



KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

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Kansas City Symphony Extends Contract, Promotes Demirjian to Associate Conductor

Aram Demirjian signs new 2-year contract with KCS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. | July 1, 2013 — The Kansas City Symphony today announced the 2-year contract extension of Aram Demirjian as well as his promotion to associate conductor for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons.

Demirjian first joined KCS in 2012 as assistant conductor with a one-year contract.

“Aram is a remarkable young musician who has surpassed our greatest expectations in his important role with the Kansas City Symphony,” said Executive Director Frank Byrne. “He is an exceptionally mature musician and conductor whose potential is enormous. In his first season, he quickly won the respect and trust of the orchestra, and he created a great foundation upon which to grow. Aram is also a great colleague and is eager to support the organization in any way. We could not ask for a finer associate conductor.”

Beyond the Family and Pops Series concerts, Demirjian conducts the Education Series, which reach more than 20,000 grade school students through the Symphony's Young People's Concerts and KinderKonzerts. He also works closely with Music Director Michael Stern as assistant for the Classical Series and serves as principal conductor for the Classics Uncorked Series, which began in the 2012-13 season. Five Classics Uncorked concerts are scheduled for the 2013-14 season. They are designed to offer a fresh look at symphonic classics and bring audiences closer to the music in a relaxed, social atmosphere.

“The Kansas City Symphony is a phenomenal organization, and I am honored that I will be a part of it for the next two seasons,” Demirjian said. “I look forward, in my expanded role as associate conductor, to building on the achievements of the last year, especially in our wonderful education concerts and the newly expanded Classics Uncorked Series. I am incredibly grateful to Michael Stern and Frank Byrne for their confidence and support of me, which has been unwavering. I also want to thank the musicians in the orchestra and the entire staff for being such inspiring colleagues and musical partners, and all of our audience members who have shown me such warmth and enthusiasm.”

Stern notes in just one year's time, Demirjian already has made a great impression on the Symphony family and the Kansas City community.

“Aram Demirjian's impact was significant and immediately apparent to all of us, on and off the podium,” Stern said. “He has been a great advocate for the orchestra in the community, and has shown great leadership in our educational activities. He is a knowledgeable and generous colleague to everyone in our Symphony family, and he has been a great help musically to me. But above all, he brings wonderful musicianship and leadership on the podium in all of the many concerts he has done. He has become an essential member of our team, and I am delighted that Aram will remain with us for the next two seasons.”

Demirjian's conducting talent has been admired not just by the Kansas City Symphony. With increasing frequency, he has been sought after as guest conductor for many groups, including the Memphis Symphony, Boston Pops, New England Conservatory Symphony, Yo-Yo Ma and members of the Silk Road Ensemble, and others. Prior to his current role, he served for two years as the music director of the Harvard Bach Society Orchestra. For his formal education, Demirjian was one of only two conductors selected for the inaugural class of the graduate-level orchestral conducting program at New England Conservatory where he studied with Hugh Wolff and earned his Master of Music in 2011. He also holds a bachelor's degree, cum laude in music and government from Harvard University.

Demirjian will conduct the Symphony's first concert back from the summer off season — the Pops in the Park concert held at 7 p.m. on Labor Day Monday, Sept. 2 at The Theatre in the Park at Shawnee Mission Park. Admission is free.

To learn more about the Kansas City Symphony and Aram Demirjian, visit kcsymphony.org or contact the Kansas City Symphony at (816) 471-1100. Currently, the Classical, Family and Pops Series season ticket subscriptions are available at kcsymphony.org or by calling the Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400.

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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.

Media outlets seeking interviews, more information or photos, please contact:
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