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For Immediate Release
Contact: Jill Vandegriff 317.283.3531

**INDIANAPOLIS OPERA & ICO PLAN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CONCERT
TO KICK OFF SUMMER WITH FIRST REALLY BIG PARTY**

Indianapolis – Sorry, Indy 500. Two cultural organizations are pairing up to produce the biggest party to kick off the summer, Friday, May 27. Indianapolis Opera and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra present Crescendo!, a concert featuring four opera singers and highlighting opera favorites and Broadway standards.

Returning to Indianapolis is *Opera News* Rising Star Emily Fons. Heralded as “one of the best singing actors of her generation,” this mezzo-soprano began her professional opera career here as a member of Indianapolis Opera’s Resident Artist Ensemble. This season she’s performed in Santa Fe, New Orleans, Madison, Baltimore, with a European festival and return trip to Santa Fe on tap.

Joining Fons are:

- Soprano and former Indianapolis Opera Resident Artist Allison Nicholas;
- Bass Baritone Darren K. Stokes;
- Tenor Eric Berry; and
- Indianapolis Opera Chorus.

The concert will take place on The Farm Bureau Insurance Lawn at White River State Park at 8 p.m. Friday, May 27. The event is free and open to the public.

Check-in and visit the link at <http://facebook.com/TheLawnatWhiteRiverStatePark> for general info about what to bring **and** what not to bring in terms of food, beverages, and seating; for tips about traveling to the venue; as well as dining options, parking, and more. Each concert differs based on artist’s management and fan safety.

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 Resident Artist program reaches 30,000 children and adults statewide each year, with additional performances in Michigan, Illinois and Kentucky. Indianapolis Opera re-emerged in 2015 under the leadership of General Director Kevin Patterson, a Hoosier native and veteran arts leader. Under Patterson’s leadership, Indianapolis Opera has embraced a production and collaboration vision seeking to engage the community. www.IndyOpera.org