Zdraveyte!

That is how I greet my friends in Bulgarian, and so it is how I greet you, my new friends at IPO.

Joining IPO is an inspiring beginning for me, as the organization has all the right ingredients in place to make an exciting transition to a higher artistic level. We have extraordinary musicians, a new concert venue with excellent acoustical qualities, a fantastic administrative team, a very supportive family in our patrons and many more outstanding assets. I think with all these aspects in place, the possibilities are limitless.

I hope you will join me in the concert hall this year as we CELEBRATE! IPO’s 40th Anniversary Season and experience the joy that live classical music brings to those who hear it.

Very best wishes,
Stilian Kirov
WHEN ART IMITATES LIFE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017, 7:30PM
Stilian Kirov, Conductor

VLADIGEROV: Improvisation and Toccata
COPLAND: Symphony for Organ & Orchestra
David Schrader, Guest Organist

SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No. 5
November 18 opens with “a little gift I bring from my native Bulgaria that is very much in the Romantic spirit,” says Maestro Stilian Kirov about Vladigerov’s Improvisation and Toccata. Next, acclaimed organist David Schrader showcases Ozenga’s magnificent pipe organ when he joins the orchestra for Copland’s symphony.

Opening the evening is Shostakovich’s Fifth Symphony—a Bernstein specialty. With the original subtitle “A Soviet Artist’s Response to Just Criticism,” Bernstein’s Symphonic Dances from West Side Story paired with Mahler’s stunning work are a visionary masterwork that surprised audiences of Beethoven’s time. This visionary masterwork was also the last piece that Bernstein ever conducted (with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood).

“…playing was crystalline, each note, whether in dense chords or single-note melodic phrases, was crisply articulated.”
—Chicago Classical Review on Winston Choi

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HOLIDAY POPS MOVIE MUSIC SPECTACULAR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017, 3PM
Francesco Milio, Guest Conductor

IPO friend and 2016 holiday concert guest conductor Francesco Milio returns to the IPO podium in December. No doubt you’ll be smiling and humming along as the orchestra performs excerpts from The Ginch, Frozen, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, A Charlie Brown Christmas and other nostalgic favorites. This is sure to be a concert filled with good cheer, good will and holiday spirit, along with a few special guest surprises. Remember, student tickets are just $10!

“Just listening to the orchestra making music that appeared to flow out from their souls left me in a state of divine bliss.”
—2016-17 IPO Patron

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EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED
All-Beethoven Program
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018, 7:30PM
Stefan Veselka, Guest Pianist

BEETHOVEN: Coriolan Overture
BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto No. 1 with Winston Choi, Guest Pianist
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 7

Currently Chief Conductor of the Münster Symphony Orchestra in Germany, Stefan Veselka will lead the orchestra in an all-Beethoven program, beginning with the dramatic Coriolan Overture. Chicago-based pianist Winston Choi joins IPO for Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1, a repertoire favorite of Bernstein, as he both conducted and performed the solo piano part. On the second half, IPO presents Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony with its distinctive use of rhythm and harmony that surprised audiences of Beethoven’s time. This visionary masterwork was also the last piece that Bernstein ever conducted (with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood).

“...a dashing, effusive performer, brimming with technique and capable of electrifying energy.”
—Houston Chronicle on David Schrader

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WATERSHED WORKS
HEART AND SOUL
SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018, 7:30PM
Stilian Kirov, Conductor

BERNSTEIN: Symphonic Dances from West Side Story
MAHLER: Symphony No. 1 “Titan”

“Is it one of the greatest masterpieces highlighting the composer’s first mark in the golden pages of the symphonic literature.”
—Maestro Stilian Kirov on Mahler 1

In IPO’s Season Finale, Maestro Kirov introduces patrons to “an outstanding young composer gaining national and international recognition” with Gity Razaz and her composition, Arizona Dreams. This work pairs with Dvořák’s folk-inspired, nature-themed Czech Suite. The evening ends with Tchaikovsky’s expressive Fifth Symphony and a finale of musical fireworks.

ABOUT GITY RAZAZ
Hailed by The New York Times as “ ravishing and engulflng,” Gity Razaz’s music ranges from concert solo pieces to large symphonic works. Ms. Razaz’s music has been commissioned and performed by the New York Virtuoso Singers, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Albany Symphony Orchestra and others. Her original score for Ballet Moscow had its world premiere in June 2017, as well as a work for the classical guitar duo, Duo Noire.

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Subscribers can sign up to take the shuttle from the Village of Flossmoor free municipal parking lot (on Sterling south of Flossmoor Road) to Ozenga Chapel on concert nights for $15/concert roundtrip. Other departure locations are being considered. Please contact the office if interested in the shuttle. Call to reserve your seat, 708.481.7774.

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