

Indianapolis Opera and the Italian Heritage Society of Indiana announce joint concert to celebrate composers bicentennial *Viva Verdi concert will celebrate Italy's most beloved composer*

INDIANAPOLIS – Indianapolis will be part of an international celebration of the 200th anniversary of Giuseppe Verdi's birth, joining hundreds of other cities around the world.

2013 is also the Year of Italian Culture in the United States and this performance will showcase local operatic and musical talent in tribute to the Italian maestro's incomparable contribution to opera.

The performance will include selections from Verdi's most celebrated works including *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Nabucco*, *Macbeth* and many more.

Artistic Director, James Caraher says, "Verdi has always been one of my favorite composers to conduct, so this will be a great opportunity to celebrate his 200th birthday, as well as to participate in this very special Year of Italian Culture in the United States." The program will include many of Verdi's most famous arias, duets and choruses that will unfold through narration that will tie the music to important aspects of the history of that time in Italy. The closing chorus will feature a complimentary prosecco toast for everyone in attendance.

Ralph Tambasco, President of the Italian Heritage Society says, "Our collaboration with Indianapolis Opera is a very natural fit, given the prominent role Italian opera holds in our heritage for hundreds of years. It is my desire that the Italian-American community of Indianapolis will come and enjoy what promises to be a beautiful and inspiring performance."

What: Viva Verdi: a live concert celebrating Italy's most beloved composer

When: November 17, 2013 at 2 p.m.

Where: Basile Opera Center – 4011 N Pennsylvania St Indianapolis, IN 46205

Cost: Viva Verdi tickets are on sale now. \$30 (limited number of \$15 student tickets available). Tickets can be purchased at www.indyopera.org/operaconcerts or 317.283.3470

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About Indianapolis Opera:

Indianapolis Opera was founded in 1975 and is the only professional opera company in the state. James Caraher was appointed Music Director in 1981 and Artistic Director in 1995, while in 2012, IO appointed stage director and designer Joachim Schamberger as an Affiliate Artist. Indianapolis Opera's 39th Season opens in October 2013 and is comprised exclusively of 20th century works and IO debuts. www.indyopera.org

About The Italian Heritage Society of Indiana:

The Italian Heritage Society of Indiana was founded in 1993, a non-profit organization that welcomes anyone who is interested in the Italian lifestyle, culture and history. www.italianheritage.org.

Media Contacts:

Jordan Bishop

jbishop@bohlsengroup.com

317-602-7137