

Kansas City Symphony launches three new series for 2012-2013 season

September 20, 2012 | Kansas City, MO – The Kansas City Symphony will debut three new series in Helzberg Hall this fall. With tickets for the Symphony in high demand, these new weekday series offer more opportunities to enjoy great music in new settings and styles of performance.

Two of the series feature musicians of the Kansas City Symphony in performances at reduced or no cost to audiences. The new “Classics Uncorked” series has an earlier start time, a shorter program without intermission, a more casual atmosphere, and a free glass of wine or champagne after the concert, along with the chance to socialize with Symphony musicians in the Brandmeyer Grand Lobby. The “Symphony Happy Hour Chamber Music Series” is designed as an after-work opportunity to enjoy chamber music by ensembles of KCS musicians. The “Happy Hour” concerts are FREE but reservations are required via the Symphony Box Office. Audience members can purchase drinks at a cash bar before and after the concerts.

Symphony Assistant Conductor Aram Demirjian noted, “Classics Uncorked is an exciting new series that offers a fun, fresh look at some of the greatest music ever written. A Classics Uncorked show is more than a concert -- it's a complete musical experience, that takes advantage of Helzberg Hall's innovative set-up and brings you, the audience, even closer to the music. If you have never been to Helzberg Hall, these shows are a great first opportunity, and even if you're Helzberg Hall veteran, you don't want to miss this new way of experiencing this phenomenal space. Bring a friend, enjoy a glass of wine, and let the music draw you in!”

The third new series showcases the magnificent Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ that adorns the area behind the stage in Helzberg Hall. The Kansas City Symphony will present four master organists in concerts hosted by Michael Barone, host of American Public Media's “Pipedreams” which is broadcast around the nation and online.

“We are excited to expand the range of our musical events in Helzberg Hall,” said Symphony Executive Director Frank Byrne. “By offering new concert formats and new opportunities for audiences to connect with the Symphony, we look forward to a more intimate and less formal interaction with great music. We also expect these new concerts to provide fun social interaction between audience members and our talented musicians.”

For more information or tickets, visit kcsymphony.org or call the Symphony's ticket office at 816.471.0400.

CLASSICS UNCORKED:

All concerts begin at 7pm Thursdays in Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Join us on Thursday evenings at Helzberg Hall for our new Classics Uncorked series to jump-start your weekend. Tickets are \$25 each and include a glass of champagne or wine after to the concert.

- LOVE: IT TAKES TWO
Thursday, November 8 at 7 p.m.
Aram Demirjian, assistant conductor
- THE HOLY AND THE IVY
Thursday, December 6 at 7 p.m.
Aram Demirjian, assistant conductor
- THE BEAT GOES ON
Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m.
Aram Demirjian, assistant conductor

- BAILAR TODA LA NOCHE (Dance the Night Away)
Thursday, May 9 at 7 p.m.
Michael Stern, music director
Raymond Santos, principal clarinet

SYMPHONY ORGAN CONCERT SERIES:

All concerts begin at 7pm Wednesdays in Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

To showcase the grand Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ in Helzberg Hall, the Kansas City Symphony presents four organ recitals hosted by Michael Barone, host of American Public Media's Pipe Dreams radio program. These recitals feature some of today's most gifted organists. Tickets are available now for \$25 and \$35 each.

- Wednesday, October 24: Dr. Richard Elliott, head organist at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City
 - COUPERIN/arr. J. Bonnet: Chaconne
 - J.S. BACH: Toccata in F Major, BWV 540
 - JOHN LONGHURST: Cantilena
 - SPIRITUAL/arr. R. Elliott: Every Time I Feel the Spirit
 - MUSSORGSKY/ arr. J. Guillou, K. John: Pictures at an Exhibition
- Wednesday, January 16: Dr. Jan Kraybill, principal organist at Community of Christ International Headquarters in Independence, MO and conservator of the Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ in Helzberg Hall
- Wednesday, April 10: Caroline Robinson, from the Curtis Institute of Music
- Wednesday, May 8: Tom Trenney, organist at First Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, NE

SYMPHONY HAPPY HOUR CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES:

All concerts are FREE, and begin at 6pm Wednesdays in Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

The perfect after-work way to unwind. Come by Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for a drink (cash bar) prior to the 6 pm FREE chamber music concert featuring Symphony musicians. Concerts will be around 45 minutes long and will include music by mainstream and contemporary composers. The programming will be created by our own musicians and will feature small groups of our own players – generally between 4 – 8 players. Though concerts are free, tickets are required and available at kcsymphony.org

- Wednesday, October 17
 - Benjamin Britten: *Phantasy Quartet* for Oboe and Strings, Op. 2
 - Kristina Goettler, oboe
 - Tony DeMarco, violin
 - Matt Rombaum, viola
 - Susie Yang, cello
 - Johannes Brahms: String Sextet No. 2 in G major, Opus 36
 - Noah Geller and Tony DeMarco, violin
 - Christine Grossman and Matt Rombaum, viola
 - Susie Yang and Alex East, cello

Additional Dates:

- Wednesday, February 13
- Wednesday, March 20
- Wednesday, May 1

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](https://www.kcsymphony.org).

For more information, contact:

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