Principal*
Jon Crabiel**
Craig Hetrick

Harp

Claire Thai, *Principal, The Walter Myers Jr. Chair*

Keyboard

The Women's Committee Chair
Endowed in honor of Dorothy Munger

Library

James Norman, *Principal Librarian*
Laura Cones, *Assistant Principal Librarian*
Cynthia Stacy, *Assistant Librarian*
Susan Grymonpré, *Assistant Librarian*

Stage

Kit Williams, *Stage Manager*
P. Alan Alford, *Technician*
Steven A. Martin, *Technician*
Patrick Feeney, *Technician*

*The Fifth Chair in the Second Violin Section is seated using revolving seating. String sections use revolving seating.

**Temporary Contract

+Leave of Absence

Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 39th annual AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* at the Hilbert Circle Theatre! We're delighted to have you with us for this magical holiday experience. From the moment you enter our festively adorned lobby—featuring a magnificent holiday tree and cheerful characters ready for photos—you'll be immersed in the joy and wonder of the season.

I am excited this year to welcome co-hosts Ashley Brown and Curtis Bannister to the stage. Ashley is a long-time friend and true Disney royalty, and Curtis is the quintessential leading man. We are looking forward to the holiday magic that they will create at each performance along with the phenomenal musicians of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

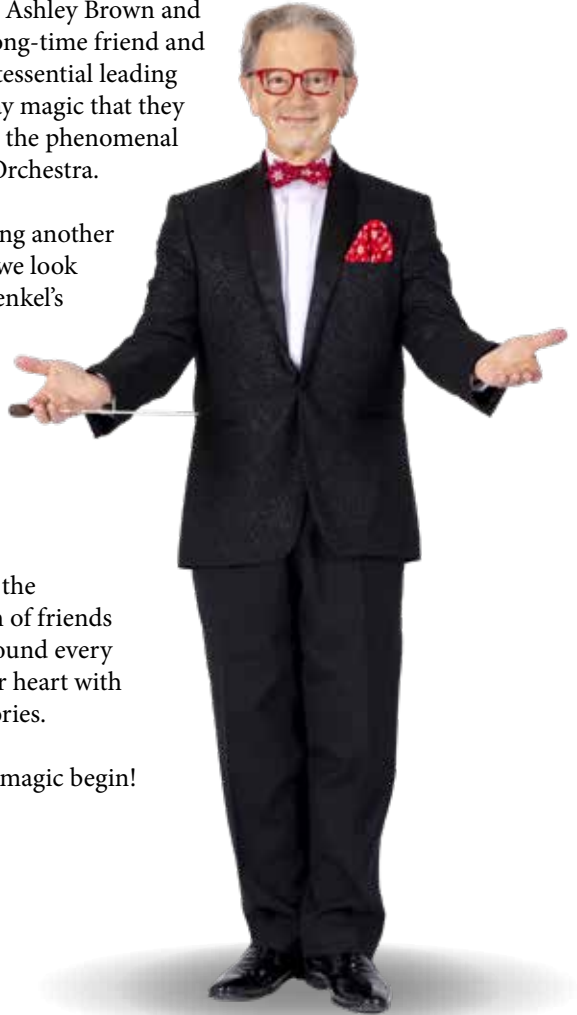
Concertmaster Kevin Lin will be performing another vibrant, concert-stopping violin solo, and we look forward to celebrating 24 years of Clare Henkel's costume designs for AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* with a fabulous fashion show. The internationally acclaimed dance troupe Expressenz is back, along with a host of friends from the North Pole to help Santa create a magical holiday season.

Join us in celebrating the joy and magic of the holiday season, surrounded by the warmth of friends and family. With surprises and delights around every corner, we hope this performance fills your heart with wonder, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

Thank you for being here—let the holiday magic begin!



Jack Everly
Principal Pops Conductor
Music Director of AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration*



Music in My Life: Anthony Kniffen, Tuba



Anthony Kniffen's first professional orchestral experience, at age 18, was as acting Principal Tuba in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for a concert under Sir Georg Solti. A year later he joined the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra for eight seasons, and was appointed Principal Tuba of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in 1997. His teaching career began at the University of Hawai'i and continued at the University of Indianapolis, before joining Butler University. He is currently at IU-Bloomington on a one-year position teaching their tuba studio.

Tell us about your family.

Amy and I celebrated our 25th anniversary in mid-August with a cruise to Alaska. It has been a great delight to commute to work

these many years and share so many experiences and joys at work together. She is my delight and joy! Two of our children started college this fall and the third just started high school. I'm from a family of six boys, growing up in Kirkwood, Missouri.

When did you start playing the tuba?

Music really began singing along with Mom and John Denver in the car, then in church, then in school choirs. I was in a touring Christian show choir each summer for five years. Learning to sing, read music, and move in rhythm (no claims to being a good dancer, though) were very formative for success on a brass instrument. I began on trumpet in sixth grade, but braces and band directors led me toward the baritone horn or euphonium until late in high school, when I transferred all the technique from choir and euphonium to the biggest, best brass instrument of them all: the glorious tuba.

What concert are you looking forward to this season?

Several! Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10, Mahler's Second Symphony, *Sleeping Beauty* by Tchaikovsky, and Mahler's Sixth Symphony.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not performing?

I dream of the West and photography and geology and hiking and sharing it with others. I spent 11 summers in Colorado before joining the ISO.

Any advice for a young person considering a career in the orchestra?

Focus on style, tone, pitch, and long hours of joyful practice and listening. The "how" of playing an instrument is important, but unless those other things dominate your thinking, it will be difficult to enjoy working hard enough to be successful. And be sure you really want this, because you might have to relocate away from friends and family to find a job.

What do you want our audience members to know about the ISO or learn more about?

The ISO has a rich and long tradition, with many accomplished musicians coming through our doors. Arnold Jacobs, arguably the most influential brass teacher of the 20th century, performed in the ISO from 1937 to 1939. Jacobs once said, "Do not play it on a brass instrument unless the ear training is complete." I think of his teaching and performing examples almost every day. It is a tremendous honor and responsibility to sit in a chair he once held.



“BRAVO!”

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INDIANAPOLIS  SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



SCAN TO
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This is your chance to assist patrons at concerts at Hilbert Circle Theatre, special events, and *Kroger Symphony on the Prairie*.

- Give back to the community
- Support the ISO through your gift of time
- Earn a voucher to redeem for tickets to a future performance
- Receive free parking for your shift
- Have access to private events such as seasonal parties and musician meet & greets



For the past several years, Mark Ortwein (bassoon) has been featured on the “Saxy Santas” concert at the Indianapolis Artsgarden at the Circle Centre Mall. The concert will be held on December 7 at 2:30 p.m. He also continues to perform at the Chatterbox Jazz Club on Massachusetts Avenue several times a month.

Jennifer Christen (oboe) and Alistair Howlett (flute) will be playing duets at Eskenazi Hospital on December 10 at noon.

Enjoy an afternoon of contemplative Christmas celebration with the Vickery Family! The concert, “Carols and Classics with the Vickery Family,” will take place at Nativity Catholic Church on December 14 at 4 p.m. Peter (violin) and Joyce (composer, pianist) will share fresh arrangements of classic carols that celebrate the mystery and wonder of Christmas, from favorites like “Thou Who Wast Rich” to original carols like “Gather Round the Holy Manger.” Their 8 musical children will also contribute additional strings and vocal talent.

For two years, several ISO musicians have volunteered to play music for the Longest Night memorial service for Indy’s unhoused citizens who have passed. The memorial will take place at Roberts Park United Methodist Church on December 21, the winter solstice and longest night of the year.

To ring in 2026, Ronen Chamber Ensemble welcomes Indianapolis native Natalie Debikey Scanio (flute/piccolo with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra). The program will include Franz Doppler’s “Andante et Rondo,” arias by J.S. Bach, and Francis Poulenc’s Sextet for winds and piano. Concerts take place January 25, at 4 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center Laikin Auditorium (enter through door 5 and bring a photo ID) and on January 26, 7:30 p.m., at the Hilbert Circle Theatre Wood Room. Visit www.ronenchamber.org/events for more information. Artistic Directors: Gregory Martin, Piano; Alistair Howlett, Flute; Jennifer Christen, Oboe.

On January 26 at 7 p.m. at the University of Indianapolis and on January 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Butler University, Bryson Karrer (violin), Vincent Meklis (violin), Amy Kniffen (viola), James Cooper (cello), and Ju-Fang Liu (bass) will perform Mozart’s String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K. 465 “Dissonance,” and Dvořák’s String Quintet No. 2 in G major, Op. 77. Admission is free.

On January 30 at The Fortune Academy, a History in Harmony program called “Selective Memory: Who Gets Remembered and Why?” will be presented by Amy Kniffen and ISO colleagues. History in Harmony is one of the ISO’s Hall Pass programs, which are available to area schools and community programs. More information and scheduling is available at education@indianapolis-symphony.org

Ivy Ringel (bassoon) recently accepted a position as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Bassoon at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She is excited to be working with the wonderful students and faculty at IU!



In August, Rob Danforth filled in on principal horn with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra for a performance of Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* (Complete Ballet). Rob's daughter, Katie, has a one-year position with the APO and the ISO's Music Director Jun Märkl was the guest conductor at the August performance. *Photo: Jun Märkl, Katie Danforth, and Rob Danforth.*

Home for the holidays— here's how some of our musicians plan to celebrate!

Jennifer Christen (oboe), Alistair Howlett (flute), and their two sons will be continuing their tradition of Christmas with family in Buffalo, New York, after the boys attend *Yuletide* on December 22. Jennifer and Alistair are hoping for an easy, clear Christmas Day drive. They also look forward to attending the wedding of dear friends Conrad Jones (former ISO principal trumpet) and Maria Semes (former ISO violin) on December 29.

Alison Dresser (horn) is excited to spend time with her husband Jake, in his hometown of Denver, Colorado, where they hope to spend lots of time with family and maybe do some skiing and rock climbing.

Mark Grisez (trumpet) is looking forward to hosting family and friends visiting from Pittsburgh, Penn., and from his home state of California. He'll be reading many of the books he bought earlier in the year (or last year) that he hasn't gotten to yet, and will be playing lots of Magic: The Gathering with his partner Ashley.

Mike Muszynski (bassoon) and his family split the holidays between his family in Florida and his wife's family in Columbus, Ind., and they plan to be in Columbus this year. In addition to the holiday events, whenever Mike is not on stage playing for *Yuletide* or at home practicing and making reeds for the rest of the season, he is at the ice rink coaching youth hockey.

Roger Roe (oboe) and his husband Kent help coordinate the Advent music every year for their church home, Central Christian, by inviting ISO musicians to play every Sunday. After *Yuletide* ends its run, they will be relaxing in Texas and Mexico with their friends and family to ring in the new year.

Marisa Votapek (violin) is looking forward to visiting family in Naples, Florida, and the Midwest this holiday season. She likes to spend the colder months snuggled up with her two cats, and is planning a trip to Latin America for the new year.



YULETIDE CELEBRATION

Background

AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* has a rich 38-year history. Prior to the existence of this beloved family tradition, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra filled its December calendar with everything from Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* to *The Nutcracker* with Butler University and holiday-themed Pops shows.

