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## **KC SYMPHONY & SCREENLAND THEATRES ANNOUNCE NEW FILM WITH ORCHESTRA SERIES IN HELZBERG HALL AT KAUFFMAN CENTER *“Screenland at the Symphony” begins May 4 and 5***

KANSAS CITY -- The Kansas City Symphony and Screenland Theatres are thrilled to announce a new partnership celebrating the integral relationship between music and film. The new “Screenland at the Symphony” series begins May 4<sup>th</sup> with “Hitchcock!,” an evening of the great films scores to Alfred Hitchcock’s iconic films such as *To Catch a Thief*, *Strangers on a Train*, *Dial M for Murder*, and *North by Northwest*. The next evening, May 5<sup>th</sup>, the Symphony presents “Rodgers and Hammerstein at the Movies” with the ever-popular music from R&H greats like *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music* and more.

Screenland founder Butch Rigby will serve as host for these movie evenings, bringing to life an idea that he and Kansas City Symphony Executive Director Frank Byrne have discussed on and off for years. Rigby commented, "I have always been proud that the name ‘Screenland’ has meant the very finest experience at the movies, and with the Symphony in Helzberg Hall, it just got even better."

“We are excited to join with Screenland Theatres to showcase the integral role of a great film score in the success of a great film,” Frank Byrne added. “These concerts with film scores performed live by the Kansas City Symphony will be a sonic and visual experience not to be missed.”

For these first two concerts, the full Kansas City Symphony will be on stage with a large screen suspended above the orchestra. The superb acoustics of Helzberg Hall will provide a vivid sound that will eclipse even the best theater sound systems. Butch Rigby commented with some pride, “Mr. Dolby will be jealous!” and went on to say, "This will be the new standard of immersing yourself in the full experience of classic films."

To feature a more historic genre of music and film, the Symphony will use the opportunity of its first organ recital in the 2013-2014 season to explore the realm of music for silent films. On Halloween evening, October 31, 2013, the Symphony will present the original Lon Chaney film “The Phantom of the Opera” in its restored 1929 version with a live, improvised pipe organ accompaniment performed by renowned organist Aaron David Miller.

*(more)*

The Symphony and Screenland are in discussions about future events and are exploring the full range of options that include feature films, documentary films, and even television documentaries that have a connection to the music the Symphony is performing.

Frank Byrne remarked, "The Symphony is delighted for the opportunity to explore a new segment of the musical repertoire, and to reach out to a new audience who may not have previously attended a Symphony performance. Working with such a knowledgeable and passionate film expert as Butch Rigby sparks many creative ideas." Rigby added, "I am thrilled and delighted to be a part of what I am certain will be the very best night at the movies."

Tickets for the May 4<sup>th</sup> "Hitchcock!" performance and the May 5<sup>th</sup> film with orchestra concert featuring Rodgers and Hammerstein are available now through the Symphony Box Office by calling (816) 471-0400, or select seats online now at [www.kcsymphony.org](http://www.kcsymphony.org). Tickets range from \$35-\$75. Group, senior and student discounts are available. Tickets for the October 31<sup>st</sup> "Phantom" presentation will be available to the public on July 29, 2013.

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

Founded in 1982, the Kansas City Symphony is the region's only full-time professional orchestra and is a major force in the cultural life of the community. Under the artistic leadership of Music Director Michael Stern, the Symphony's eighty full-time musicians perform more than 50 concerts each year, and also serve as the orchestra for the Kansas City Ballet and Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Praised for performances of uncompromising standard, the ensemble often welcomes guest artists of international acclaim as part of their classical and pops subscriptions series. Complementing its full schedule of concerts, the Symphony strives to enrich the lives of Kansas City residents by providing music education opportunities for children and adults, including "KinderKonzerts," "Young People's Concerts," and an Instrument Petting Zoo. Highlights each season include a range of free masterclasses, events, and concerts reaching over 100,000 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. The Symphony has released three recordings on the Reference Recording label—*Shakespeare's Tempest*, the Grammy®-winning *Britten's Orchestra*, and a recent Elgar/Vaughn Williams project—as well as recordings on the Naxos label. KCS 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 [www.kcsymphony.org](http://www.kcsymphony.org)