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***CHIMES OF CHRISTMAS* RETURNS TO IU AUDITORIUM WITH THE SINGING HOOSIERS, SYLVIA MCNAIR, SANTA, AND MORE.**

WHAT: Chimes of Christmas

WHEN: Saturday, December 6, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: IU Auditorium

TICKETS: \$12-\$17 for IU Bloomington students with a valid ID and children, and \$17-\$22 for general public, on sale now. Individual tickets may be purchased online at IUauditorium.com, in person at the IU Auditorium Box Office, as well as through Ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets, or charge by phone at 800-745-3000. The IU Auditorium Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11/6/2014

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – The uplifting holiday spectacular and Bloomington’s annual holiday musical event, *Chimes of Christmas*, comes to IU Auditorium featuring two family-friendly performances on Saturday, December 6, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Since the 1950s, audiences have enjoyed the magical performances by some of our favorite IU Jacob School of Music ensembles, including the Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble the Singing Hoosiers. Led by acclaimed vocal jazz conductor Steve Zegree, *Chimes of Christmas* has been catapulted into the 21st century with a fresh new look, innovative repertoire, and oodles of energy. This year’s performance will include traditional holiday tunes, new twists on old favorites, seasonal selections from around the globe, and an audience sing-along of carols and fun holiday songs. *Chimes of Christmas* is a family-friendly event and IU Auditorium offers special discounts for IUB students and children.

Chimes this season will bring an updated sound and spirit, as well as feature a new assortment of University and community ensembles and artists. Heading up the lineup is The Singing Hoosiers, lauded as one of the foremost collegiate modern vocal ensembles in the country. This group has performed worldwide, making appearances with entertainers such as Bob Hope and Tony Bennett. The ensemble averages 85 student singers and instrumentalists from the IU Jacobs School of Music as well as

throughout the university, and performs at a wide variety of events on the IU campus. Now led by Steve Zegree, this ensemble continues to perform innovative vocal arrangements of jazz standards, pop hits, and everything in between. In addition, *Chimes* will feature vocalists Sylvia McNair and Ly Wilder, the IU Vocal Jazz Ensemble, the Singing Hoosiers Band and Horns, Syncopation children's choir, Jeff Nelsen of Canadian Brass, AACE with Raymond Wise, Duane Davis, Columbus North HS Choir, as well as a special appearance by Santa.

Steve Zegree is professor of choral conducting at the Jacobs School of Music. With a bachelor's degree cum laude from Miami University, a master's degree from the Jacobs School, and a doctorate in choral conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, he previously served as the Bobby McFerrin distinguished professor of music at Western Michigan University. Zegree's internationally acclaimed vocal jazz ensemble, Gold Company, has won numerous Outstanding Performance awards from *DownBeat* magazine. His choral arrangements have been published by several companies, and he has produced several recordings, including *Mark Murphy Sings the Nat King Cole Songbook*, which received a Grammy Award nomination. As pianist with the Western Jazz Quartet, he has recorded four CDs and performed internationally. In addition, he performed on keyboards in the national tours of several Broadway musicals.

"*Chimes of Christmas* is one of Bloomington's most beloved holiday celebrations, and it continues to get better year after year," said IU Auditorium Director Doug Booher. "We are happy to announce that this season, to better accommodate all our patrons, we have added an additional matinee performance. Having this option will help ensure everyone can enjoy this spectacular holiday event. You won't want to miss this incredible IU tradition!"

For more information on *Chimes of Christmas* and the rest of the 2014–2015 season, visit IUauditorium.com. The website features video clips and a selection of songs from this season's performances, in addition to a direct link to the IU Auditorium Facebook and Twitter pages, whose members receive exclusive benefits throughout the year.

Chimes of Christmas is sponsored by WFIU Public Radio. IU Auditorium's 2014–2015 season is sponsored by Curry Auto Center, B97 Radio, *The Herald-Times*, IU Document Services Centers, and CFC Properties.

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