



KANSAS CITY  
SYMPHONY

## CHARLES BRUFFY EXTENDS CONTRACT WITH KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

*Artistic Director of the Kansas City Symphony Chorus is Grammy Award-winning conductor*

(August 7, 2012 | Kansas City, MO) – The Kansas City Symphony is pleased to announce that Kansas City Symphony Chorus Artistic Director Charles Bruffy’s contract has been extended by three years, through June 2015.

“It’s such an honor for me to be a part of the Symphony family. I’m so proud of what the Chorus is doing, how the magic of voices and instruments comes together at performance time. I look forward to the future and our continuing adventures in our new home in the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts,” said Bruffy.

The choral voice of the Kansas City Symphony, the Symphony Chorus appears on two to three classical series concerts per season, as well as performing in the Symphony’s holiday programs, including the traditional Handel’s *Messiah*. Bruffy’s tenure with the Symphony Chorus began in 2008, succeeding Arnold Epley. He is one of the most highly respected and sought after choral conductors in the nation, meriting critical national and international acclaim. The Grammy Award-winning conductor has also been the Artistic Director for Kansas City Chorale since 1988 and of the Phoenix Bach Choir since 1999.

Music Director Michael Stern said, “Charles is an essential collaborator in realizing our shared vision for the Symphony and for music in Kansas City. I’m thrilled to have such a wonderfully dedicated musician as a partner in making great music happen here, and I know that the great work he does with the Kansas City Symphony Chorus will only continue to bring our passionately enthusiastic singers to new heights.”

Frank Byrne, Executive Director of the Kansas City Symphony, said “We are very fortunate to have a musician of Charles Bruffy’s extraordinary skill leading our Symphony Chorus. Under his direction, the Chorus has reached new heights, and we all feel confident that there are even greater things ahead.”

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

The Kansas City Symphony Chorus (KCSC), led by Grammy Award-winning Chorus Director Charles Bruffy, is a 163-voice ensemble that serves as “the choral voice of the Kansas City Symphony.” The KCSC continues its long tradition of excellence with the Kansas City Symphony, and additionally serves as Kansas City’s unofficial chorus, providing music for civic events such as the Lighting of the Mayor’s Christmas Tree at Crown Center every Thanksgiving.

The Kansas City Symphony Chorus has been offering quality choral music to the greater Kansas City metropolitan area for more than forty years, first as the Mendelssohn Choir, then as the Civic Chorus. In 1988, shortly after the creation of the Kansas City Symphony, the choir became the Kansas City Symphony Chorus, an independent 501(C)3 not-for-profit organization. This relationship has led to performances with conductors Klauspeter Seible, Nicholas McGegan, Anne Manson, William McGlaughlin, Timothy Hankewich, Lawrence Leighton Smith, Henry Smith, Jahja Ling, Roberto Minczuk, Raymond Leppard and David Lockington.

Every Symphony Chorus member is a volunteer from the region's musical community, selected by rigorous auditions, with some coming many miles for the weekly rehearsals. Most of the choral artists bring extensive music education and experience as performers and teachers, and are engaged throughout the region as soloists and conductors.

Each time the Symphony Chorus appears on the Kansas City Symphony concert series, the singers each invest approximately 33 hours of rehearsal and performance time, representing in the aggregate 3,960 hours of professional-level music making. We consider this a significant gift to our community, but also consider it a privilege to perform with the Kansas City Symphony.

#### **About Charles Bruffy**

Charles Bruffy is one of the most highly respected and sought after choral conductors in the nation. In his fourth season as Artistic Director of the Kansas City Symphony Chorus, he has also been the Artistic Director for Kansas City Chorale since 1988 and of the Phoenix Bach Choir since 1999. Under his direction, both choirs continue to merit critical national and international acclaim.

Mr. Bruffy records exclusively for Chandos Records. His recording of Grechaninov's "Passion Week" with the Kansas City and Phoenix Chorales was nominated for five 2007 Grammy® awards, including best classical album, and won the Grammy for Best Engineered Classical Album. His recording "Songs to the Blessed Virgin" won the 2008 Grammy award for Best Performance by a Small Ensemble.

In the spring of 2003, he and the Chorale were featured performers at the Library of Congress as part of its "I Hear America Singing" series. In 2009 he conducted his chorus as part of the Troy Chromatics Concerts series in Troy, New York, at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, and at the Incheon Choral Festival in Seoul, Korea.

In addition to his work with these choirs he has also conducted choruses across the nation, and in 2003 conducting Verdi's "Requiem" in Sydney. Mr. Bruffy is dedicated to commissioning and premiering works by contemporary composers, including works by David Montoya, Matthew Harris, Stephen Sametz, Stephen Paulus, Libby Larsen, Eric Whitacre, and Kansas City composers James Mobberley, Paul Rudy, Jean Belmont, Mark Hayes, Chen Yi and Zhou Long.

The Roger Dean Company, a division of the Lorenz Corporation, publishes a choral series under Mr. Bruffy's supervision specializing in music for professional ensembles and sophisticated high school and college choirs.

Mr. Bruffy has performed with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers in recordings and concerts in France, and in concerts at Carnegie Hall. He is a featured soloist on the Shaw release "Appear and Inspire". He was asked by NPR to help celebrate Robert Shaw's 80th birthday with an on-air tribute in May 1996, and in February 1999 was featured in the New York Times as one of Robert Shaw's successors.

Mr. Bruffy received his Bachelor's Degree in secondary education with an emphasis in piano performance from Missouri Western State University and a Master's Degree in vocal performance from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He has received honorary doctorates from Baker University and Missouri Western State University.

### **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](http://kcsymphony.org).

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