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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indianapolis Symphonic Choir Announces Commission Competition Winner

INDIANAPOLIS—November 23, 2010—The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir announces the winner of its international Christmas Carol Commission Competition. Michigan-based composer Daniel J. Knaggs' composition "Quem Pastores Laudavere" was selected as the winning choral submission and will be premiered at the following *Festival of Carols* performances in December as part of the Choir's commitment to new choral music. The composer will be present at the December 5 and 6 performances.

Saturday, December 4, 8:00 p.m. at Holy Spirit Parish in Geist
Sunday, December 5, 2:30 p.m. at Zionsville United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 19, 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church (Columbus, In.)

Adult tickets start at \$20. Student and special group rates are available. Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.indychoir.org or by calling the Symphonic Choir Box Office: (317) 940-9057. A limited number of tickets may be available at the door.

"I think composers sometimes begin writing a piece, and then, after a while we have to really push ourselves to finish it – even if we aren't feeling particularly inspired. But "Quem Pastores Laudavere" was one of those more gratifying experiences. One phrase came right after another and I heard pretty clearly what I needed to write," guided Knaggs, who also works as a Spanish teacher in Michigan.

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's "Christmas Carol Competition" debuted in June 2009. Composers 35 years and younger are encouraged to submit an original piece for consideration. The winning composer receives a world premiere performance, a cash prize and travel arrangements to be present at the debut performance. This marks the second year of the competition which attracted compositions from across the United States and Europe.

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir is a 501(c)3 non-profit performing arts organization based in Indianapolis, and 2010-2011 marks its 74th season. The organization presented a 10-day concert tour through China in June 2010. A frequent artistic partner with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Symphonic Choir is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, administered by a professional staff, and is made up of more than 165 singers, auditioned annually, who perform 25 concerts each season reaching in excess of 25,000 persons. Visit www.indychoir.org for more information.