



KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

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MEDIA ALERT:

Kansas City Symphony to Perform National Anthem at Kansas City Chiefs Home Opener

WHO:

Kansas City Symphony

WHAT:

For the first time ever, the full Kansas City Symphony will perform “The Star-Spangled Banner” for the Kansas City Chiefs’ Red Thursday, Sept. 17, in conjunction with the 2015 home opener versus the Denver Broncos on CBS’ Thursday Night Football. Music Director Michael Stern will not only conduct the Symphony but also lead the Arrowhead Stadium crowd in singing the national anthem.

Kansas City Symphony Executive Director Frank Byrne said the Symphony is delighted to take part in the event. “We firmly believe Kansas City needs both major league sports AND major league performing arts,” Byrne said. “It is our honor to take part in the festivities of Red Thursday and support our great team, the Kansas City Chiefs.”

The Symphony takes great pride in supporting the broader Kansas City community. Previously, smaller Symphony ensembles have played the national anthem for the Chiefs, but this is the first time the entire Symphony has been asked to perform. Last year, the Kansas City Symphony also performed the national anthem for Game 6 of the World Series for Royals vs. Giants and for the Royals’ opening day.

During the week of the Chiefs performance, the Symphony also presents its first Classical Series concerts of the 2015-2016 season. These concerts, which feature Ravel’s Boléro and soloists from the Symphony, occur Sept. 18-20 in Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. More information on the entire Symphony season is available at kcsymphony.org.

WHEN:

Red Thursday, Sept. 17

Just prior to game 7:25 p.m.	National Anthem Performance Game Start
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WHERE:

Arrowhead Stadium
1 Arrowhead Drive, Kansas City, MO 64129

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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, while also serving as the orchestra for the Kansas City Ballet and Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and it often welcomes guests of international acclaim as part of its Classical and Pops Series.

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 masterclasses, events and concerts reaching more than 200,000 community members, including the annual Bank of America Celebration at the Station concert each Memorial Day weekend and Symphony in the Flint Hills every summer.

Additionally, the Symphony has released five CDs with Reference Recordings — *Shakespeare's Tempest*, the Grammy®-winning *Britten's Orchestra*, an Elgar/Vaughan Williams project, *Miraculous Metamorphoses* that highlights composers Hindemith, Prokofiev and Bartók, and most recently, the Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3, "Organ." Two additional projects have been recorded and slated for future release, including the music of contemporary composer Adam Schoenberg (recorded June 2014) and Holst's *The Planets* (recorded January 2015). 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.