In 1986, the ISO changed gears completely and became the first American orchestra to create an original Broadway-style holiday extravaganza with singing, dancing, puppetry, and many more theatrical elements. The *Yuletide Celebration* started small, with only eight performances in the first year, and it has grown to be the largest orchestra-produced holiday presentation of its kind in North America. The ISO now presents on average 29 performances attracting nearly 40,000 people each December.

Hosts

This is the first year for Ashley Brown and Curtis Bannister to serve as co-hosts. Bannister performed in the 2024 AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration*. Many noted celebrities have hosted the AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration*: veteran comedienne and star of stage, screen, and television Kaye Ballard (1991); 1981 Miss America and TV host of the Discovery Channel's *Home Matters* Susan Powell (1993); two-time Tony Award-winning actress Judy Kaye (1994–95); longtime star as “The Phantom” in Broadway's production of *The Phantom of the Opera*, Ted Keegan (1999); acclaimed singer and Tony-nominated actress Pamela Isaacs (2001); two-time Grammy Award-winning soprano Sylvia McNair (2003); legendary pop music icon Maureen McGovern (2009); singer Frankie Moreno (2019, 2022); opera star Angela Brown (2012, 2014, 2018); winner of *The Voice* Josh Kaufman (2016, 2018); Ben Crawford (2012, 2014, 2023); and singer Sandi Patti's record-setting ten appearances (2000, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2021, and 2024).













Conductors & Creatives

The first conductor for *Yuletide Celebration* was longtime Oklahoma City Philharmonic Music Director Joel Levine (1986–90). Following Maestro Levine were Indianapolis Opera Artistic Director James Caraher (1991), Boston Pops Music Director Keith Lockhart (1992–93), and current ISO Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly (1994–present). Another noted member of the *Yuletide Celebration* artistic team was Broadway choreographer Mercedes Ellington, granddaughter of famed bandleader Duke Ellington, who choreographed elaborate dance elements for the show for 10 years (1991–2000). Current Choreographer and Director Jennifer Ladner started with the show as Dance Captain, and was then promoted to Assistant Choreographer shortly after. Jennifer then moved into the role of Choreographer and eventually into Director/Choreographer. Executive Producer Ty Johnson has also served as the first and only producer of *Yuletide Celebration*.



By the Numbers

There's a lot that goes into the show! The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's holiday production of the AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* includes:

-  **61** vocalists, dancers, actors, and specialized performers in the company
-  **57** production staff and crew
-  **12 tons** of scenery and light equipment
-  **10,700** different points of light within the scenery and pixel trees via fiber-optic lighting
-  Scores and parts for **33 songs** prepared by the music library for the show. This would be **9,500** printed pages, but many of our singers use iPads when learning music!
-  **480+** costumes and **120** props
-  **96** microphones
-  More than **2,600** batteries to power the artists' microphones during the course of the 26-performance run
-  **11 months** of planning, designing, fitting, altering, and sewing costumes
-  **12** snow machines
-  **380** hours rehearsed by Director/Choreographer Jennifer Ladner, the production staff, and cast
-  **141** hours for our stagehands and production team to load in the set—including **36** additional crew members—to prep, distribute, and tune sound gear, hang and focus the lights, and get the stage ready to shine!



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Private Advisor, Managing Director

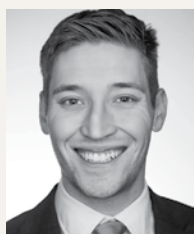
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YULETIDE CELEBRATION

PRODUCED AND PRESENTED BY THE
INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Music Director
JACK EVERLY

Starring
ASHLEY BROWN & CURTIS BANNISTER

FEATURING

KEVIN LIN EXPRESSENZ JOE MARTIN
DAVID BLALOCK ANTHONY KNIFFEN ASHLEY FABIAN

ALEXA ABBOTT ISABELLA AGRESTA RD ALBRIGHT DAN ALLIS
JULIA BAILEY MALLORIE BAKER-SINGH ERIN BENEDICT
SHANNON CHRISTIE JULIAN DECKER SYDNEY FOERTSCH JOEL FLYNN
MARK GILGALLON JAMES LEE GLATZ JERRY HACKER KATHLEEN HACKER
MACIE HARRIS SAWYER HARVEY KEIRA HIMES JEN HUBER
MICHAEL HUMPHREY HANNAH JEW DOUG KING MARIA KINGSLEY
DANNY KINGSTON ALIE KRYDER MACEY LERETTE
DEVAN MATHIAS AMANDA MCCARTHY ARLO MCCARTHY
ALY MELLIERE CHARLIE METZGER CODY MILEY DOMINIC OLVEY
AMY OWENS PHOEBE OWENS JOSEPH PERKINS, JR. HANNAH REED
NATALIE RENEE LAURA RONG KATHRYN ROTH ALLEN SLEDGE
JUSTIN STAHL AUDREY STATES SARAH TEWES RYAN THOMAS
MADELEINE TRENT KAYLEE VERBLE ALIYA WARREN ADAM WHITE
J TYLER WHITMER ADDISON YANNEY ERIN YANNEY

Choreography and Stage Direction
Jennifer Ladner

Costume Design
Clare Henkel

Lighting Design
Stuart Duke

Vocal Director
Greg Sanders

Associate Lighting Design
Travis McHale

Line Producer
Brandy Rodgers

Sound Design
Alan Alford & Matt Kraus

Production Stage Manager
Ken Saltzman

Executive Producer
Ty A. Johnson

Stage Managers
**Matthew Meeks &
Mitchell Ward**

Thanking CLARE HENKEL FOR 24 YEARS



"Some of my favorite designs for *Yuletide* were what we call the 'Executive Elves' [above right]. They were built around 2016 for three young women who accompanied Santa. I love their stylization and bold colors."



Ben Crawford & Company | *Yuletide* 2023



Sandi Patty | *Yuletide* 2024

"There are so many times when I see something onstage that I have been working on for months, and when the lights come up, the choreography starts, and the glorious music from the Orchestra begins, I always get a little teary. It's very gratifying!"

"Twenty-four years ago, my sister Ellen Kingston was a *Yuletide* performer and also worked on the costumes. When Ty Johnson and Jack Everly wanted to make the show larger, Ellen gave them my design portfolio, and the rest is *Yuletide* history!"

Clare Henkel | Costume Designer

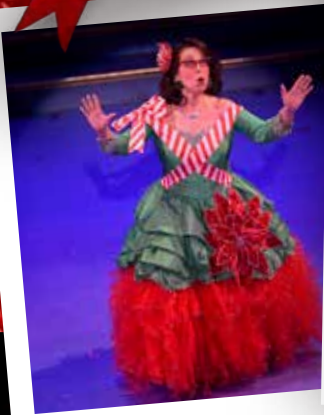


PROJECT *Yuletide*



White Christmas Medley | Yuletide 2010

"Some of my favorite costumes were from the first year we did the *White Christmas* medley. The curtain opened to a stage full of red and white. The men were in red tails and fabulous red and white shoes, and the women were in gowns with red metallic poinsettias."



Susie Mosher | Yuletide 2022



Angela Brown | Yuletide 2014



Caroline Durbin | Yuletide 2024



YULETIDE CELEBRATION

December 5–December 23, 2025

Act One

Joy to the World
The Christmas Waltz
Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!
It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
**Ashley Brown, Curtis Bannister
& Company**

Jingle All the Ways: Theme and Variations
**Ashley Brown, Curtis Bannister
& Company**

Clare Couture: The Yuletide Collection
Kevin Lin & Company

Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas
Yuletide Singers

'Twas the Night Before Christmas
**Ashley Fabian, David Blalock
& Company**

I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day
Ashley Brown

Rudolph!
Expressenz

The Santatizer
Curtis Bannister, Joe Martin & Company

Santa Claus is Coming to Town!
Yuletide Dancers & Expressenz

Traditional
Jule Styne & Sammy Cahn
Jule Styne & Sammy Cahn
Edward Pola & George Wyle

James Pierpont
Adapted by Jack Everly

Antonio Vivaldi
Arr./Orch.: Jack Everly & James Norman
Techno Track: Enrico Lopez-Yañez
Transcription: Greg Sanders

John Williams

By Clement Clark Moore
Set to Music by Ken Darby
Arr. Norman Luboff, Orch. Wally Stott

Arr. Bob Krogstad & Jack Everly

Johnny Marks
Arr. Richard Hayman

Jule Styne, Betty Comden & Adolph Green
Arr./Orch.: Jack Everly & Michael Gibson

Arr. Michael Gibson

INTERMISSION — Twenty Minutes

YULETIDE CELEBRATION

Act Two

A Very Merry Movie Medley 2025
**Ashley Brown, Curtis Bannister,
Anthony Kniffen, Joe Martin,
Expressenz & Company**

Various Composers

I Saw Three Ships
**Kevin Lin & the Indianapolis
Symphony Orchestra**

Arr. Jack Everly

Canti di Natale: Gesu Bambino and Panis Angelicus
Curtis Bannister & Company

Arr. Jack Everly

Mistletoe Mixtape: The Millennial Edition
**Ashley Brown, Isabella Agresta,
Julian Decker & Company**

Various Composers

The Polar Express Suite
Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Alan Silvestri & Glen Ballard
Arr. Jerry Brubaker

The Prayer
Ashley Brown & Curtis Bannister

David Foster & Carol Bayer Sager
Italian Lyrics by Alberto Testa
& Tony Renis. Arr. Jack Everly

The Quest of the Magi
Company

Jack Everly

O Holy Night
Ashley Brown, Curtis Bannister & Company

Adolphe Adam
Arr. David Clydesdale,
Orch. Adapt. by Jack Everly
Choral Arr. by Greg Sanders

The December 5 and December 23 AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration*
concerts are endowed by Marianne Williams Tobias

Understudy for Ashley Brown: Ashley Fabian. Understudy for Curtis Bannister: David Blalock
Understudy for Kevin Lin: Sherry Hong. Understudy for Mom: Shannon Christie
Understudy for Dad: Charlie Metzger. Understudy for Molar: Kaylee Verble

Length of performance is approximately two hours.
Recording or photographing of this performance is strictly prohibited.

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Jack Everly, Conductor



Jack Everly is the Principal Pops Conductor of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa). He has conducted the

Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, the San Francisco Symphony, the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, and the Seattle Symphony.

As Music Director of the National Memorial Day Concert and *A Capitol Fourth* on PBS, Everly proudly leads the National Symphony Orchestra in these patriotic celebrations on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. These concerts attract hundreds of thousands of attendees on the lawn and the broadcasts reach millions of viewers, making them some of the highest-rated programs on PBS.

Everly recently extended his contract with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra through the 2026–27 season. He will then become Conductor Emeritus and continue to be the Music Director and conduct the AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* and the *Film Series* presented by Bank of America. He will also continue to make appearances on the Printing Partners *Pops Series* each season.

Everly led the ISO in its first Pops recording, *Yuletide Celebration*, Volume One. Some of his other recordings include *In The Presence* featuring the Czech Philharmonic and Daniel Rodriguez; Sandi Patty's *Broadway Stories*; the soundtrack to Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*; and *Everything's Coming Up Roses: The Overtures of Jule Styne*.

Originally appointed by Mikhail Baryshnikov, Everly was conductor of the esteemed American Ballet Theatre for 14 years, where he served as music director. In addition to his ABT tenure, he teamed with Marvin Hamlisch on Broadway shows that Hamlisch scored. He conducted Carol Channing hundreds of times in *Hello, Dolly!* in two separate Broadway productions.

