



KANSAS CITY  
SYMPHONY

AMERICAN  
JAZZ  
MUSEUM

**Media Contact:** Beth Buchanan | (816) 218-2621 | [bbuchanan@kcsymphony.org](mailto:bbuchanan@kcsymphony.org)

## **Kansas City Symphony to Share Stage with Hometown Jazz Icons**

*Bobby Watson, Deborah Brown, Hermon Mehari, David Basse, Chuck Haddix, and more to perform with Symphony Feb. 9-11*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** | Jan. 25, 2018 — It's not every day KC's hometown jazz heroes share the stage, and especially rare for them combine forces with the Kansas City Symphony in Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

"We are very excited to celebrate the heritage of Kansas City jazz with these incredible artists and our own Kansas City Symphony," said Kansas City Symphony Executive Director Frank Byrne. "Having performed with Bobby Watson in the past, we know these will be concerts to remember and a rare opportunity to hear these jazz greats all on one stage."

Presented in association with the American Jazz Museum, three performances of "A Tribute to Kansas City Jazz: From Basie to Bebop featuring Bobby Watson," will take place February 9, 10 and 11. The local jazz musicians performing are Bobby Watson (alto saxophone), Deborah Brown and David Basse (vocals), Hermon Mehari (trumpet), Chuck Haddix (host of KCUR-FM's "Fish Fry"), Victor Lewis (drums), Curtis Lundy (bass), Stephen Scott (piano) and Rod Fleeman (guitar).

The concerts will be not only a spotlight of KC's jazz elite, but also a collaborative music revue of sorts. From the great Count Basie to Charlie Parker and Bobby Watson, audiences will journey through Kansas City jazz hearing timeless standards such as "Twelfth Street Rag," "One O'Clock Jump," "How Deep is the Ocean," "Shake, Rattle and Roll," "Caravan," "They Can't Take That Away From Me," "Ask Me Now" and more, plus a group tribute to Charlie Parker in a special arrangement. The concert wraps with a blockbuster version of "Kansas City."

"There is always this perception of classical versus jazz, yet often we forget that some of the greatest composers in classical music were also great improvisers," said American Jazz Museum Executive Director Cheptoo Kositany-Buckner. "As you listen to both styles of music you begin to understand that many composers from jazz and classical have borrowed from each other. Our partnership with the Kansas City Symphony is an attempt to begin to bridge the divide between the two genres and to elevate the importance of Kansas City jazz and its influence throughout the world and the nation."

For each concert, the Symphony's David T. Beals III Associate Conductor Jason Seber, Haddix and special guests will hold a pre-concert talk beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 1 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets start at \$40. To purchase, visit [kcsymphony.org](http://kcsymphony.org) or call the Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400.

###

### **About the Kansas City Symphony and Chorus**

Founded in 1982, the Kansas City Symphony has established itself as a major force in the cultural life of the community. Praised for performances of uncompromising standard, the orchestra is the largest in the region and enjoys a national reputation under the artistic leadership of Music Director Michael Stern. The Kansas City Symphony Chorus is a volunteer, 160-member ensemble led by multi-Grammy® Award-winning conductor, Charles Bruffy, that continues its long tradition of excellence as the choral voice of the Kansas City Symphony. The Kansas City Symphony performs more than 100 concerts each year, often welcomes guests of international acclaim as part of its Classical and Pops Series, and serves as the orchestra for the Kansas City Ballet and Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

Complementing its full schedule of concerts, the Symphony enriches the lives of Kansas City residents by providing music education opportunities for children and adults, such as KinderKonzerts, Young People's Concerts, an instrument petting zoo and concert comments. Highlights each season include a range of free master classes, events and concerts reaching more than 250,000 community members, including the annual Bank of America Celebration at the Station concert each Memorial Day weekend and performing at Symphony in the Flint Hills every summer.

The Symphony has released six highly praised CDs to date with Reference Recordings, with the most recent release featuring the Grammy® Award-nominated music of contemporary composer Adam Schoenberg (released January 20, 2017).

The Symphony and Michael Stern also have recorded for the Naxos label. Kansas City Symphony performances can be heard locally each week on KCUR 89.3 FM, Kansas City's NPR affiliate. More information on the Kansas City Symphony is available at [kcsymphony.org](http://kcsymphony.org).

### **About the American Jazz Museum**

#### **History**

Located in the Historic 18th & Vine Jazz District in Kansas City, MO, the American Jazz Museum showcases the sights and sounds of jazz through interactive exhibits and films, the Changing Gallery exhibit space, Horace M. Peterson III Visitors Center, Blue Room jazz club and Gem Theater. Since its inception in 1997, the Museum hosts thousands of students, scholars, musicians and fans of the arts for over 200 performances, education programs, special

exhibitions, community events and more each year, providing an opportunity to learn about the legends, honor their legacy, or simply enjoy the sounds of modern day jazz.

### **Mission**

The mission of the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City is to celebrate and exhibit the experience of jazz as an original American art form through performance, exhibition, education, and research at one of the country's jazz crossroads – 18th & Vine.

### **Vision**

As the only museum in the world solely focused on the preservation, exhibition and advancement of jazz music, the American Jazz Museum is dedicated to public service and collaborative efforts to expand the influence, awareness and appreciation of jazz among the widest demographic of people across the Kansas City region, as well as among those based in various locations worldwide.

Since the birth of America's only indigenous art form and its journey across the globe, certain cities have put distinctive stamps in its sound, history and development. Kansas City is one of the greatest purveyors of jazz — and it continues to offer fertile ground for the music to thrive. To learn more, visit [americanjazzmuseum.org](http://americanjazzmuseum.org).