

INDIANAPOLIS OPERA



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LARRY AND DINAH BIRD RETURN AS HONORARY CO-CHAIRS FOR LOBSTER PALOOZA 2015

What: Indianapolis Opera's Sixth Annual Lobster Palooza

When: Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 7pm

Where: Frank and Katrina Basile Opera Center
4011 N. Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Indianapolis, IN (June 29, 2015) – Indiana Pacers President of Basketball Operations Larry Bird and his wife, Dinah will once again serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of Lobster Palooza. Indianapolis Opera's signature fundraiser, Lobster Palooza, is to be held on Saturday, July 18th at the Frank and Katrina Basile Opera Center in Indianapolis. Larry and Dinah, who served as co-chairs of the popular event for the past several years, say they are pleased to co-chair Lobster Palooza as part of their ongoing commitment to Indianapolis Opera (IO) and strong belief in supporting the local arts.

Over the past 5 years, Indianapolis Opera's Lobster Palooza has become a recognized signature event in the community. The annual fundraiser supports the Opera's educational programming serving to lead arts-focused collaborations with education institutions, social service agencies, and senior living facilities, among others. In 2014, Lobster Palooza sold out and raised nearly \$50,000 for the Indianapolis Opera. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.indyopera.org.

Under the new leadership of General Director Kevin Patterson, Indianapolis Opera is celebrating its 41st season in Indianapolis. "Thanks to the generosity of Larry and Dinah Bird Lobster Palooza has become a signature event for Indianapolis Opera. Their support signals that the community is strong and boasts diverse offerings, from sports to arts and culture. Lobster Palooza and the funds raised assist IO in giving back to Central Indiana and the state through educational offerings geared to all ages".

New this year – Dancing Under the Stars, Still Moon Moonshine and Sun King Brewery

A new attraction this year, the Lobster Palooza Lounge will prove to be a cozy after dinner spot to enjoy the summer breeze just a few steps from the dance floor. Henle and the Loops will provide the musical entertainment for the evening and are sure to bring guests to their feet for dancing after dinner. This local Indianapolis band does not accept payment for performances instead opting to donate all funds to charity.

Along with wines provided by Monarch Beverages, Still Moon Moonshine will make its debut at Lobster Palooza providing its “Sophisticated Sipping Shine” as the main ingredient in several delicious cocktails and the after-dinner drink appropriately named Moonlight. In addition, locally based craft brewery Sun King Brewery will be on hand at Lobster Palooza serving some of their finest brews in support of the event.

The sixth annual Lobster Palooza is a casual, exciting evening of entertainment, live music and a traditional Maine lobster boil. Succulent Maine lobster will be served with clam chowder, steamed clams, fresh vegetables and corn of the cob. The fresh Maine lobster is brought in live the night before. Chicken and vegetarian options are also available. The event will take place rain or shine.

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About Indianapolis Opera

Since 1975, Indianapolis Opera has delivered the passion, excitement and art of opera throughout Indiana with compelling educational, cultural and community activities. The Indianapolis Opera Ensemble program reaches 30,000 children and adults statewide each year, with additional performances in Michigan, Illinois and Kentucky. In 2014, the company embraced an intensive organizational assessment process to examine its business operations, gather audience feedback and understand community needs in a changing environment. One of several outcomes includes the hiring of Kevin Patterson in February 2015 as Indianapolis Opera's General Director. www.IndyOpera.org