Everly, a Hoosier native and graduate of the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, is a recipient of the 2015 Indiana Historical Society Living Legends Award and holds an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from Franklin College in his home state of Indiana. In 2023, he received the Sagamore of the Wabash award, the highest honor a Hoosier can receive, presented by Governor Eric Holcomb.

Everly is looking forward to spending Christmas Eve with his husband and their two-year-old Golden Retriever Roxie Noel. Christmas day is spent at his mother-in-law, Carrol's, home, filled with wonderful family traditions and endless food. Incidentally, for many years, Carrol and her husband, Dale, opened their home and cooked Thanksgiving dinner for the entire cast of *Yuletide Celebration* during the early years of the show.

Everly has been a proud resident of the Indianapolis and Zionsville communities for more than 20 years and would like to thank his ISO musician colleagues for their continued commitment to excellence and for filling our community with music all year long.

Ashley Brown, Co-Host



Ashley Brown originated the title role in *Mary Poppins* on Broadway, for which she received Outer Critics, Drama League, and Drama Desk nominations for Best Actress. Ms. Brown also starred in the national tour of *Mary Poppins*,

garnering a Garland award for “Best Performance in a Musical.”

Ms. Brown’s other Broadway credits include Emily Hobbs in the recent revival of *Elf*, Belle in *The Beauty and The Beast*, and the national tour of Disney’s *On The Record*. Ms. Brown most recently starred as Mother Abbess in multiple Tony Award-winning director Jack O’Brien’s new production of *The Sound of Music*. Starring in the Lyric Opera of Chicago’s production of *Oklahoma* brought her further critical acclaim. She previously played Magnolia opposite Nathan Gunn in Francesca Zembello’s *Showboat* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Ms. Brown has performed with virtually all of the top orchestras in North America, including the Boston Pops, the New York Philharmonic, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra at Disney Hall, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall (five times), Fort Worth Symphony, the Cincinnati Pops, Philadelphia Orchestra (two times), the Milwaukee Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony (three times), Seattle Symphony, the Houston Symphony, Vancouver Symphony,

Jacksonville (twice), and the Philly Pops. She has also performed with the BBC orchestra opposite Josh Groban.

Ms. Brown made her solo concert debut at The Kennedy Center as part of Barbara Cook’s *Spotlight Series*, and has appeared in New York City at prestigious venues including Feinstein’s at the Regency and Birdland. Other projects include star turns in *The Golden Apple* at City Center Encores, *Hello, Dolly!* at The Goodspeed Opera House, *The Sound of Music* (for which she won a Kevin Kline award) and *Come from Away* at the Muny, *Limelight* at the La Jolla Playhouse, and her own PBS special, titled, “Ashley Brown: Call Me Irresponsible,” which received a PBS Telly Award. Other television credits include NBC’s *The Sound of Music*.

Ms. Brown is the voice of Disneyland’s 60th anniversary celebrations, singing the newly penned Richard Sherman song “A Kiss Goodnight.” Both Ms. Brown’s album of Broadway and American Songbook standards *Speak Low* and her newly recorded Christmas EP *The Secret of Christmas* are available on Ghostlight/Warner Brothers. Ms. Brown is a graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

www.ashleybrownonline.com

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Curtis Bannister, Co-Host



As the winner of the 2021 Actors Equity Foundation Roger Sturtevant Award: Outstanding Performance in Musical Theater, a Drama League Award nominee: Best Concert Performance and 2023 Joseph Jefferson Award

nominee: Outstanding Performance by a Principal Actor in a Musical, actor, and tenor **Curtis Bannister** has been praised by the *LA Times* as “a quiet revelation” and Broadway World as “a commanding performer.”

Since making his unexpected but lauded operatic debut in the title role of Verdi’s *Otello* with the Utah Festival, Curtis has been lauded as one of the most talented multi-genre performing artists of his generation for his achievements in theater, classical music, and film. In 2025, Curtis made his stage debut at the Goodman Theater in *The Color Purple* following his debut with the company beside Heather Headley for the theater’s 2021 gala, “Together: Center Stage,” and he made his operatic debut in Washington, D.C., as Robert Johnson in Damien Geter’s *Delta King’s Blues*.

Curtis debuted at The Kennedy Center as Soloist 1/Celebrant (cover) in Leonard Bernstein’s Mass for the Center’s 50th anniversary celebration with the National Symphony and has performed, in concert, with the Cincinnati Symphony/Cincinnati Pops Orchestra’s Celebration Concert, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and with the Philadelphia Orchestra in Bernstein’s *Candide* alongside Bradley Cooper and Carey Mulligan. Bannister has performed with Lyric Opera of Chicago, St. Petersburg Opera, Atlanta Opera, the Philadelphia Orchestra,

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Heartbeat Opera, Chicago Opera Theatre, and Utah Festival Opera. Previous theatrical role highlights include Enjolras/*Les Misérables*, Coalhouse Walker Jr./*Ragtime*, Sid Sorokin/*The Pajama Game*, Ragotski & Cacambo/*Candide*, Celebrant/Bernstein’s Mass, Sweeney Todd/*Sweeney Todd*, John/*Miss Saigon*, Jim/*Big River*, Man 1/*Songs for a New World*, Jim Conley/*Parade*, Jamie/*The Last Five Years*, and Andre/*Ain’t Misbehavin’*. Future projects include debuts and return performances in Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., and a supporting role in the upcoming film *A Talented Man*.

In film and television, Curtis made his debut at the Tribeca Film Festival in the feature film *The Conductor*, and can be seen as Marquis on season two of the Apple TV+ series *Dickinson*, opposite Hailee Steinfeld. He was also seen as firefighter Reimers in season six of NBC’s *Chicago Fire*, and in season two of Netflix’ *Survival of the Thickest* opposite comedian Michelle Buteau.

For more information, visit www.thecurtisbannister.com
Instagram: @thee_cb | Twitter: @theecb

Orcenith Smith, Cover Conductor



Cover Conductor **Orcenith Smith** has conducted the ISO numerous times, including *Yuletide Celebration*, *Discovery Concerts*, the *Family Series*, and *New Music* events.

As conductor of DePauw University

Orchestra and Opera, he has taken the DePauw Chamber Symphony to Japan, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain, France, and Austria. At DePauw Opera, he has conducted *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Cendrillon*, *Little Women*,

Coronation of Poppea, and *Street Scene*. He was music director of the Chicago Youth Symphony, is conductor of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Indianapolis, and has conducted in the Musikverein in Vienna, the Köln Philharmonie, Brucknerhalle in Linz, and Meistersingerhalle in Nuremberg, Carnegie Recital Hall in New York, the Terrace Theatre at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, and Phoenix with his orchestras.

He has guest conducted the Seattle Symphony, the Oregon Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic, and Indiana orchestras in Lafayette, Terre Haute, Carmel, and the Orange County (CA) Philharmonic Society.

AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* Cast



Originally from the greater New York area, violinist **Kevin Lin** currently serves as Concertmaster of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and co-Principal Guest Concertmaster of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

Lin is a highly sought after Concertmaster, previously holding the position of Co-Leader in the London Philharmonic Orchestra. His Guest Concertmaster appearances have included the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and the Taiwan Philharmonic.

In addition to his Concertmaster duties, Lin has appeared as soloist with major orchestras throughout the U.S., Asia, and United Kingdom, having worked with many renowned conductors. An equally active chamber Musician, Lin has collaborated with Martin Beaver, Clive Greensmith, Cho Liang Lin, Mathieu Herzog, Edgar Meyer, Orion Weiss, Meng-Chieh Liu, Andrew Bain, and Roberto Diaz.

Lin spent his early years studying with Patinka Kopec at the Manhattan School of Music. He went on to study with Robert Lipsett at the Colburn School and Aaron Rosand at the Curtis Institute of Music. Lin is currently Artist-in-Residence at Butler University, Jordan College of the Arts and spends his summers at the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego and the Colorado Music Festival.

Kevin performs on the 1683 Ex-Gingold Stradivari on loan to him from the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis.



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AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* Cast



Anthony Kniffen's first professional orchestral experience, at age 18, was as acting Principal Tuba in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for a concert under Sir Georg Solti. A year later he joined the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra for eight seasons and has been Principal Tuba of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra since 1997. Mr. Kniffen performed John Williams' virtuosic Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra on an ISO Classical Series Concert with Music Director Mario Venzago in 2008. He performed the Indiana premiere of another virtuosic work, Wynton Marsalis' Concerto for Tubist with the ISO in March of 2023. He has also appeared as a concerto soloist at Kroger *Symphony on the Prairie*, and for many seasons on *Yuletide Celebration* concerts. Other solo appearances include regional and international tuba conferences, and colleges, including his alma mater, Indiana University. Mr. Kniffen can be heard on *CSO Resound: The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass Section Live*. He is the "play-along" tuba player on Hal Leonard's *Essential Elements 2000*, and numerous other play-along projects. He can also be heard on a tribute CD to Indiana University jazz legend David Baker, *Basically Baker*. Mr. Kniffen has performed with the Saint Louis, Minnesota, Cincinnati, Detroit, and New Mexico symphony orchestras. In the 1990s, he toured the U.S. extensively with Summit Brass ("America's Large Brass Ensemble") and Japan with Sierra Brass. He is currently serving at IU-Bloomington on a one-year position teaching their tuba studio. Tony is most commonly known as (ISO violist) "Amy Kniffen's husband."



Joe Martin, a lifelong Indiana native, is excited to return to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra for the AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* for the second year. Joe has performed all over the country and the world as a member and featured soloist with the Purdue Varsity Glee Club. Notable performances include at Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops Orchestra under conductor Skitch Henderson, International tours to China, England, Ireland and Scotland, a presidential inauguration and as the "singing Santa" in 42 performances of the Purdue Christmas Show on the stage of Elliott Hall of Music both during and after attending college. Joe has also performed with The Voices in Franklin, Ind., and most recently as a member of the Indianapolis Men's Chorus. Joe's "day job" is with the National FFA Organization where he has the opportunity to help students across the nation develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Joe would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support!



Expressenz Dance Center was founded in September 2008 by Director/Owner Karla Curatolo. Their mission since has been to enhance the love of dance for all individuals, regardless of ability, while providing quality training, structure, and cultivating expression to all who desire excellence in dance. Alumni from their program can be found in university dance programs across the country and dancing professionally in both company and commercial work. Expressenz was featured on Season 2 of the hit NBC television show *World of Dance* produced by Jennifer Lopez. Expressenz was recently named Studio of the Year 2024 by The Dance Awards. They are excited to be a part of AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* and the effervescent dance community in Indianapolis.



Julia Bailey



Sydney Foertsch



Keira Himes



Maria Kingsley



Macey LeRette



Aly Melliere



Kathryn Roth



Audrey States



Aliya Warren



AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* Cast



Alexa Abbott



Isabella Agresta



Dan Allis



Mallorie Baker-Singh



Erin Benedict



David Blalock



Shannon Christie



Julian Decker



Ashley Fabian



Joel Flynn



Mark Gilgallon



James Lee Glatz



Jerry Hacker



Kathleen Hacker



Macie Harris



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Sherry Hong



Jen Huber



Michael Humphrey



Hannah Jew



Doug King



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Alie Kryder



Devan Mathias



Amanda McCarthy



Arlo McCarthy



Charlie Metzger



Cody Miley



Amy Owens



Phoebe Owens



Joseph Perkins, Jr.



