

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

*COLUMBUS PHILHARMONIC WELCOMES SYLVIA MCNAIR IN OPENING CONCERT*

**Sept. 10, 2015 (Columbus, Ind.)** – The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra begins the 2015-16 season, the 29<sup>th</sup> under Music Director David Bowden, on **Saturday, September 19** with two-time Grammy Award winner Sylvia McNair and her spine-tingling, gripping renditions of familiar songs written by American composer George Gershwin.



**What:** *Sylvia Sings Gershwin*  
**Date:** **Saturday, September 19, 2015**  
**Time:** **Lobby Doors open at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Concert begins at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Location:** **Columbus North High School, Erne Auditorium**  
**1400 25<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Columbus, IN 47201**

Experience Gershwin's rhythmic flare and melodic sense during Sylvia McNair's rendition of memorable tunes from the 1930 musical *Girl Crazy* like "I Got Rhythm," "Summertime" from the folk opera *Porgy and Bess*, and works from his jazz-influenced symphonic poem *An American in Paris* will be performed with flair by the Philharmonic Orchestra.

George Gershwin, arguably America's first great composer, bequeathed this nation with an array of music that has become intertwined with our cultural identity. He was the first major composer to successfully blend jazz idioms with classical forms.

Sylvia McNair, an Ohio native from Mansfield, lays claim to a three-decade, stellar career in the musical realms of opera, oratorio, cabaret, and musical theater. Her journey has taken her from the Metropolitan Opera to the Austrian Salzburg Festival, from the pages of *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* to the *London Times* and the cover of *Cabaret Scenes*. This songbird has appeared as a soloist many times with nearly every major opera company and symphony orchestra in the world. She has sung for former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, presented a recital for the U.S. Supreme Court by the request of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and once performed with the Vienna Philharmonic for the late Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

Fifty minutes before the concert, Music Director David Bowden and Sylvia McNair will share their thoughts in a *Musically Speaking* pre-concert conversation free to concert ticket holders. These entertaining, spirited and informative discussions are a wonderful chance to become familiar with the performers and the great music played by the Philharmonic.

Concert tickets are currently on sale and can be purchased by calling the Philharmonic office, 812-376-2638 ext. 1 or online at [www.theCIP.org/tickets](http://www.theCIP.org/tickets). For more information about Sylvia McNair and the concert, please visit the Concerts & Events tab at [www.theCIP.org](http://www.theCIP.org).

#### **ABOUT COLUMBUS INDIANA PHILHARMONIC**

The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic thrives on a partnership with the best musicians from Columbus and the surrounding region and talented students from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. 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 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 corporation supported by private donations, the Columbus Area Arts Council, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

