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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Columbus native, Broadway star Marja Harmon rings in holiday season with orchestra



November 8, 2017 (Columbus, Ind.) – The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic celebrates the holiday season this year with Columbus native and Broadway star Marja Harmon (*Aida*, *The Book of Mormon*, *The Lion King*, *Hairspray*) in two concerts titled “Home for the Holidays” on Saturday, December 9, 2017 with the Philharmonic Chorus. Saxophonist Clayton Stine, winner of the 2017 Betty F. Brown Award for Instrumental Excellence, will also be featured on the program. The matinee performance, designed for families and children, starts at 3:00 p.m. while the evening concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Packaging Corporation of America, the performance is the fourth in the orchestra’s 2017-2018 season titled “LISTEN - Great. Live. Music.” This season is brought to you by Columbus Regional Health and The Republic. Co-sponsored by Mainsource Bank and Tilson HR, additional support for this concert is provided by Blue & Company, Boyer Machine, Tom Pickett’s Music Center, and WWA Planning & Investments.

The performance will take place at Columbus North Erne Auditorium at 1400 25th Street, Columbus, IN 47201. Tickets are priced from \$5 to \$40, and are available at thecip.org, in person at 315 Franklin Street in downtown Columbus and by phone at 812-376-2638.

For further purchasing details, refer to the information section at the conclusion of this press release.

ABOUT THE CONCERT

The 80-member Philharmonic Chorus joins the orchestra for holiday favorites such as *The Very Best Time of Year* (John Rutter), *Shepherd’s Pipe Carol* (John Rutter), *A Musicological Journey Through the Twelve Days of Christmas* (Craig Courtney), and *We Wish You A Merry Christmas* (Harris). Marja Harmon adds vocal charm to tunes like *O Holy Night* (Adam/Kirkland & Fettke), *The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)* (Mel Torme), and *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas* (Martin & Blane). Expect a special appearance by Santa Claus and his “wooden soldiers” for the first song after intermission! For the full program, [click here](#) and scroll to page 39.

ABOUT MARJA HARMON

Marja Harmon is excited to return home for the holidays with the orchestra for a cheerful evening full of festive music. A graduate of Columbus East High School, Marja spent most of her youth on the Columbus stage as she participated in community theater, drama club, choirs, and sang locally at different community events. In addition to being a member of the Columbus Indiana Children's Choir, Marja also participated in several Mill Race Players (now Mill Race Theater Company) productions, enjoyed singing the National Anthem at Indiana Pacers games, and was a recipient of the Mayor's Arts Award in 2001.

“Marja Harmon rules the stage with a bluesy belt and such intensity that she seems to pull the notes out of the floor and send them flying to the ceiling.”

Grand Rapids Press

Marja left Columbus to attend the University of Southern California where she eventually graduated from the School of Theatre in 2005. She said in an interview with Stage Scene LA that she really benefited from USC's program because “it gives the students many opportunities to perform.” She says the program really gives you the chance “to hone your craft and apply your class work in an onstage environment.”

Marja has performed in numerous productions, both on and off Broadway, including *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* as Sookey in 2008; the 2006 rock musical *Aida* by Elton John and Tim Rice as Aida for both National and International Broadway tours; Mrs. Brown in *The Book of Mormon* (2011); and as Nala in *The Lion King*. She also appeared in the CBS drama series “Person of Interest” in 2011.

ABOUT CLAYTON STINE

Clayton Stine, winner of the 2017 Betty F. Brown Award for Instrumental Excellence, began playing alto sax in fourth grade eight years ago at St. Bartholomew Catholic School. For the past three years, he took one-on-one lessons with Heidi Radtke, associate saxophone instructor at Butler University. In addition to alto sax, the 18-year-old also plays soprano, tenor and baritone sax, and finished 12th academically in his senior class at Columbus North High School where he participated in the Sound of North Marching Band for four years and led his section for two. Clayton was awarded First Place in the Brown Instrumental Scholarship Competition in 2017. He currently double majors in Jazz Saxophone Performance and Mathematics at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music.



TICKET PURCHASING INFORMATION

Individual tickets for this concert can be purchased online at thecip.org, in person at the Philharmonic Box Office at 315 Franklin Street in downtown Columbus (Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), or by calling 812-376-2638, x1. Subscription packages can still be purchased in person at the Philharmonic Box Office or over the phone. Patrons can submit a “Pick-A-Pack” order by choosing 3 or more concerts to attend in person or by calling 812-376-2638, x1. Discount programs, like the Phil's Family Fun Pass or Untuxed Phil (a new discount program for millennials 21-35), are available for purchase at www.thecip.org/discounts. For discounts for groups of 10 or more, call the Philharmonic Box Office. All programs, artists, dates, times, and prices subject to change.

	A Zone	B Zone	C Zone	D Zone
Adult	\$40	\$30	\$25	\$15
Senior (65+)	\$35	\$25	\$20	\$10
Student	\$15	\$15	\$10	\$5

ABOUT COLUMBUS INDIANA PHILHARMONIC

Started in 1987 under the auspices of Columbus Pro Musica, Inc., the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic and David Bowden have received local, state, national and international recognition, winning five ASCAP awards and consistently receiving rave reviews for their performances. With a full complement of concerts and music education programs, the Philharmonic is proud to be one of the arts organizations that contribute to the rich quality of life enjoyed by residents of Columbus and surrounding communities.

The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is a public, not-for-profit organization supported by private donations and the Columbus Area Arts Council. This project is made possible by the support of the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.