Hannah Reed

AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* Cast



Natalie Renee



Laura Rong



Allen Sledge



Sarah Tewes



Ryan Thomas



Madeleine Trent



Kaylee Verble



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A promotional image for the One Piece concert. It features Luffy from One Piece in a dynamic pose, wearing his red shirt and straw hat. The text "ONE PIECE: Music Symphony" is prominently displayed at the top, with "MAY 02 | 7:30 P.M." below it. At the bottom, it says "INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA" and "© Eiichiro Oda / Shueisha, Toei Animation".

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AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration Cast

Alexa Abbott is delighted to return to the Hilbert Circle Theatre for her fifth season of *Yuletide*! A professional dancer and choreographer based in Indianapolis, she has performed in productions including *The Rocky Horror Show* (Zach & Zack Productions), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *The Wizard of Oz* (Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre), *West Side Story* (Indianapolis Opera), and *Esque: A Burlesque Show* (Worcel Shepard Productions). Alexa is so passionate about what she does and hopes you enjoy the magic this year brings.

Isabella Agresta is so excited to be returning to *Yuletide* for her second year! Isabella is an Indianapolis-based singer/actress and was most recently seen as Priscilla Presley in *Heartbreak Hotel* at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre. Some of her other past credits include: *Fiddler on the Roof* (Hodel), *Jersey Boys* (Francine/Ensemble), *Anastasia* (Any), *Heathers: The Musical* (Heather Chandler), *The Wedding Singer* (Ensemble/Dance Captain), *The Prom* (Kaylee/Ensemble), and *Be More Chill* (Ensemble/Swing). She would like to thank her friends and family for their continuous love and support!!

Dan Allis returns this year for his 36th season with AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration*. Dan performed for 20 years as a puppeteer on *Time for Timothy*, a children's TV show in puppet drama format, which aired locally from 1957 to 1999. In addition to puppetry, Dan has worked behind the scenes at several local community theatres. A native of Indianapolis, Dan is a nurse at Fairway Village, a local nursing home specializing in caring for elderly men with dementia.

Now in her seventh season with the *Yuletide Celebration*, **Mallorie Baker-Singh** is honored to once again share in this treasured Indianapolis tradition. A graduate of Ball State University with a BFA in Dance Performance, she brings her lifelong love of music and movement to the stage. Beyond performing, Mallorie channels her creativity through her work in the beauty industry with the Tyler Mason Salon & Spa team and extends her compassion to animals through her volunteer work with Heaven After Hell Animal Rescue. She lovingly dedicates this year's performance to her niece and nephews—Harper, Judah, Henry, and Everett—whose joy and wonder remind her of the magic of the season.

Vocalist **Erin Benedict** studied Jazz Voice and Commercial Music at the Manhattan School of Music, where she trained under Jackie Presti and Sheila Jordan. While in New York, she worked as a session singer at The Hit Factory and Edison Recording Studios, performing background vocals for Disney, Magnolia Pictures, and Mater Dei Music. She continues to record for Disney on Ice and Disney's live-action shows. Erin was one of eight singers featured on "Passport to the Universe"—narrated by Tom Hanks—at the Hayden Planetarium in New York's American Museum of Natural History. She toured nationally with the a cappella jazz ensemble Pieces of 8. Now based in Indianapolis, Erin is a studio vocalist at Aire Born, Round Table Recording Studios, and Gaither Studios. She teaches jazz voice and directs Jordan Jazz at Butler University. Recently, Erin recorded national commercials for Lids and Crew Carwash. Her jazz album *Steal Away* showcases her soulful artistry, and she continues performing locally and contributing background vocals for other artists. ErinBenedict.com

Praised for his "fine tenor voice" (*Winston-Salem Journal*), **David Blalock** is known for his beautiful lyric tone and his varied repertoire. In the 2024–2025 season, he made his debut with Opera Grand Rapids as Nemorino in *Lelisir d'amore*, as well as returning to the Metropolitan Opera in their productions of *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *Salome*. He joined Charlottesville Opera for a recital, and he also joined MidAmerica productions as the tenor soloist for Mozart's *Mass in C* and

AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration Cast

Regina Coeli, performed at Carnegie Hall. In the 2023–2024 season, Mr. Blalock sang Valcour in *The Anonymous Lover* with Madison Opera, and joined MidAmerica Productions as the tenor soloist in Schubert's Mass in G and Forrest's *The Dawn From On High*. A champion of contemporary works, he has also appeared as Macduff in *Working for the Macbeths* at the American Lyric Theatre, Sam Kaplan in *Street Scene*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Virginia Opera), and Tobias in *Sweeney Todd* (Mill City Summer Opera and Virginia Opera).

Shannon Paige Christie is thrilled to return to *Yuletide* for her second year! A versatile soprano and Indianapolis native, Shannon is a recurring soloist with the Hendricks Symphony. Notable operatic credits include Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*) with the Crested Butte Music Festival; Violetta (*La Traviata*); Poppea (*Agrippina*); and Mrs. Hayes (*Susannah*). She has also covered the roles of the Countess (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Susannah (*Susannah*) with Opera Fort Collins. Shannon made her professional debut as Annina (*La Traviata*) during her time as a Resident Artist with Indianapolis Opera. Significant concert highlights include soprano soloist in Poulenc's Gloria, Mozart's Requiem, Beethoven's Mass in C Major, Handel's *Messiah*, Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*, and Vivaldi's Gloria. She holds a Master of Music from the University of Colorado-Boulder and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Indianapolis, where she studied with Dr. Kathleen Hacker.

Julian Decker. Broadway: *Sunset Boulevard* (Myron/Choreographer), and *Les Misérables* (Joly). Off Broadway: *Mack and Mabel* (Encores). National Tour: *Love Never Dies* (Phantom u/s). Regional: *Bat Boy!* (Bat Boy/Edgar), *Atlantis* (Kaden), *Ragtime* (Younger Brother); Ogunquit Playhouse, *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Quasimodo u/s; La Jolla and Papermill Playhouse), *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Quasimodo; Tuacahn), *Bye Bye Birdie!* (Hugo Peabody; The Muny), *Singin' In The Rain*, *Les Misérables*, *Hello, Dolly!* (The Muny). TV/Film: *The Killer Speaks* (Hulu/MAX), *The Irishman*, *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. AudioBooks: *Coffee and Cedar*, *d'ILLUSION: The Houdini Musical* (Harry Houdini). Co-writer of *Beethoven: a musical tragedy*. Featured vocalist with the Indianapolis Symphony (*Yuletide Celebration*), Oklahoma Symphony (Classic Radio Hits). Owner/CEO of First you Dream Entertainment (an entertainment services organization) Proud graduate of CCM. Love to Stalwart Management, D and J & J and J.
@JuJDecker | www.julianrdecker.com

Acclaimed by the *New York Classical Review* as “a vision of sunshine and joy,” **Ashley Fabian** is quickly garnering recognition for her artistry in both comedic and dramatic roles. This season she joins The Coastal Symphony of Georgia as the soprano soloist for Mahler's Symphony No. 4, returns to the Amadeus Chamber Ensemble in a Russian concert, and joins the Reno Philharmonic as the soprano soloist in *Carmina Burana*. Since her critically acclaimed Columbus Symphony Orchestra debut in 2022, Ms. Fabian has sung *Carmina Burana* with the Tucson Symphony, Knoxville Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Glacier Symphony, Bozeman Symphony, and Utah Symphony. Critics cited her “utterly sublime rendition” and “gorgeous crystalline tone” (*Utah Arts Review*) as well as her “impressive command of labyrinthine melismas” (*Quasi-Faust*). She has performed as a soloist on stages such as Carnegie Hall, The Hollywood Bowl, and The Walt Disney Concert Hall, and has worked with companies including Los Angeles Opera, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Seattle Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and Utah Symphony, among others. In addition to her work as a soprano, Ms. Fabian works as an actor based in Los Angeles. She has appeared in several films, most recently featured on the Lifetime Movie Network. She is also an undefeated contestant of several game shows, including *Wheel of Fortune*.



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Joel Flynn, an Indianapolis native, is so excited to return to the Hilbert Circle Theatre for his sixth *Yuletide Celebration*! Favorite credits include *Anything Goes in Concert* (Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra), *Hairspray in Concert* (Baltimore Symphony Orchestra), *The Music Man* (Cincinnati Pops), and *Mary Poppins* (Lexington Theatre Company). Joel has also choreographed for many theatres, show choir programs, and competition dance studios around the Indianapolis area. He currently is the Synergy Performance Company and Competition Director at Wishes Dance Studio in Fishers. Love and thanks to Mom, Dad, Josh, Kellie, and Alex.

A familiar face and voice to Indianapolis audiences, **Mark Gilgallon** has made over twenty appearances with the Indianapolis Opera, and as an ensemble member of *Yuletide* with the ISO for over ten years. While singing in the ensemble of *Yuletide*, Mark served as Vocal Director for eight years until 2013. This is his third year serving as a Pit Singer and at least his twentieth year as the opening voiceover for Indiana's favorite holiday tradition—*Yuletide*. Mark made his solo Carnegie Hall debut under the direction of Henry Leck; at the Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and Indianapolis symphonies with Maestro Jack Everly; and at the Cincinnati Pops with Erich Kunzel. In May 2015, Mark made his solo Avery Fisher Hall debut at Lincoln Center with Mark Hayes. As a session singer, Mark has recorded for Warner Brothers, Shawnee Press, Beckenhurst Press, Lorenz, and Alfred Press, among others. In addition to his performing career, Mark serves as an Adjunct Professor of Voice at University of Indianapolis and begins a new job as Director of Music at First American Baptist Church, Indianapolis.

James Lee Glatz is excited to return for his fourth *Yuletide Celebration*. His stage work includes the Las Vegas cast of *Mamma Mia!*, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Paramount Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Marriott Lincolnshire, and International City Theatre. On screen, James Lee has appeared in HBO's *The Rehearsal* and NBC's *Chicago Fire*, as well as in numerous national and regional commercials. Now based in sunny Los Angeles, he's grateful to spend the holidays in Indianapolis with his family—especially his niece, Lennon. For Mom.

Jerry Hacker has performed for 33 years with the ISO's *Yuletide Celebration*. This year marks his third year singing as a "Pit Singer," allowing his participation in the vocal excellence of the production to continue. Jerry was a featured vocalist at Kroger *Symphony on the Prairie* as part of *Broadway's Standing Ovarions* and has performed *On The Air!* with the Detroit, Baltimore, and Pittsburgh symphonies. Additionally, he has sung in *Sandi Patty's Broadway* with the Kansas, Indianapolis, and Cincinnati Orchestras. Jerry has sung with the Indianapolis Opera and was the Bishop/Grantaire in the Beef & Boards production of *Les Misérables*. It is always a joy to be a part of the ISO's *Yuletide Celebration*, and even better to share the experience with his spouse, Kathleen.

