



INDIANAPOLIS OPERA

Indianapolis Opera cancels final production of the season, *but confirms commitment to future*

INDIANAPOLIS --- Following a phenomenal and successful production of Puccini's *The Girl of the Golden West* this past weekend, Indianapolis Opera regrettably announced today the cancellation of *Albert Herring*, scheduled to open April 25.

Since last season, the Opera board of directors has been working to address systemic and national trends in the opera business model. The board has faced the organization's condition head on, and has already made significant strides towards achieving a solid future for the company with an aggressive business plan to move Indianapolis Opera towards sustainability in a rapidly changing economy. In the coming weeks, Indianapolis Opera will make a major announcement concerning this business plan and announce the 2014-2015 season.

Indianapolis Opera started the 2013-2014 season with a board-supported plan to return to producing four mainstage productions. The company, like many operas in other cities as well as local arts organizations, experienced financial challenges as individual and corporate support for the arts has diminished. Indianapolis lost its professional ballet company and almost lost the symphony last year. Indianapolis Opera spent the past eight months strategizing, and adopted a multi-year plan for financial stability and sustainability. It has taken several steps toward achieving that plan, including its move into the Basile Opera Center, increased board commitment and continuing discussions with grantors. The commitment to the future of Indianapolis Opera is strong, but rather than pushing forward with the final production of the year and risking further financial strain, the company decided to cancel *Albert Herring*.

"While the decision to cancel the production was difficult, Indianapolis Opera is focused on the future and long term health of the company," said general manager Carol Baker. "We are blessed with a loyal, enthusiastic audience and a wonderful city, and we owe it to our community to be responsible stewards of the art form," added Baker.

Ticket holders for the April 25-May 4 performances will be contacted with options for exchanges or refunds.

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About Indianapolis Opera:

Founded in 1975, Indianapolis Opera is the only professional opera company in Indiana. The IO's mission is to entertain by creating the passion, excitement and art of opera and develop the widest possible audience for opera through educational, cultural and community activities. James Caraher became music director in 1981 and artistic director in 1995. In 2013, Carol Baker was named general manager. Joachim Schamberger is artist in residence. In 2013--2014, Indianapolis' 39th season is comprised exclusively of 20th century works and IO debuts. www.indyopera.org

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jordan Bishop | Bohlsen Group
jbishop@bohlsengroup.com