



# KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

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## **Kansas City Symphony Commends 2 Musicians on New Positions**

*Asst. Principal Clarinetist, Asst. Principal Bassoonist Earn Spots in Top Ensembles*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** | June 26, 2013 — The Kansas City Symphony is pleased to announce that two of its musicians, Boris Allakhverdyan, associate principal clarinetist, and Miles Maner, associate principal bassoonist and contrabassoonist, have accepted positions with two of the nation's top performing arts organizations, the Metropolitan Opera and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, respectively.

Allakhverdyan won the coveted position of Principal Clarinet for the MET. Maner will play bassoon and contrabassoon for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

"I will miss making music with Boris Allakhverdyan and Miles Maner," said Music Director Michael Stern. "They are both supremely gifted and enlightened musicians who have helped to raise the level of the Kansas City Symphony. We have been fortunate to attract some of the best musicians in the country to come and play with us, and Boris and Miles are shining examples. I know they will thrive and bring great things to their new roles in the Metropolitan Opera orchestra and the Chicago Symphony."

Both musicians will begin with their new positions this fall. In the meantime, auditions to fill both positions are being scheduled for the 2013-14 season.

"I congratulate both Miles and Boris for winning positions in these two marvelous orchestras," said Executive Director Frank Byrne. "Their success is testament to the impressive level of talent and musicianship resident in the Kansas City Symphony. These gentlemen have been marvelous contributors to the musical excellence of the Kansas City Symphony, and have also been wonderful citizens and colleagues in our organization. I am sorry to see them go, but wish them all the success in their new roles."

Allakhverdyan started with the Kansas City Symphony in 2009 as associate principal clarinetist. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the Tchaikovsky Moscow Conservatory in 2006, his Artist Diploma Degree from the Oberlin Conservatory in 2008 and his Master of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music in 2010. His principal teachers have included Franklin Cohen, Richard Hawkins, Rafael Bagdasarian and Valery Allakhverdyan. He has won multiple prestigious awards and has performed with orchestras all over the world.

"I was very fortunate to spend four full seasons with the Kansas City Symphony," Allakhverdyan said. "I would like to thank all of my colleagues in the orchestra, Music Director Michael Stern, Executive Director Frank Byrne and everyone on staff who made my experience in Kansas City truly memorable. The Kansas City Symphony family will always have a special place in my heart!"

Maner joined the Kansas City Symphony in 2010 as associate principal bassoonist and contrabassoonist. Maner earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Texas in 2007. He earned his master's degree at Rice University in 2009. His principal teachers have included Benjamin Kamins of Rice University and Kristin Wolfe Jensen of the University of Texas. Maner has attended various summer music festivals and has earned top awards for his playing.

"The three years I've completed with the Kansas City Symphony will always be the three most significant musical years of my career," Maner said. "I've grown tremendously as a musician in order to meet the challenges of this fine orchestra, and every effort on my part was worth the work. The Kansas City Symphony is my first musical family and I will always be tremendously proud of that. I am forever grateful to Michael Stern and the organization for the opportunity they gave me to learn from them and play music with them in our beautiful Helzberg home."

To learn more about the Symphony and its musicians, visit [kcsymphony.org](http://kcsymphony.org) or contact the Kansas City Symphony at (816) 471-1100.

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

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 gives more than 50 concerts each year, while also serving as the orchestra for the Kansas City Ballet and Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and often welcomes guests of international acclaim as part of its classical and pops subscription 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 more than 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/Vaughan Williams project plus an additional 20th century project highlighting composers Paul Hindemith, Sergei Prokofiev and Béla Bartók to be released in 2013 — 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).

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