Kathleen Hacker, soprano, made her New York debut as soloist with the American Symphony Orchestra at Lincoln Center (Alice Tully Hall) and has sung with major symphony orchestras across the country, including those of Baltimore, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis. She appeared as a regular cover for Sandi Patty in the Indianapolis Symphony *Yuletide Celebration* and can be heard as soprano soloist on the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir 75th anniversary release of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. As a chamber musician, where she is most at home, Kathleen has appeared throughout the country and abroad, with more than 250 varied concerts to her credit. Dr. Hacker is Professor of Music Emerita at the University of Indianapolis where she taught all things vocal, led professional development and creativity classes, and served as Artistic



Director of the Opera Theatre. She is an avid supporter of young singers and has served as mentor and judge for The Songbook Academy, founded by Michael Feinstein, and Schmidt Vocal Arts, which is a foundation dedicated to fostering young students' passion for classical music.

Macie Harris is an Indiana native who now resides in New York City. Prior to her move to NYC, Macie graduated *summa cum laude* from George Mason University with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Arts Management. In her professional career Macie has been fortunate to work with The Aluminum Show, YouTube, Netflix, The Argyle Theatre, The Pocket Fuel Groovers, Keigwin + Company, Alison Cook Beatty Dance, City Lyric Opera, TYA at the 92NY, John Heginbotham, and Wendy Biller. Macie is thrilled to be returning to the ISO's *Yuletide Celebration* this year! Instagram: @macieharris | <https://www.macieharris.com/>

Sawyer Harvey is elated to be back for another year with the *Yuletide* fam! Growing up, he played sports, trained in many dance styles, and competed with the state champion FC Singers for four years. Sawyer went on to receive his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance from Ball State and has since enjoyed many performance opportunities in the area. He'd like to send love to Anne Beck, Doug King, and Jennifer Ladner for their vision and creativity that brings this show to life every year!

Jen Huber, an Indiana native and proud Butler Bulldog, is excited to be returning for her seventh *Yuletide Celebration*! Jen is an advocate for the arts and works as a house manager at Clowes Memorial Hall and at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Thanks to everyone on and off the stage who bring this amazing production to life each year—and thanks to our patrons for supporting the arts in our community!

Michael Humphrey is a professional dancer/choreographer with a dance degree from Ball State University. Michael was part of the Ball State Dance Theatre, which he was a member of for 5 years as well as the Ball State University Code Red Dance Team. Since college, Michael has worked in Los Angeles as a dancer for a Snoop Dogg/Carl Thomas video, as well as playing an intern on ABC's *Grey's Anatomy*. He also works with Indiana Pacemates in appearance performances as well as the Indianapolis Colts Cheerleaders. He is currently the Dance Director at Lawrence North High School giving back to his alma mater! He is also the Head Dance Team Coach at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School where they are nine-time IHSDTA AA Jazz Champions and Top 3 in HipHop competition.

Hannah Jew is a NYC-based multi-hyphenate artist originally from Oklahoma City, OK. Most recently, she enjoyed dancing in a new musical *The Phoenix: Part I* (reading) and working on plays with the Museum of Chinese in America (NYC), Pan Asian Repertory Theatre, and New York Theatre Workshop. Selected favorite credits include: Eliza/Dance Captain (Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre: *The King and I*), *The King and I* (National Tour), choreographer: re-creation of the Chinese Divertissement (now called Ribbon Dance) for Oklahoma Festival Ballet's *The Nutcracker* (The University of Oklahoma), and choreographer/dancer in collaboration with Chengjin Koh & Verona Quartet (Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art—Washington, D.C.). Hannah has danced with Oklahoma City Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Ballet Hispánico's BHDos, and Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company. She is a graduate of The University of Oklahoma with a BFA in Ballet Performance. When not performing, Hannah teaches ballet to all ages and is on faculty at Circle in the

AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration Cast

Square Theatre School. Special thank you to Suffolk for providing her with her pointe shoes. She is so happy to be back in Indy for her 2nd Yuletide and wishes everyone and their loved ones a wonderful holiday season filled with beautiful memories!

Danny Kingston graduated from the American Musical and Dramatics Academy (NYC) and is a local professional performer. This year marks Danny's twelfth Yuletide Celebration! Other symphony concerts include *South Pacific in Concert*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Hairspray*, *Anything Goes*, and *Kander & Ebb, On Broadway*. Danny is a proud member of the Indianapolis Men's Chorus and performs regularly at professional theaters around Indy. Special thanks to the amazing cast and crew for always making the holidays merry and bright!

Alie Kryder, an Indiana native, is beyond excited to join the 2025 Yuletide team! Back home, she trained with The Dance Refinery and Center Grove Choirs, and in 2022, she graduated from California's Chapman University with degrees in BFA Dance Performance, BA Psychology, and a Musical Theatre minor. Represented by Go2Talent, and residing in both the Big Apple and Sunshine State, she is further pursuing her performing career. At Chapman, she was a leader in many dance organizations, including the Dance Team (14x national champions), and served as president of Chapman Dance Alliance. Alie has performed at the ISO, Steps on Broadway, Core Training Techniques, The Storyteller's Intensives, Tremaine Dance, and both performed and choreographed for numerous collegiate productions. She has trained with many professional choreographers including Marinda Davis, Traci Reszetylo, Emily Zachary, Lloyd Culbreath, Alicia Guy, Steven Sofia, Wilson Mendieta, Ido Tadmor, Derrick Schrader, the TDR staff, and more. Alie would like to thank her family and mentors! aliekryder.com

Devan Mathias is an actor, director, and teaching artist based in Indianapolis, and she is delighted to be making her Yuletide/ISO debut! Recent theatrical credits include *25th...Spelling Bee* (Logainne), *CLUE* (as the whole female ensemble), and *Sense & Sensibility* (all the unlikeable women) at Indiana Repertory Theatre. She's also been seen in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Cynthia), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Greta), and *Kinky Boots* (Nicola) all at Beef & Boards, and *9 to 5* (Judy) and *Titanic* (Caroline) at Actors Theatre of Indiana. She is an alumna of Ball State's musical theatre program, a proud member of Actor's Equity, and an active company member with the Indianapolis Shakespeare Company. Many thanks to the whole ISO Yuletide team for this glorious opportunity!

Amanda McCarthy is excited to be performing in her 11th year of Yuletide! Favorite credits include: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolored Dream Coat*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. She graduated in 2014 with a degree in Voice Performance and since moving to Indianapolis, she has been recording demos for print music publishing and is a lifestyle model across the Midwest. All my love to Sean and Arlo!

Arlo McCarthy is thrilled to make his Yuletide Celebration debut! Arlo loves playing in his soccer league, taking drum lessons, and having fun with his friends at recess. When he's not on stage, he enjoys collecting Pokémon cards with his dad. He is so excited to join in all the holiday sparkle!

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Charlie Metzger is thrilled to be back for his tenth AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration*! Past credits include *Cirque de la Symphonie Goes Broadway!* with the ISO, and Juan in *Man of La Mancha* with the Indianapolis Opera. He holds a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. Charlie lives in Avon with his wife Darlene, son Chaz, and daughter Sylvia. www.charliemetzger.com.

Cody Miley was born in Baton Rouge, La., and moved to Texas at the beginning of his freshman year. He found his love for theatre and began training under the tutelage of Travis Poe, where he won a state championship in One Act Play, and numerous acting and crew awards. He attended McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas, and began his dance training under the tutelage of Jerry McLauchlin. He transferred to Sam Houston State University and received his B.F.A. in acting and directing. He is a founding member of Nicolay Dance Works, led by artistic Director Dana Nicolay. Cody recently left Dance Kaleidoscope after a 9-year tenure (2016–2025). He performed in over 40 productions, performing works by David Hochoy, Joshua Blake Carter, Brock Elliott, Keisha Lalama, Stephanie Martinez, Tsai-Hsi Hung, and more. He has performed in the Houston Fringe Festival, the Bailando Dance Festival, the 2015 Dance Gallery Festival in New York City, Alamo City Dance Company's presentation of *The Nutcracker*, and was a featured dancer for Blockhouse Studios' NBA All-Star game video installation. He recently made his regional theatre debut as Ray in American Lives Theatre's production of *Red Speedo* in January 2025.

Amy Owens' national tour credits include Monty Python's *Spamalot* and *Jubilee!* in Las Vegas. Regional productions include *Cats*, *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *Joseph*, *Sister Act*, *South Pacific*, *Dreamgirls*, *The Addams Family*, and *The Little Mermaid*. Amy has performed in numerous Pops concerts with the Indianapolis, Baltimore, Jacksonville, and Raleigh Symphony Orchestras. Amy spent five wonderful holiday seasons as a Rockette in the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* and is also the former Face of MyINDY-TV (2013–2015). In 2012 she was part of the Super Bowl halftime show featuring Madonna. Other credits include *Cabaret* at Chicago's Paramount Theatre and *Chicago the Musical* at Chicago's Drury Lane Theatre. Represented by Helen Wells Agency and Heyman Talent, she has been seen in numerous regional and national commercial and print ads. Love to Kris and our little loves Phoebe, August, and newest baby Roman.

Phoebe Owens is excited to be back for her second production of *Yuletide Celebration*. She is 7 years old and in the first grade. She enjoys dancing, dressing up, and crafting. She has been seen on stage in *The King and I* and *Joseph* at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre as well as Metropolitan Youth Ballet of Indiana productions. She has been in several print and commercial ads including Indiana Member's Credit Union, Delta, Finish Line, and Broyhill. Love to mom, dad, August, and Roman!

Joseph Perkins, Jr., is beyond blessed to be celebrating 14 years of performance with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and the AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration*. Other symphonic credits include: *Ashley Brown's Broadway*, world premieres of *Hello, Dolly! In Concert*, *On Broadway with Kander & Ebb*, *Anything Goes*, and *Hairspray in Concert!* with both the Indianapolis and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras. As a featured vocalist and dancer, Joseph has performed with the Fort Worth and Dallas Symphonies, and appeared as a guest artist with the Naples Florida Philharmonic. An Indianapolis native, Joseph works as a freelance clinician, consultant, choreographer, and adjudicator for the Indiana Show Choir Circuit. Joseph also can be seen as a performer with the Indianapolis Men's Chorus, and on stage at The Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre. Special thanks to all my family, friends, and colleagues for all their constant love and support. Instagram: @ubetgojoe

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AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration Cast


Hannah Reed is from Fishers and grew up training in a wide variety of styles before earning her BS in Dance at Ball State University. During her time at Ball State, Hannah performed in several dance shows and choreographed as well. Currently, Hannah is a professional dancer and also a pilates instructor at Reforming Indy. She is a company member of Crossroads Dance Indy, a contemporary dance company local to Indianapolis. This past summer she performed at Indy Dance Festival and Indy Fringe with Crossroads. Hannah attended *Yuletide* many times as a child and looks forward to being a part of her first production of this wonderful Indianapolis holiday tradition! She would like to thank all of her friends and family who have been so supportive throughout her journey! Merry Christmas!

