

For Immediate Release

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**The Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra performing at
Lincoln Amphitheatre Memorial Day Weekend**

The Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, directed by Alfred Savia, will open the 2002 Lincoln Amphitheatre season with a concert called Celebrate America at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 26.

Audiences will hear the professional musicians playing some of America's most beloved music in a setting that combines the beauty of the great outdoors with the comfort of covered seating and an appropriate stage.

The Celebrate America concert will include excerpts from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music* and Aaron Copland's *A Lincoln Portrait*. Mike Blake of WFIE will be the narrator. Jordana Greenberg, violinist and winner of 2002 Young Artists competition, will perform a solo. She is a resident of Paoli, Indiana. *The Sound of Music* soloists will be Jennifer Hampson, Maria Campos, and Kenneth Halcom. The remainder of the program will include patriotic, jazz, and Broadway musical selections as well as light classics.

According to Savia, the end of the concert will combine the stirring music of Aaron Copland with Lincoln's inspiring words and build to a "goose bump filled" finale with a musical salute to all the branches of the Armed Forces and a beautiful arrangement of "God Bless America," where everyone in the audience will join in singing with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra.

The orchestra is partnering with University of Southern Indiana to stage the patriotic concert on Memorial Day weekend.

Dr. Iain Crawford, dean of the USI School of Liberal Arts and a co-producer of Lincoln Amphitheatre, explained that the concert is an extension of a strong relationship with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra.

He said, "With the Celebrate America concert we intend to introduce the orchestra and Lincoln Amphitheatre to an audience who may not know either, or to reintroduce both to people who have not seen a performance for sometime. It also is an opportunity to celebrate America and our national values on this opening weekend of the summer."

Savia said Lincoln Amphitheatre provides a perfect setting for a Memorial Day weekend concert. He said, "Ever since I came to Evansville 13 years ago, I have thought that a concert at Lincoln Amphitheatre is something the Orchestra must do. My wife Kitty and I took our kids (who were then truly kids!) to one of the *Young Abe Lincoln* performances our first summer here. In addition to being impressed by the high-level production, I was overwhelmed by the amphitheatre and its setting in the beautiful woods of Lincoln State Park.

“I have been back many times since in the past two summers to see my older daughter on stage as a performer in the shows. It is truly one of the very best outdoor facilities I have ever seen, and it is intimate enough that the audience should be able to enjoy hearing the Orchestra with little or no sound reinforcement.”

Sponsors of the Celebrate America concert are American Electric Power, Perry-Spencer Communications, Inc., and Price-Collins, LLP.

Tickets will go on sale Friday, May 3 at the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra ticket office, 812/425-5050. Tickets are \$10, \$15, \$25 for adults and \$5 for children.

Lincoln Amphitheatre is located in Lincoln State Park in Spencer County (Lincoln City, Indiana). Established to tell the story of Abraham Lincoln’s childhood and young adult years in Indiana, the Lincoln Amphitheatre will stage the musical historical drama, *Young Abe Lincoln*, opening on Friday, June 21 and the musical *The Sound of Music*, opening on Saturday, July 6.

2002 marks the 16th season for the amphitheatre. The facility seats 1,500 and has parking for a capacity crowd. Parking is free. Lincoln Amphitheatre is located at exit 57 (I64 to US 231). There is a \$4 per vehicle charge to enter the park.

Information about Lincoln Amphitheatre is online at www.lincoln-amphitheatre.com.

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