

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Philharmonic Salutes Veterans in 16th Annual Free Concert

May 11, 2016 (Columbus, Ind.) – Music Director Dr. David Bowden and the award-winning Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra present the 16th Annual *Salute!* concert, a celebration in honor of those who have served and currently serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. The outdoor concert takes place on the lawn of the Bartholomew County Courthouse on Friday, May 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Who: Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra
Guest Soloist: Donata Cucinotta
Guest Narrator: Gov. Mike Pence

What: 16th Annual *Salute!* Concert

Where: Bartholomew County Courthouse Lawn
234 Washington Street
Columbus, IN 47201

When: Friday May 27, 2016
7:00 p.m.



This free pops concert began in 2001 and continues to be a community favorite each year during Memorial Day weekend. The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic performance features uplifting musical works, powerful vocals and dramatic readings that honor the military service of all our men and women in uniform, their families at home, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The event has become one of Columbus' highly anticipated programs and is a tradition for families as they bring lawn chairs, blankets and their patriotic attire.

"Whether you enjoy hearing patriotic music, the anthems of the branches of our Armed Services or the stirring *1812 Overture* with a cannon volley, you will be full of pride for our country and the men and women who commit their lives to military service," says Executive Director Margaret Powers.

This year's program features guest vocalist Donata Cucinotta. In addition to her singing career, Donata Cucinotta also possesses strong acting and dance skills frequently demonstrated on the musical theater stage and in opera and oratorio. Noted for her "particularly fine" soprano voice by Zachary Woolfe of *The New York Times*, Ms. Cucinotta has performed leading roles throughout her 10-year career at Avery Fisher Hall, Opera Colorado, Opera New Jersey, Shreveport Opera, Knoxville Opera, Prince Music Theater, The American Music Festival, including both Broadway-style and concert stage productions. With music degrees from Ithaca College and Mannes College of Music, the Philadelphia native recently moved to the area from New Jersey with her husband Dr. Justin Rasner in December 2015 when he joined Schneck Medical Center in Seymour, Indiana. Ms. Cucinotta currently maintains an active voice studio in Seymour where the couple enjoy cooking together and watching their favorite shows on Netflix.

Governor Mike Pence will provide a greeting at the concert in celebration of Indiana's 2016 Bicentennial. Endorsed by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission as a Bicentennial Legacy Project, not only does this celebration honor our veterans and those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, but it also aims to honor our state's 200 years of history, and to do so in a way that engages all Hoosiers and leaves a lasting legacy for future generations.

The concert's mission is to unite attendees in remembrance and appreciation of the fallen and to serve those who are grieving. "We think of the agony of the mother or father who lost a child, the spouses and children left behind, the people who are wounded in body and soul. We do this memorial concert to remember them and their sacrifices," says Music Director David Bowden.

The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic will recognize veterans of the Vietnam War by reading letters from that era while the orchestra plays *Somewhere Out There* from the popular movie *An American Tail*.

"The lyrics convey the love felt by two people separated by vast distances, but cheered by the belief that their love will eventually reunite them," says Bowden. "In the Gulf War era, the song became a means of communication between a child and parent. This emotional performance precedes the flag folding ceremony and 21 gun salute at the Veteran's Memorial."

Audience members will experience a new sound from the stage at this year's Salute concert – a new set of superb symphonic chimes made by Yamaha/Degan. Marc Dissosway, a past Philharmonic Chorus member, recently gifted the instrument to the Philharmonic when he learned the age and broken condition of the chimes. Purchased in the 1940s, the existing chimes have experienced significant wear and tear over the years and finally became unplayable. Dissosway will travel from his home in Michigan to "christen" the bells during the *Liberty Bell March* and the *1812 Overture*.

The *Salute!* concert is sponsored by Reams Asset Management, The Republic, Taylor Brothers Construction, Engelstad Wealth Advisors, Bartholomew County Commissioners, and the City of Columbus. Concert partners include Franciscan Physician Network, Bartholomew County REMC, Estep & Company, Columbus Silgas, and Centerstone. Friends of Salute include Chevrolet of Columbus, Automobile Diagnostics and Hathaway-Myers and Myers-Reed Funeral Chapel.

ABOUT COLUMBUS INDIANA PHILHARMONIC

Started in 1987 under the auspices of Columbus Pro Musica, Inc., the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is celebrating its 30th anniversary season in 2016. The Philharmonic Orchestra 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, cabarets 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, the Columbus Area Arts Council, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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