Natalie Renee is excited to be back for year nine with the ISO for *Yuletide*! And what a bonus that she gets to share the stage with her cousin, Joseph Perkins, Jr.! She has performed with several symphonies around the country, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in their productions of *Hairspray In Concert!* with John Waters and in select post-show concerts with *Divas of Song*. She recently played the Voice of Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mason Street Warehouse) and has been seen as Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina). Other credits include *Hairspray* (Cindy, Pearl, Dynamite) and *Rent* ("Seasons of Love" soloist) national and international tours, and *The Drowsy Chaperone* as Trix (St. Michael's and Gateway Playhouses). Natalie is also an ordained UCC minister who works with extracanonical texts. She has recorded an EP of her original music that uses The Odes of Solomon as text. The album, *Songs of Your Truth*, is available on any digital platform. She also co-authored a book, *In Trembling Boldness: Wisdom for Today from Ancient Jesus People*, which is now available. You can follow her and her work on Instagram: @divadoesdivinity, X: @divadoesdiviniT, or on Facebook: Diva Does Divinity. Love to her family and thanks to Josh! Proud member of AEA. John 14:20

Laura Rong is thrilled to make her *Yuletide* debut after having seen the show for over a decade as part of her family's traditions. She recently graduated *summa cum laude* from IU with her BFA in Musical Theatre. Most recently, her professional choreographic work was seen in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *Next to Normal* at Constellation Stage + Screen. Select favorite theatre credits include: *Legally Blonde* (Serena), *Reefer Madness* (Mary Lane), *4000 Miles* (Amanda), *Cabaret* (Rosie), and *Into the Woods* (Cabaret). As a performer, she was most recently seen in the original company of the first production of *The King's Wife*, written by Grammy-nominated Jamie Floyd and developed by the producers of *The Prom*.

Allen Sledge is delighted to return to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra for *Yuletide Celebration*. Recent credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Indiana Repertory Theatre), *The Wizard of Oz* (Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre), and *Working* (Actors Theatre of Indiana). Allen is deeply grateful to share the joy of the season with the *Yuletide* family and Indianapolis audiences once again.

Sarah Tewes is a Butler University alumna and an Indianapolis local. She is thrilled to return for her fourth year of *Yuletide*. She was most recently seen as Teresita in *West Side Story* with the Indianapolis Opera. Her other favorite credits include Kristine (*A Chorus Line*), and ChaCha (*Grease*). Additionally, she shares her love for dance by choreographing musicals and summer camps around the central Indiana area. She continues to serve as an assistant choreographer for Mt. Vernon High School's theatre program and choreographer for Herron High School's fall musical. She thanks her parents for all of their love and endless support!



Ryan Holden Thomas is a young actor and model from Indianapolis and is a 3rd grade student at Holy Spirit Catholic School (Indianapolis). He has appeared in *Kinky Boots* at Footlite Musicals (Indianapolis) and Civic Theatre (Carmel, Indiana), in multiple commercials, and on NBC's *Chicago Fire*. Ryan thanks his mom, dad, and sister Riley for their endless love and support.

Madeleine Trent is excited to be a part of *Yuletide Celebration* for the second year in a row. She loves dancing with Indy Dance Academy, enjoys music, reading, and playing with friends. Madeleine lives in Indianapolis and is in the 3rd grade.

Kaylee Verble is overjoyed to celebrate “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year” with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. A New York City-based performer, Kaylee earned her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from New York University before setting sail as Dance Captain with Disney Cruise Lines, entertaining audiences around the world. Some of Kaylee's favorite credits include: Brooke Ashton in *Noises Off!* (BroadwayWorld Award), Ruby in *Dames at Sea*, Beverly in *Church Basement Ladies* (BroadwayWorld Award), and Zelda in *Singin' in the Rain*. Indianapolis audiences may remember her as Peggy Sawyer in *42nd Street* (MITTY Award), Sue Ellen in *Honky Tonk Angels* (BroadwayWorld Award), and in *A Beef & Boards Christmas*. In New York City, Kaylee has performed at Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, the Mark O'Donnell Theater, 54 Below, and in the Off-Broadway revival of *Do Re Mi*. Though New York City is home, this *Yuletide* season is especially meaningful as Kaylee celebrates Christmas in Indy where her fiancé, Drew, grew up. She looks forward to spending the holidays with his wonderful family and embracing the love, laughter, and joy that make this Indianapolis tradition so magical. Kaylee is proudly represented by Ann Steele Agency. @KayleeVerble

J Tyler Whitmer celebrates his sixth *Yuletide* with the ISO. A proud Butler graduate, he's delighted for any chance to return to Indianapolis. His career spans theatre, voiceover, and commercial work. Grateful love to Nathan, Mom and Dad, his family, Gray Talent Group, and the entire ISO team. For Sadie, Leighton, J Truitt, Eleanor, Jane, Johnny, and Meredith—Happy Holidays!

This will be **Addison Yanney's** third year in *Yuletide*. She is a second grader in Carmel Schools. She is currently dancing with Indiana Dance Academy. She loves to make you smile and laugh and enjoys dance and hanging with her big sister. Love to my Mom, Dad, and big sis, Cameron.

Erin Yanney is excited to be back on stage with the ISO. As an Indianapolis native, *Yuletide Celebration* has been a staple in her life for as long as she can remember. This will be Erin's 11th *Yuletide*. She is a member of Indianapolis Players Club and is a former Indiana Pacemate. She has many years of experience competing and coaching, but performing with the ISO is her favorite. She is grateful for the opportunity to perform amongst some of the most talented performers. This year is extra special as she takes the stage again with her youngest daughter, Addison. Love to my Mom, husband Scott, and oldest daughter, Cameron.

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Congratulations, Clare Henkel!

We are thrilled to celebrate Clare's remarkable career as she retires from her role as **AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration Costume Designer**. Through the years, her talent, creativity, and dedication have inspired us and left an indelible mark on every production. Wishing you joy, adventure, and well-deserved relaxation.

Happy trails from:
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2025 AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* Highlights

The celebration of Clare Henkel's final year as costume designer



For 24 years, Clare Henkel has been designing costumes for *Yuletide Celebration*. To celebrate her amazing work, this year's show features a fashion show like none other!

A Very Merry Movie Medley



The second act of AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* opens with a collection of holiday movie tunes that you know and love. Can you name all the new songs that have been added this year?

Santatizer is back!



Sometimes Santa's Workshop can be short-staffed, but when a famous friend stops by, Santa explains how a little North Pole magic can provide some extra help.

Make some new friends



Taking photos with family and friends in the lobby has always been a popular tradition at *Yuletide Celebration*, and this year, a few new costumed characters have joined the festivities! Meet Clare the Reindeer, Ms. Cocoa Latte, and Sprinkles the Toyshop Elf!

Merry & bright Mistletoe Mixtape



A medley that Millennials will love, featuring contemporary holiday hits by artists such as Taylor Swift, the Jonas Brothers, and more. Celebrate the season with this musical journey through a winter wonderland.

***I Saw Three Ships* featuring Concertmaster Kevin Lin**



Arranged by Maestro Jack Everly especially for the ISO, this piece will feature Concertmaster Kevin Lin.

Majestic music performed by the ISO



From classical to contemporary to new works composed by Maestro Everly, our Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra is able to handle all styles of music in *Yuletide Celebration*. Their talents and musicianship truly make the season bright!



Clare Henkel's costume sketch for gowns in the 2022 Yuletide Celebration.





BRINGING A SWEET TRADITION TO *Yuletide*

As holiday lights begin to twinkle across Indianapolis and the first notes of festive music fill the air, the city prepares for one of its most cherished traditions: the AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration*. This year, a local favorite is joining the festivities with a sweet addition—4 Birds Bakery will be selling its handcrafted cookies at the show, and for owner Jenna Unrue, it's more than just a business opportunity.



"*Yuletide* has always signaled the start of the holidays for me," Jenna said. "I've been going since I was four or five with my dad. It's one of my favorite times of the year."

Now, she's not only attending—she's contributing to the experience in a delicious way. 4 Birds Bakery, a woman-owned business rooted in family and community, will be baking between 8,000 to 10,000 cookies for the run of *Yuletide* shows, including two special flavors just for the occasion.

The first is a customer favorite: a salted chocolate chip cookie. The second is a decadent chocolate fudge cookie with a holiday twist—a hint of mint. The fudge cookie is also gluten-free and features maple syrup sourced from a local Amish family, tying together quality ingredients with a touch of Indiana heritage.

"I couldn't believe it when I got the phone call asking us if we wanted to supply cookies at *Yuletide*," Jenna said, still sounding a bit in awe. "It means so much to me to be asked to do this. It's a huge honor."

Jenna has owned 4 Birds Bakery since 2017, taking over from a family who originally founded the company. The bakery's name—and its signature four-bird logo—represent the children of that family. True to its origins, the business remains deeply family-oriented; both of Jenna's parents help out in the bakery, and her 101-year-old grandma even helps to add stickers to packages.

After working in the food scene in San Francisco and a stint with Chef JJ's back in Indiana, Jenna stepped in to lead 4 Birds, growing it into a bustling wholesale operation. This September, she opened the company's first retail location at the Bottleworks Garage, marking a major milestone.

With the *Yuletide* order being the largest of December, Jenna is bringing on extra hands to meet demand. The cookies are all hand-scooped and hand-packed at the bakery's 3,400-square-foot warehouse, and when large orders come in, community members—from teachers to retirees—pitch in to help.

"This order supports our entire team of 20 people," she said. "Knowing our cookies will be at *Yuletide*, supporting the community and my employees, it's incredibly meaningful."

Jenna plans to attend opening weekend with her husband, keeping up a tradition that she hopes to share with her daughter one day. "She's still too young right now," she laughed, "but hopefully I'll get to take her soon!"

As 4 Birds Bakery's cookies make their debut at the *Yuletide Celebration*, they'll be doing more than satisfying sweet teeth—they'll be bringing one local woman's holiday memories full circle, and helping thousands of families create their own.

And for Jenna, seeing those little cookie bags in the hands of concertgoers? "That's going to be super special."

Cookie Facts

Serving thousands of *Yuletide* patrons

Number of eggs.....	about 1,000 (locally sourced)
Sugar.....	450 pounds
Maple syrup.....	9 gallons
Butter.....	275 pounds
Chocolate chips.....	375 pounds

Taylor's treats return!

For those *Yuletide* fans who love the traditional Santa shortbread cookies and the gingerbread man treats, not to worry! They are back with a updated recipe, adding extra softness to the cookies and more ginger flavor. "I've been with Taylor's Bakery for 36 years when we first started making cookies for the ISO," says Taylor's Bakery president Yolanda Malott. "I love hearing the chatter on how great the cookies are and how the tradition keeps going for the families that attend the show. We are talking about families that have been going for 36 years, and now families are taking their kids and grandkids keeping the tradition going. I am so proud to be a part of the circle of life and watching it grow!"



AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration Production Staff

Matthew Creek

Company Manager

Derek McLane & Gregory Hill

Scenic Design

Aaron Fuksa

Head Writer

Ty A. Johnson

Specialty Material Writer

Anne Beck & Doug King

Assistant Choreographers

Kelsee Hankins

Production Associate

Claire Slaven, Andy Riggs

& Morgan Grabczak

Production Assistants

Alexa Abbott, Sawyer Harvey,

Michael Humphrey, &

Joseph Perkins, Jr.

