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## INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO BEGIN SEARCH FOR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

INDIANAPOLIS—The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announced today that it will not be renewing its contract with Music Director Mario Venzago. The contract ends on Aug. 31, 2009. The search for a new Music Director will begin immediately and Venzago's concerts in the Lilly *Classical Series* for the 2009-2010 season will be filled by other conductors.

Since joining the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in 2002, Mario Venzago has expanded the orchestra's repertoire and broadened the range of styles to include large romantic works and contemporary pieces. In his seven seasons, he has received critical acclaim for his interpretations of Schumann, Brahms and Beethoven symphonies; collaborations with local performance groups such as the Indianapolis Opera and Indianapolis Symphonic Choir; and presentations of world premiere commissions such as composer Jennifer Higdon's Violin Concerto in February of this year.

"Mario has brought tremendous artistic success to the ISO during the past seven years," said Simon Crookall, President and CEO of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. "His partnership with the orchestra and his enthusiasm on the podium has delighted and entertained audiences. We are thankful to Mario for giving us many great memories, especially this season's extraordinary production of Wagner's *Das Rheingold* with the Indianapolis Opera."

Maestro Venzago has been invited to return to Indianapolis to conduct a final concert in the 2009-2010 season. When details are confirmed, an announcement will be made.

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### **About the ISO**

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra is the largest performing arts organization in the state of Indiana and one of only 18 full-time orchestras in North America. The ISO is made up of 87 musicians and performs 200 concerts for more than 300,000 people every year.

The ISO's 2009-2010 season begins Sept. 18 and includes classical, pops, and family concerts and special events featuring some of the greatest artists of our time. The Lilly *Classical Series* opens with an all-American program on Sept. 25 and 26 and features pianist Gabriela Montero and Academy Award-winner F. Murray Abraham. The series continues with concerts featuring famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma; violin sensation and Bloomington native Joshua Bell; renowned Chopin interpreter Garrick Ohlsson; and violinists Christian Tetzlaff, Vadim Gluzman (in his ISO debut) and Leila Josefowicz. The ISO's diverse Printing Partners *Pops Series* lineup includes performances by pop music icon Maureen McGovern, legendary stage and television star Florence Henderson, pianist and songwriter Tony DeSare and special appearances by jazz trumpeter Chris Botti and The Music of Pink Floyd among the many highlights.

For more information, visit the ISO's web site at [www.IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://www.IndianapolisSymphony.org)