



Nonprofit Connect Names Kansas City Symphony Executive Director Frank Byrne ‘Kansas City’s 2017 Nonprofit Professional of the Year’

KANSAS CITY, Mo. | Jan. 26, 2017 — Nonprofit Connect today [announced](#) that Kansas City’s 2017 Nonprofit Professional of the Year is Kansas City Symphony Executive Director Frank Byrne.

“I am very honored to receive this recognition,” Byrne says. “I want to sincerely thank those who nominated me, and everyone who has supported me in my professional life, notably my family. This award is in reality a recognition of the success of the Kansas City Symphony, a great organization that I am proud to serve. Every professional success is the result of a small army of people, some in and some out of the spotlight, and in that spirit I am proud to accept this prestigious award on behalf of all who have truly made it possible.”

Nonprofit Connect will honor Byrne on May 10 at the 33rd annual Philanthropy Awards luncheon, which is Kansas City’s oldest and largest celebration of giving. The [luncheon](#) will take place at Muehlebach Tower at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown.

The Philanthropy Award [page](#) highlights Byrne’s unwavering commitment to the Symphony for more than a decade:

Frank Byrne’s tenure as Executive Director at the Kansas City Symphony has been marked by strong audience growth, increased fiscal sustainability and the Symphony’s move to perform in the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. He has nearly doubled the operational budget from \$8 million to \$15.6 million, implemented dozens of new community programs and created an environment where artistic excellence truly flourishes. A musician himself, Byrne’s passion makes it possible to transform hearts, minds and communities through the power of symphonic music.

In 2002, the Kansas City Symphony Board of Directors appointed Byrne as Executive Director of the Kansas City Symphony, where he is responsible for all administrative and managerial aspects of the operation. He also oversees a full-time staff of dedicated professionals who organize and execute the Symphony’s numerous performances in the community and region.

A photo of Byrne is available for download [here](#).

For more information, please visit kcsymphony.org.

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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, 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 200,000 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 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.