Dance Captains

Jackson Lee

Library Production Assistant

Kit Williams, Alan Alford,

Patrick Feeney & Steve Martin

Stage Technicians

Steve Martin

Production Electrician

Daniel J. Allis

Puppeteer Coordinator

Orcenith Smith

Cover Conductor

Tophier Stumreiter

Lighting Programmer

James Norman, Laura Cones,

Cynthia Stacy & Susan Grymonpré

Music Librarians

Matt Richardson & Laura Brumbaugh

Rehearsal Pianists

Enrico Lopez-Yañez

Techno Track Producer

Camille Deering & Anthony James Sirk

Associate Costume Designers

Stacy O'Leary

Wardrobe Supervision

Andrew Elliot

Wig Designer

Justin Stahl & Justin Nimmo

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Jonas Productions, Mid-America Sound Corporation, 4 Birds Bakery, Taylor's Bakery, Enrico Lopez-Yañez, Conrad Indianapolis, Hyatt Place, Outdoor Lighting Perspectives, Westfield Wrapper, Edward Parsons, Marcus Mizelle, Larry Baysinger, The Shop Indy, and Karla Curatolo and the families of the Expressenz dancers. Custom millinery and forest headdresses by Frontier Millinery. Additional dance costumes built in New York City.



Ty A. Johnson, *Executive Producer*, is proud to be producing *Yuletide Celebration* for its 39th year of creating unforgettable holiday magic for the Indianapolis community and beyond. He is the only producer *Yuletide* has ever had. In addition to his year-round *Yuletide* responsibilities, Ty is the producer of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Film Series presented by Bank of America, notably brokering deals with major Hollywood film studios to successfully premiere the entirety of *Harry Potter: In Concert* series, the *Star Wars* trilogy, and innumerable others. His theatrical concept productions have been seen all over North America. Ty received degrees from Indiana University and the University of Illinois. Prior to producing shows in orchestral settings, Ty worked in both not-for-profit and commercial theatre environments, including time at Disney and Paper Mill Playhouse. Ty would like to thank the musicians of the ISO for their collaborative spirit and their amazing world-class musicianship! He is looking forward to spending Christmas Eve with his husband and their 2-year-old Golden Retriever Roxie Noel. PS: And no, Ty never ever gets tired of Christmas music nor Christmas cookies.

Anne Beck, *Assistant Choreographer*, directs, teaches, judges, and choreographs locally and globally. Performance credits with ISO include *Hairspray in Concert* (John Waters/Micky Dolenz), *Hello, Dolly! in Concert* (Gary Beach/Sandi Patty), *Guys and Dolls in Concert* (Hal Linden), *On Broadway with Kander and Ebb* (Beth Leavel), *Anything Goes in Concert* (Rachel York /Judy Kaye), and many of their touring Pops productions. This marks Anne's 20th year involved with *Yuletide Celebration*. Broadway/national credits include *Saturday Night Fever* (Original Broadway Cast), *The Who's Tommy* (Sally Simpson), *Cats* (Bombalurina), *A Chorus Line* (Cassie), *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (Barbara Eden), and *West Side Story* (Anita). Presently Anne is Associate Director at The Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre under Executive Director Michael Lasley, and is an Associate Teaching Professor at Ball State University in Theatre and Dance. She was the recipient of this year's Outstanding Teacher for the entire University. She feels blessed to do what she loves, is grateful for a loving husband and daughter who support her, and is thankful to audiences for supporting the arts. Thank you Jack, Ty, Jen, and Brandy for loving me and supporting me all these years.

Camille Deering's, *Associate Costume Designer*, extensive career in the design world showcases her remarkable talent and dedication to her craft. Her collaborations with prestigious organizations and renowned costume designers have enabled her to create captivating and visually stunning costumes for a diverse range of productions. Her ability to bring creative visions to life on stage, as demonstrated in works like *Everybody*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Cabaret*, highlights her skill in designing costumes that enhance storytelling and captivate audiences. Camille has had the privilege of working at the Santa Fe Opera, further solidifying her expertise in the field. In the coming months, you will see her work featured at the Indiana Repertory Theatre and the University of Michigan. Designing for opera and ballet productions at esteemed institutions like the Jacobs School of Music further emphasizes Camille's versatility and commitment to creating costumes that elevate performances to new heights. Her academic background, including an MFA from Indiana University Bloomington, has undoubtedly contributed to her success and innovative approach to costume design. Camille's work has been featured in the *New York Times*, a testament to the recognition and acclaim she has received within the industry and further cementing her reputation as a respected and influential designer. With over 20 years of experience and a passion for her craft, Camille continues to make significant contributions to the world of costume design, leaving a lasting impact on the industry.

AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration Production Staff

Stuart Duke, *Lighting Designer*, has been a member of the *Yuletide* creative team for more than three decades. He served as resident lighting designer for Dance Kaleidoscope for ten years and received Indy's Corbin Patrick Award for his work at the Indiana Repertory Theatre, where he designed over twenty productions. Recent designs include *Romeo et Juliette* for Palm Beach Opera and *Cendrillon* for Opera Orlando. Other designs include *Orwell in America* Off-Broadway, *Fun Home* at Weston Theatre Copany, and *Matilda* at Walnut Street Theatre. In New York, Stuart has designed lighting for *The Rothschilds*, *Cast of Characters*, *Home Games*, *The Matchmaker*, *Broadway Jukebox*, *Frankie* (directed by George Abbott) and *jon & jen*. His regional credits include the world premiere of *The Night Seasons*, written and directed by Horton Foote, a revival of *Rags* for the Paper Mill Playhouse, and Christopher Lloyd in *Death of a Salesman*. He has designed for Indianapolis Opera, Boston's Huntington Theatre, Portland Stage, McCarter Theatre, Maryland Lyric Opera, Goodspeed Musicals, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, and Opera Company of Philadelphia. He taught lighting design at Oberlin College and Washington College and has been a frequent presenter for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Stuart makes his home in Vermont along with his wife, one small dog, and one large cat.

Aaron Fuksa, *Head Writer*. Writing credits include ISO's *Yuletide Celebration*, Playbill's *'Twas the Night Before the Tonys*, *Playbill—the Game Show*, *Sandi Patty's Very Merry Virtual Christmas*, IMC's *Muppet Mania*, and *Whatever, As If!* Performance credits include Indianapolis, Seattle, and Oregon Symphonies *Yuletide Celebration* as Santa, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's *Hairspray in Concert*, *The Real Housewives of New York City: An Opera*, the national tours of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. www.aaronfuksa.com

Clare Henkel, *Costume Designer*, has designed the costumes for the AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* for the past 24 years, and this is her final *Yuletide Celebration*. She also designed the Symphonic Pops Consortium's *Leading Men of Broadway*, *Cirque Goes to the Movies*, *Broadway Cirque*, *Classic FM*, *Broadway Divas*, *Anything Goes In Concert*, *On Broadway with Kander and Ebb*, *Hairspray In Concert*, *Irving Berlin: From Rags to Ritzes* (Carnegie Hall), *Ashley Brown's Broadway*, *Pops Goes Vegas!*, *Disco Days and Boogie Nights*, *Guys and Dolls In Concert*, *Sandi Patty's Broadway*, and *South Pacific in Concert*. She has designed costumes for theatres across the country, including the Denver Center Theatre Company, San Diego's Old Globe Theatre, the Arvada Center, La Jolla Playhouse, Arizona Theatre Company, Geva Theatre, Dallas Theatre Center, San Diego Repertory Theatre, Sacramento Theatre Company, North Shore Music Theatre, Aurora Theatre, and Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, Alaska. Clare has also designed extensively for Shakespeare at the Colorado, Lake Tahoe, Idaho, and San Francisco Shakespeare Festivals. Her work for dance includes 3rd Law Dance, Frequent Flyers Productions, Isaacs McCaleb and Dancers, among others. She has been on the faculty at UC Davis, UC Berkeley, and CU Boulder. She has won numerous awards for her work, including the Bay Area Critics Circle Award, Dallas Critics Circle Award, Denver's Henry Award and the *Denver Post* Ovation Award. Clare is grateful to everyone at the ISO for their unwavering support all of these years! clarehenkel.com

Jennifer Ladner, *Director & Choreographer*, danced in the companies of Arizona Ballet Theatre, Dance Kaleidoscope, and Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre. She has performed with orchestras across North America in *Sophisticated Ellington Symphony and Swing* and *Pops Goes Vegas*. She was a guest artist in symphonic pops concerts at Carnegie Hall with the Cincinnati Pops and the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, in addition to working with the Detroit, Alabama, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Seattle, Portland, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestras. Local



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UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Garden Symphony

January 10 | 11 a.m.
Central Library

Monkey's Jungle Jam

March 21 | 11 a.m.
Central Library

The Runaway Strings

February 7 | 11 a.m.
Plainfield Library

The Big Note

March 23 | 11 a.m.
Avon-Washington
Township Public Library

The Runaway Strings

April 13 | 11 a.m.
Lebanon Public Library

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AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration Production Staff

credits include Starlight Musicals and being a familiar face at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Pyramid Players, Phoenix Theatre, and Indiana Repertory Theatre. She was on the faculty at Butler University for 25 years and currently serves as a national emcee/judge for CRU Dance Competitions, Power of Dance, and the United States Tournament of Dance. Jennifer was assistant director for *Tradition—Gala for the Dancers Fund at Lincoln Center*. Symphonic choreography and staging credits include: ISO's *Yuletide Celebration*, *The BSO's Holiday Spectacular*, *Broadway Blockbusters*, *Leading Men of Broadway*, *Broadway Divas*, *Cole*, *Baby Boomers*, *Disco Days & Boogie Nights*, *Pops Goes Vegas*, *Sandi Patty's Broadway*, *Hello, Dolly!* *Guys and Dolls*, *Hairspray*, *Ashley Brown's Broadway*, *Irving Berlin*, *On Broadway with Kander and Ebb*, *Anything Goes*, *Classic FM*, *Cirque Goes to the Movies*, *A Sondheim Celebration*, and recently *South Pacific in Concert*. This past summer, Jen returned to Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre to co-choreograph *The Little Mermaid*.

Doug King is an Indianapolis director, choreographer, and equity actor. This is Doug's sixth *Yuletide*. He recently directed and choreographed his twelfth production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He also was part of the national tour with Donny Osmond. On stage, Doug primarily works locally at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre and as been in more than 100 productions. Some of his credits include: Will Parker in *Oklahoma*; The Scarecrow in *Wizard of Oz*; Frank Shultz in *Show Boat*; Cosmo Brown in *Singin' in the Rain*; and Joy in *Cinderella*. Additional credits include multiple runs of *South Pacific*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, and *42nd Street*. Aside from *Yuletide Celebration* Doug has also danced with Indianapolis Ballet Theatre and Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre. He is on the dance faculty at Anderson University teaching tap, jazz, and musical theatre. Doug works with numerous high schools and universities with their choral and theatre departments.

Matt Kraus, *Sound Design*, has been the *Yuletide* Sound Designer since 2017, but his first show with the ISO was in 2006! Broadway credits include: *Liza's at the Palace...!*, *Kristin Chenoweth: My Love Letter to Broadway*, and *Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony*. Off Broadway credits include: Jim Henson's *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* (New Victory), *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *50 Shades!* and *Lone Star Love*. Stage Struck and Spotlight Bar onboard Princess Cruises. Regional credits include: The Guthrie Theater, Paper Mill Playhouse, St. Louis Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, Walnut Street, Maltz Jupiter, and Bay Street Playhouse, to name a few. He worked as the Audio Coordinator for *The Tonight Show With Jimmy Fallon-Remotes* and *The 2020 NBA Reboot Bubble*. Matt won an Emmy Award for his work on Disney's *Broadway Hits at Royal Albert Hall*, which is streaming on Disney+.

