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Flash Mob Surprises Indy 500 Travelers at Indianapolis Airport

INDIANAPOLIS – May 28, 2011 – The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir’s flash mob at the Indianapolis International Airport’s (IND) Civic Plaza drew surprised looks from travelers in town for the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 race. 75 singers, two grand pianos and a battery of percussionists performed “O Fortuna” from Carmina Burana at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 28, 2011.

Video footage is available at IND’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/INDairport.

“That music is just full of ‘wow factor,’ and it makes quite the impression, especially when it’s a total shock to the passer-by,” states Michael Pettry, Executive Director of the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir. “Our Artistic Director Eric Stark has wanted to present a flash mob for quite some time, and what better opportunity than surrounding the Indy 500.”

With recent incarnations of the phenomena becoming increasingly creative and elaborate compared to their beginnings in 2003, IND’s Civic Plaza is a fitting backdrop for a flash mob featuring a spontaneous display of the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir’s choral skills. A destination in its own right, Civic Plaza features shopping, dining and special entertainment events, with artwork and attractions that reflect the character and diversity of Indianapolis and the region. It also serves as the heart of the airport terminal; more than 19,000 passengers per day pass through it to and from the airport’s concourses.

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir is a 501(c)3 non-profit performing arts organization based in Indianapolis, and 2011/2012 marks its 75th anniversary season. A frequent artistic partner with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Symphonic Choir is conducted by Dr. Eric Stark, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, administered by a professional staff, and is comprised 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.

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