

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Illinois Symphony Orchestra celebrates Music in Our Schools Month

The National Association for Music Education has designated the month of March as a month to celebrate Music in Our Schools. The Illinois Symphony Orchestra has taken an active role to help celebrate Music in Our Schools Month through our award winning in-school program called Music Matters. Musicians from the Illinois Symphony Orchestra will visit over 20 area elementary schools in and around Bloomington-Normal and Springfield to celebrate Music from Around the World throughout the month of March and April. Musicians use this opportunity to teach area students about the orchestra, about music from around the world, and showcase their own instrument.

Follow us on Facebook or like us on Instagram to catch behind the scene pictures of all of our outreach programs including our award winning Music Matters.

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director Ken Lam, will conclude the 2017-2018 symphony season with a special Concerts for Kids program called **Green Eggs & Ham** featuring Really Inventive Stuff's Michael Boudewyns as Sam-I-Am, and Kimberly Schroeder as Madame Theodora Geiselevska in Green Eggs & Ham. This classic story will come to life with the unstoppable Sam-I-Am in a musical feast for your ears!



Program also includes the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and Rossini's Barber of Seville Overture.

Listen LIVE! to the Illinois Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, May 3, 2018 @ 10:00 AM | Sangamon Auditorium, Springfield, IL

Friday, May 4, 2018 @ 10:00 AM & 12:15 PM | Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, Bloomington, IL

Tickets may be purchased in Springfield through the Sangamon Auditorium Ticket Office at (217) 206-6160 or online at go.uis.edu/CAreservation and in Bloomington through the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Office at (309) 434-2777. Tickets are \$6 per person. For classrooms and/or schools attending the concert, there should be one chaperon for every 15 students; every 16th ticket is complimentary. For more information, call the Illinois Symphony Orchestra office at (800) 401-7222, Ext. 10 or visit www.ilsymphony.org.

Illinois Symphony Orchestra's Concerts for Kids are funded through educational outreach and grant support from PNC, State Farm Insurance, Illinois Symphony Guild of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois Symphony Guild of Springfield, US Bank, Illinois Arts Council, Sandra & Kenneth Jesse Endowment for Schoolchildren, Illinois Prairie Community Foundation - Mirza Arts & Cultural Fund, Town of Normal - Harmon arts Grant, Susan Cook House Educational Trust, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Debbie & Jim Ringer, Drs. Jerry & Ann Joseph, Hugh & Marlene Magliocco, Sandy Bellatti, Kathy Hoffmann, and Dr. & Mrs. Richard T. McDaniel.

Really Inventive Stuff

Founded in 2004 by Sara Valentine and Michael Boudewyns, Really Inventive Stuff has the honor of performing family and education concerts with orchestras, conductors and musicians from all around the world.

Based outside of Portland, Maine, our company of classically-trained performers is committed to sharing inspiring, memorable experiences with audiences of all ages.

Our productions are created with a core commitment to imaginative, playful, and entertaining storytelling. With a sprinkling of child-like enthusiasm, we create skillful, delightful performances that combine our love of vaudeville and our passion for classic theatre, while keeping the music in the spotlight.

The **Illinois Symphony Orchestra** marks its 25th season of critically-acclaimed music making in the 2017-2018 season with new Music Director Ken Lam. The ISO performs series of concerts in Springfield and Bloomington/Normal, Illinois with four Symphony Orchestra concerts, two Chamber Orchestra concerts, a Pops concert, a Holiday Pops concert and Concerts for Kids.

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra's commitment to the community is highlighted through its engaging Concerts for Kids, free Around the Town Chamber Music Series and the award-winning Music Matters! in-school program for students in Kindergarten – 6th grade. The orchestra won the Illinois Council of Orchestras' award for Meritorious Service in Outstanding Programming in 2002, and its Community Service award in 2004, both in recognition of overall service to the citizens of central Illinois. The orchestra performs throughout the year, bringing diverse repertoire and live musical experiences to audiences of all ages and backgrounds in both urban and rural settings. The orchestra performs in Bloomington/Normal at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts and Second Presbyterian Church and in Springfield at Sangamon Auditorium and First Presbyterian Church. The ISO has a budget of \$1.2 million and proudly serves as a vital cultural resource, educational partner and an invaluable enhancement to the quality of life in its home bases of Springfield and Bloomington-Normal.

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra was formed in 1993 as a consolidation of two well established organizations: the Springfield Symphony Orchestra Association and the Bloomington Normal Symphony Society. The orchestra won numerous awards and appeared at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall during the tenure of Conductor Laureate Kenneth Kiesler. It has performed statewide with appearances at the Illinois State Fair, Millennium Park in Chicago and Ravinia Festival. The ISO has been actively involved in community engagement winning the Community Event of the Year from the Illinois Council of Orchestras for its 2009 Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration involving over 1,000 performers and in 2015 performed a commemorative concert for the 150th Anniversary of the Lincoln Funeral Train with over 250 performers drawn from throughout central Illinois.

Recently selected as one of the Top 8 things you should do in Illinois by www.onlyinyourstate.com.

Additional information about the Illinois Symphony Orchestra is available at www.ilsymphony.org.

The ISO is partially funded by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

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