Matthew Meeks, *Stage Manager*, is happy to return to the ISO and *Yuletide Celebration* families. He is an AEA Stage Manager based in the Twin Cities and has worked with The Guthrie Theater (*The Mousetrap*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Into the Woods*, *A Christmas Carol*, SITI Company's *The Bacchae*, and many others), South Coast Repertory & Barrington Stage Company (*Joan*), American Players Theatre (Three seasons in the woods, most recently: *Hamlet*, *The River Bride*, and *Stones in His Pockets*), Ten Thousand Things Theater (*The Hatmaker's Wife*, *Mlima's Tale*), and Minnesota Orchestra (*Home for the Holidays*). Thanks to you for supporting and celebrating live art! All my love to Hannah and the family.

Travis McHale, *Associate Lighting Designer*, is excited for his 12th *Yuletide*! Broadway: associate lighting designer on eleven shows including *Something Rotten!*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *War Paint*, and *Hello, Dolly!* Recent lighting designs include *Is There Still Sex In The City*, *#DateMe*, *Mister Miss*

AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* Production Staff

America? (Off-Broadway) and over 25 shows on cruise ships for Regents Seven Seas, Oceania, and Carnival Cruise Lines. His award-winning designs have been seen at major regional theatres, and on PBS for *Great Performances*, at Carnegie Hall, in dozens of fashion shows for NY Fashion Week, and on tour internationally. Travis is on faculty at SUNY New Paltz and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. www.travismchale.com

Ken Saltzman, *Production Stage Manager*, is proud to be celebrating his 25th *Yuletide Celebration* with the ISO. In addition to working with 25 *Yuletides*-worth of singular artists such as Jack Everly, Sandi Patty, Ashley Brown, Curtis Bannister, Ben Crawford, Angela Brown, David Levy, Jen Ladner, Stuart Duke, Clare Henkel, and countless Cirque stars, Ken has had the good fortune to work with Lucie Arnaz, Ellen DeGeneres, Nathan Gunn, Jessye Norman, Leslie Uggams, Kathleen Battle, Denyce Graves, Renee Fleming, John Legend, Doc Severinsen, Maynard Ferguson, Chuck Mangione, Trisha Yearwood, Jack Jones, The Temptations, Gordon Lightfoot, America, The Smothers Brothers, Bobby McFerrin, Blake Shelton, Arturo Sandoval, Diane Schuur, Spyrogyra, The 5th Dimension, Christopher Cross, Andre DeShields, Barry Williams, and Misty Copeland. Along the way, Ken has stage managed 68 different operas including 7 *La Bohèmes*, 6 *Marriages of Figaro*, 5 *Aidas* and *Rigoletti*, plus 4 *Carmens*, *Toscas*, and *Madama Butterflies*. Ken and his husband of 34 years Duane Prill make their home in New York's Finger Lakes region where they manage the Lamoka Hideaway. Healthy food is fundamental to well-being and the foundation of a strong, vibrant society. Support your local food bank!

Greg Sanders, *Vocal Director*, finished his master's degree in conducting at Butler University in May 2011. He currently serves as the artistic director of the Indianapolis Men's Chorus and is on staff at the Center Grove High School Choral Department. Greg is in demand as an arranger and orchestrator. He is also a pianist, vocal coach, and chamber musician, preparing and performing extensively for concerts and festivals in Indianapolis and regionally. He returns to the ISO production team after serving as the vocal director for many Printing Partners *Pops Series* productions. This is his twelfth year with AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration*.

Anthony James Sirk, *Associate Costume Designer*, is thrilled to join the ISO for his second season of decking the halls with beautiful costumes, helping to wrap this season's celebration in the joy, warmth, and sparkle that make *Yuletide* such a beloved holiday tradition. Anthony has worked with theatre companies across the country, including Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Arvada Center, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Pittsburgh CLO, West Virginia Public Theatre, Pittsburgh Opera, Creede Repertory Theatre, Pensacola Opera, and Maine State Music Theatre. Recent projects include the world premiere of *The Rocket Men* with the Phoenix Cultural Center, *Wad* with American Lives Theatre, and *Young Frankenstein* for Actor's Theater of Indiana. Upcoming projects include *CATS* at Ball State University and *Arlington* with American Lives Theatre. Anthonysirk.com

Mitchell Ward, *Stage Manager*, is grateful to be making his ISO debut for this year's *Yuletide Celebration*. He served as stage manager at Constellation Stage & Screen in Bloomington, Indiana, for the productions of *The King's Wife*, *Polkadots*; *The Cool Kids Musical*, *The Break*; *A New Rock Musical*, and *Alex Gold: Stuck on Repeat*. He stage managed as a guest artist for Indiana University's School of Theatre and Contemporary Dance. Chicago credits include *Romeo & Juliet* (Teatro Vista) and *Muses* (Water People Theatre). He has greatly enjoyed behind-the-scenes work at Haven Theatre in Chicago and the Unicorn Theatre in Kansas City. He thanks all the ISO family for welcoming him into this beautiful tradition. Mitchellward.com

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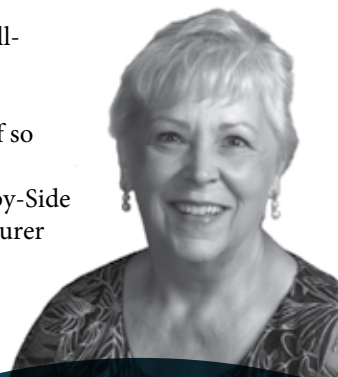
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This listing reflects the gifts received from October 1, 2024, to October 10, 2025. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. However, we apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions.

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*Deceased

Support the Arts in Indy!

Indianapolis Children's Choir

It's holiday time in the city of Indianapolis! Add another timeless tradition to your list this year with the annual Indianapolis Children's Choir holiday concerts. Singers from across the city will share songs that bring you back to wonderful holiday memories from years past. All concerts take place at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. Get tickets at icchoir.org/tickets



December 12, 2025 at 7 p.m. — Angels Sing: Holiday Memories

December 13, 2025 at 3 p.m. — Celebrate the Season: Holiday Memories

December 13, 2025 at 7 p.m. — Angels Sing: Holiday Memories (Candlelight Performance)

December 14, 2025 at 4 p.m. — Sounds of the Season: Holiday Memories

Indianapolis Ballet

The holiday season is here, and so is the magic of *The Nutcracker*, **December 18–23**, at Clowes Memorial Hall! Step into Clara's enchanting Christmas Eve adventure, where dazzling choreography and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra bring Tchaikovsky's timeless score and wonder of the season to life. Perfect for the whole family, with evening and matinee options, including a Sensory Friendly Performance on December 18. Tickets start at just \$30! Looking for a bite-sized experience? Join us for Family Series: *Nutcracker Sweets* at the Tobias Theater at Newfields, December 27–30. This abbreviated one-hour version of the full length ballet is the perfect performance for your young arts lover. Don't wait! Secure the best seats today and make this holiday tradition part of your family's celebration at indyballet.org.



Indianapolis Symphonic Choir

Festival of Carols is back for a heartwarming holiday tradition. Soloist Bruno Sandes joins the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, and spotlight choir Mt. Vernon High School Chamber Choir for an unforgettable night of music. Santa makes an appearance too, making it a night the whole family will enjoy.



- **Friday, December 19, Saturday, December 20 & Sunday, December 21** at The Palladium, Carmel
- **Monday, December 22** at Schrott Center for the Arts, Indianapolis

Visit indychoir.org for tickets and more information.

Ronen Chamber Ensemble

Join us during our 25–26 concert season, “To Indianapolis from the Old World.” Visit www.ronenchamber.org/events or scan the QR code for more information about each concert.

Artistic Directors: Gregory Martin, Piano; Alistair Howlett, Flute; Jennifer Christen, Oboe

Brilliant Winds

To ring in 2026, Ronen welcomes Indianapolis native Natalie Debikey Scanio (flute/piccolo with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra). The program includes Franz Doppler’s “Andante et Rondo,” arias by J.S. Bach, and Francis Poulenc’s Sextet for winds and piano.

Sunday, January 25, at 4 p.m.

Jewish Community Center Laikin Auditorium
6705 Hoover Road, Indianapolis

**Please enter through door #5 near the main parking lot behind the building.
For security, photo ID is required for entry.*

Monday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Hilbert Circle Theatre Wood Room (second floor)
45 Monument Circle, Indianapolis



Indianapolis Suzuki Academy

More Than Music Lessons: The Indianapolis Suzuki Academy offers violin, cello, harp, and piano lessons via the Suzuki Method. Unlike traditional music lessons, this is an activity for the child AND the parent, partnering with our Suzuki teachers to help the child learn music just as naturally as learning their first language. Our mission is to nurture beautiful character in every child through excellence in music. Learn more by attending a Parent Info Session—now enrolling for Spring 2026.

Join us for our **Annual Concert on March 8, 2026**, at Indiana Landmarks Grand Hall.



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Hilbert Circle Theatre Information

Welcome to the Hilbert Circle Theatre, home of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. We are delighted you are with us and hope you enjoy the performance.

Box Office

For questions about parking, tickets, subscriber benefits, and will call, visit our Box Office at the main entrance to the theatre (off of Monument Circle) or the satellite Box Office at the east entrance (off Scioto Street, open before performances only).

Subscriber Information

If you are a subscriber and have any ticketing needs, please email the ISO at subscriber@IndianapolisSymphony.org. One of our Customer Care Representatives will return your email as soon as possible.

Coat Checks and Restrooms

Coat checks are located on the main floor and on the Oval Promenade on the second floor. The second floor can be reached by staircases on the east and west end of the theater or elevators near the main entrance. Accessible restrooms are located on both floors. Changing tables are available in most restrooms in the accessible stall. A family/gender-neutral restroom is also available; please ask an usher for access.

Ushers

For questions about Hilbert Circle Theatre accessibility, first aid, and lost and found, please see an usher. Hearing enhancement devices are available in the coat room, and larger print programs can be made available upon request ahead of the event. The ISO also has sensory bags, lap pads, and a sensory room available; please ask an usher for assistance.

Emergency

In the event of an emergency, please use the nearest exit (marked by lighted signs). This is your shortest route out of the theater.

Beyond the Concert

Attend The J. K. Family Foundation *Words on Music* one hour before every *Classical Series* concert to hear from classical music experts.

Parking

Express Park Garage is open on the west side of Pennsylvania Street between Market and Washington Streets. The garage is owned and operated by Denison Parking. A canopy connects the garage to the Hilbert Circle Theatre lobby, giving you a close and convenient parking option.

Other parking options include:

- Valet Service is offered for the *Classical Series*, *Printing Partners Pops Series*, the *Film Series* presented by Bank of America, and select AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* performances. Available one hour before the performance begins.
- Circle Centre Mall Parking Garages (recommended for Coffee Concert patrons because of limited parking).
- Metered parking is available downtown near the theatre. Visit parkindy.net for details.
- Visit downtownindy.org for additional parking options.

For more information, contact the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra at 32 East Washington Street, Suite 600, Indianapolis, IN 46204, visit us online at IndianapolisSymphony.org or call the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at 317-639-4300.

We welcome your comments at iso@IndianapolisSymphony.org!

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To become a corporate partner, please contact Maggie Leemhuis, Senior Director of Corporate & Foundation Giving, at 317-229-7094 or email sponsorships@indianapolissymphony.org

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