



**Media Contact:**

Katelyn Ice  
Marketing Director  
Columbus Indiana Philharmonic  
812-376-263, x3  
katelyni@thecip.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

***Columbus Philharmonic hosts 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lobsterfest***

**March 7, 2018 (Columbus, Ind.)** – Lobsterfest, an annual fundraiser organized by the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, returns to downtown Columbus on Saturday, May 19, 2018. Featuring a new brand, “Claws for a Cause,” the fundraiser continues to raise money for the Philharmonic’s music education programs, including the Columbus Indiana Children’s Choir, the Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and Strings in the Schools, all serving more than 13,000 adults and children each year in South Central Indiana. Sponsored by Old National Bank, the event takes place along 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Franklin and Washington Streets in the Columbus Arts and Entertainment District.

**What: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lobsterfest**

**When: Saturday, May 19, 2018**

**Time: Happy Hour @ 6:00 p.m. / Dinner @ 7:00 p.m. / Robotic Races After Dinner**

**Where: Old National Bank Parking Lot, 501 Washington Street, Downtown Columbus**

The authentic New England clambake and lobster boil, catered by Foster’s Clambakes and Catering located in York, Maine, begins at 6:00 p.m. for a Happy Hour complete with live music, a “lobster lounge” sponsored by Thompson Furniture, and a cash bar provided by The Garage Pub & Grill. Happy Hour music will be supplemented by a special musical presentation by a Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Ensemble, one of the programs benefiting from proceeds raised. Served buffet-style, dinner follows at 7:00 p.m. and includes a steaming cup of traditional New England clam chowder, tender steamed clams and mussels, a whole luscious bright red lobster, red bliss potatoes, steamed sweet onions, corn on the cob, buttery dinner rolls, and blueberry crumb cake for dessert. For vegetarians or those with seafood allergies, an alternative is available upon request by emailing [tickets@thecip.org](mailto:tickets@thecip.org).

“Because the lobster races were so popular last year, our partnership with the Columbus Robotics GalacTech team will continue this May,” said Margaret Powers, Executive Director of the Philharmonic. “The planning committee, led by Tracy Haddad, has several ideas to alter the competitive robotic challenge based on this year’s robot designed by the GalacTech students.”

Lobsterfest tickets are divided into two levels: \$125 Patron and \$175 Patron Plus. Patron Plus ticket benefits include two complimentary drinks at the bar and your name recognized in The Republic advertisement the following day. Reservations must be made by April 30, 2018. Individuals or businesses can also purchase a table for 10 for \$1,500 which includes two bottles of wine (must be purchased by a single individual or business). Food will be prepared on-site in a lobster boil built on 5<sup>th</sup> Street specifically for the occasion. Casual dress is appropriate for the evening filled with fun, food, friends, and music!

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.thecip.org](http://www.thecip.org), visiting the Philharmonic Box Office at 315 Franklin Street during business hours (M-F, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.), or calling the Box Office at 812-376-2638, x1.

Additional support provided by Johnson Ventures, Hutch & Kevina Schumaker, Tracy L. Haddad Foundation, Enkei America, Agresta, Storms & O'Leary, Thompson Furniture, and Bob Poynter Cadillac, Chevrolet, Buick, GMC in Seymour.

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

Started in 1987 under the auspices of Columbus Pro Musica, Inc., the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> 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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