



KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

For more information, contact:

Communications Manager

Beth Buchanan

(816) 218-2621

bbuchanan@kcsymphony.org

Kansas City Symphony to Preview Recording of Saint-Saëns Works

Concert to feature music from Symphony's next album with Reference Recordings

KANSAS CITY, Mo. | June 12, 2013 — As the Kansas City Symphony embarks on its fifth recording project for Reference Recordings, concertgoers have an exclusive opportunity to attend a preview concert of the Saint-Saëns works to be featured on the upcoming album, including the exultant Saint-Saëns' No. 3 nicknamed the "Organ Symphony."

The Preview Recording concert occurs 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 19 in Helzberg Hall of the Kauffman Performing Arts Center.

In previous collaborations with label partner, Reference Recordings, the Symphony has received critical acclaim, including multiple GRAMMY® awards, for its superb sound and highly sought-after programming selections.

"The Saint-Saëns Preview Recording concert is a chance for patrons and the Kansas City community to experience the music the Symphony will record," said Frank Byrne, executive director, Kansas City Symphony. "The public concert is just one step in the meticulous recording process. We're grateful to have the ability to record again in our wonderful home, Helzberg Hall, which is acoustically in the upper echelon of concert halls around the world."

Kansas City Symphony Music Director Michael Stern and executive producers at Reference Recordings, including the GRAMMY-winning engineer Keith O. Johnson and producer David Frost, agreed that a triple-play of Saint-Saëns most famous compositions would be fitting for the Kansas City Symphony while meeting the need for a high-level recording of these works in the marketplace and libraries across the globe. The featured works include:

SAINT-SAËNS *Introduction and Rondo capriccioso* in A Minor for Violin and Orchestra

SAINT-SAËNS *La muse et le poète* for Violin, Cello, and Orchestra

SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No. 3 in C Minor, "Organ Symphony"

Stern acknowledges that the relationship Kansas City Symphony has with Reference Recordings is a special joint effort.

"I take great pride in our collaboration with Reference Recordings," Stern said. "Given the trends in today's recording industry, I feel very gratified to be able to showcase our orchestra in optimal studio recordings made for such a superb label as Reference Recordings. They have set an extraordinarily high standard with their peerless sound and engineering, and having such an accomplished and gifted producer as GRAMMY award-winning David Frost as part of our team is a dream."

“Over the years, we’ve developed a trust and unique partnership with Reference Recordings to develop our projects. These recordings will be spectacular for music-lovers and audiophiles alike as they will fully exploit the glorious range of color that we are lucky to have with Helzberg Hall’s extraordinary acoustics.”

Kansas City’s own Concertmaster Noah Geller will star in *Introduction and Rondo capriccioso* and *La muse et le poète* for Violin, Cello and Orchestra, along with Principal Cellist Mark Gibbs. For the finale, Kauffman Center organ Conservator Jan Kraybill performs the Saint-Saëns’ Symphony No. 3, “Organ Symphony” on the Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant organ.

“It is an absolute honor to be the organist featured in this recording of the Saint-Saëns Third Symphony,” Kraybill said. “It is a joy to play the great Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant organ, and our wonderful Kansas City Symphony and Reference Recordings have established themselves as producers of high-quality, critically acclaimed recordings. I not only look forward to the public concert but also the final outcome of the recording sessions.”

During the week of the Symphony’s recording, Kraybill also will make a solo recording that showcases the full capabilities of the center’s magnificent organ.

The Symphony’s last recording project with Reference Recordings — all 20th century works highlighting composers Paul Hindemith, Sergei Prokofiev and Béla Bartók — is expected for release yet this year. Recorded in the acoustically-rich Helzberg Hall, the albums will be available in a variety of formats.

To learn more about the Symphony and its recording projects, visit kcsymphony.org and search for “recordings,” or feel free to contact the Kansas City Symphony at (816) 471-1100. All tickets are \$14 and available at kcsymphony.org or by calling the Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400.

Reference Recordings are distributed in the USA by Allegro Media Group, and internationally through a network of independent distributors listed at referencerecodings.com

###

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.

Media outlets seeking interviews, more information or photos, please contact:
Beth Buchanan | bbuchanan@kcsymphony.org | (816) 218-2621