



Kansas City Symphony concert to air nationally on PBS on Friday, July 20

features Helzberg Hall debut of KC native, Grammy® winning mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato

Kansas City | July 10, 2012 – The Kansas City Symphony will be featured in the documentary *Homecoming: the Kansas City Symphony Presents Joyce DiDonato*, premiering nationally on PBS stations on Friday, July 20, including KCPT Channel 19.1 in Kansas City.

Prairie Village native Joyce DiDonato performed with the Kansas City Symphony in March and the concerts were filmed to be part of the 2012 [PBS Arts Summer Festival](#). The PBS Arts Summer Festival takes viewers on an exploration of nearly 20 cities around the globe, offering an in-depth look at music, theater, art, architecture and cultural history from some of the world's most unique locations.

Kansas City Symphony Executive Director Frank Byrne added, "We are thrilled and honored that the Kansas City Symphony will be featured in the acclaimed PBS Arts Festival, and even more pleased that our concert features our good friend and Kansas City native Joyce DiDonato. Music Director Michael Stern and I, along with all our talented musicians, look forward to sharing with the world the excellence of our orchestra and our superb new Helzberg Hall."

DiDonato has risen to an international career of stratospheric proportions, recently winning her first GRAMMY® Award in the Classical Vocal Solo category for her album *Diva Divo*, plus two Gramophone Awards in 2010 for coveted "Artist of the Year" and "Recital of the Year" for her CD *Colbran, the Muse*. She graces the finest opera houses and concert stages of the world and is in great demand.

After the airing, DVD's of the show will be available at ksymphony.org for \$24.95. The concert will be available for download on iTunes beginning on Tuesday, July 17.

WHAT: HOMECOMING: THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY PRESENTS JOYCE DIDONATO
Architect Moshe Safdie's extraordinary new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts provides the stunning backdrop for a performance-documentary profiling the Grammy Award-winning musicians of the Kansas City Symphony, their vibrant artistic director and conductor Michael Stern, and the radiant, internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato. A concert wrapped by documentary narratives, this Arts Festival special tracks Ms. DiDonato's nostalgic return to her hometown, and her thrilling Kauffman Center debut, after a triumphant appearance with Placido Domingo at The Metropolitan Opera in New York. Together, Joyce DiDonato, Maestro Stern and the Kansas City Symphony create a musical program as grand and ambitious as the Kauffman Center itself.

WHEN: Friday, July 20 at 9 p.m. central time on KCPT Channel 19.1 in Kansas City, and PBS affiliates nationwide

WHO: Kansas City Symphony
Michael Stern, music director
[Joyce DiDonato](#), mezzo-soprano

PROGRAM: VERDI: Overture to *La Forza del Destino*
ROSSINI: *Giovanna d'Arco*
HEGGIE: *The Deepest Desire: Four Meditations on Love* (Kansas City premiere)
STRAUSS: Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*

This production was made possible by: The David T. Beals III Charitable Trust, Bank of America, Trustee; The Hall Family Foundation; The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation; The Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, Commerce Bank, Trustee; Merrill Lynch.

About the Kansas City Symphony

The Kansas City Symphony is the region's only full-time professional symphony orchestra, setting the standard for musical excellence. Led by Music Director Michael Stern since 2005, the Symphony has experienced impressive artistic growth, garnering national and international acclaim. The orchestra's 80 full-time musicians are area residents, and each season touch the hearts of more than a million people through our Classical, Pops and Family concerts; special holiday events; chamber concerts; major civic gatherings such as Bank of America Celebration at the Station, which draws over 55,000 people, and the Symphony In the Flint Hills annual concert. During its 42-week season, the orchestra also presents educational programs, community outreach performances, and serves as the orchestra for the Lyric Opera and the Kansas City Ballet. Classical performances are broadcast weekly on KCUR 89.3 FM during the Kansas City Symphony Hour, Thursdays at 9 pm. Visit the Kansas City Symphony online at kcsymphony.org.

For more information, contact:

Megan Felling, marketing manager | mfelling@kcsymphony.org | 816.218.2621