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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's Pinnacle Performance of 74th Season

INDIANAPOLIS – January 12, 2011 – As the keystone weekend of performances for its 74th concert season, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir presents Bach's epic Mass in B Minor on Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16, 2011 both at 8:00 p.m. at Hilbert Circle Theatre. Tickets are available at www.indychoir.org or by calling the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box office (317) 639-4300.

Tickets range from \$17 to \$64 and group rates are available. This weekend of performances is underwritten by Barnes and Thornburg, LLP.

Symphonic Choir Artistic Director Eric Stark leads two performances uniting the Choir and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, marking his conducting debut at Hilbert Circle Theatre. Often labeled as the most monumental composition of Bach's creative output, and also of the entire repertory of choral-orchestral repertoire, the Mass in B Minor features soloists Maria Jette (soprano; returning after 2008 ISC performances of Handel's Israel in Egypt), Jennifer Lane (mezzo), Brian Stucki (tenor) and Derrick Parker (bass-baritone).

On his 10-day Bach pilgrimage through Germany in January 2011, Eric Stark says of the Mass in B Minor, "My first experience with the piece was in 1988 and ever since then, I've had the B Minor on my "list." Yet, I've wanted to make sure I was ready for the many challenges, musical, scholarly and spiritual, it would present. So after many years of training and study, and even more years in the profession, the time is at hand."

While the Symphonic Choir is comprised of 160 singers, a reduced ensemble of 95 voices will perform the Bach. This same ensemble of singers performed another Baroque masterwork, Handel's *Messiah*, in December 2010 to high critical acclaim.

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 160 singers, auditioned annually, who perform 25 concerts each season reaching in excess of 25,000 persons. Visit www.indychoir.org for photos, press releases and additional information.