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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Philharmonic Salutes Military Heroes in 18th Annual Free Concert**

**March 19, 2018 (Columbus, Ind.)** – Music Director Dr. David Bowden and the award-winning Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra present the 18th 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 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.



**Who:** Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra  
**Guest Artist:** Rick Vale  
**What:** 18th Annual *Salute!* Concert  
**Where:** Bartholomew County Courthouse Lawn  
234 Washington Street | Columbus, IN 47201  
**When:** Friday, May 25, 2018 at 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. Concert patrons will enjoy a helicopter landing at 5:00 p.m. along with concessions offering hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hotdogs, chips, popcorn, water, and soft drinks. Concession proceeds benefit the Columbus East High School Band Boosters.

Included in the 2018 program, the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic will present a special flag-folding ceremony dedicated to U.S. Army Sergeant Jonathon Hunter. The Columbus native was killed in action while serving his country last year in Afghanistan. Sergeant Hunter was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The Philharmonic will also dedicate a special tribute to Harry McCawley (August 27, 1940 – September 28, 2017), retired associate editor of *The Republic* and the man who started the *Salute!* tradition in 2001.

This year's program welcomes guest soloist Rick Vale. A West-coast native, Vale developed a love for music in his early years as he learned to play piano, percussion, oboe, violin, viola, flute, trumpet, horn, and organ for his high school band and orchestra. After graduating with a degree in Musical Composition from the prestigious Cornish School in Seattle, Washington, Vale wrote and sang with the Seattle Opera. Vale has performed roles in *Amarantha*, *The Thirteen Clocks*, and *The Marriage of Figaro* while living in New York. Vale wrote and directed theatre pieces with the Siberian Children's Theatre and the Bainbridge Performing Arts Theatre in Russia. He has received several commissions for concert music while also working as an actor, writer, pianist, model, studio musician, voice actor, and a pastor at the Fairview Church in Seattle where he wrote worship music.

In addition to patriotic favorites, Rick Vale be singing Frank Sinatra's *My Way*, a show tune from the 1945 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Carousel* titled *You'll Never Walk Alone*, and Gene Sheer's *American Anthem*. Whether you enjoy patriotic music, the anthems of the branches of our Armed Services, or the stirring 1812 Overture, you will be full of pride for our country and the men and women who commit their lives to military service.

## **ABOUT COLUMBUS INDIANA PHILHARMONIC**

Started in 1987 under the auspices of Columbus Pro Musica, Inc., the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic and David Bowden have recorded for Naxos Records, have been broadcast on national radio and TV, and 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.*

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