



KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

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Kansas City Symphony and Musicians Ratify New 3-Year Contract

*Board, administration and musicians reach agreement one year ahead
of the current contract's expiration*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. | July 2, 2013 — While the future looks bleak for some American orchestras, the Kansas City Symphony is grateful to announce the completion of a new three-year musicians' contract one year ahead of schedule.

The new agreement begins July 1, 2014 and extends through June 30, 2017.

Symphony Executive Director Frank Byrne cites the Symphony's dedication to being proactive, being transparent and maintaining healthy relationships between the musicians, the administration and the board as integral components to successful negotiations.

"I offer my most sincere thanks to our outstanding musicians for the spirit of partnership and unified vision that led to this very positive contract renewal," Byrne said. "The fact that we reached agreement a full year before the expiration of our current contract, and did so amicably, is something to celebrate. We are very proud of the positive relationships and mutual trust between our musicians, staff, and board. Combined with the transparency of our organization, and our commitment to artistic excellence and the Symphony's future, these are key elements to our ongoing success."

Of note, the musicians' annual base salary increases from \$50,065 for the current 2013-14 season to \$54,284 in the third year of the new contract, or the 2016-17 season, with incremental increases in the years between. The new contract also includes enhancements to the musicians' benefits, including modest increases in family health insurance coverage, and seniority pay, as well as contribution increases to musicians' retirement plans. Additionally, the new agreement contains numerous non-economic changes to allow for more educational performances, other revenue-generating activities as well as terms specific to improving efficiencies for the organization.

Newly appointed KCS Board Chair, William M. Lyons, adds that a multitude of positive factors, including a new performance hall and passionate people, contributed to the relatively swift and smooth period of negotiations.

"We are very pleased to have an agreement in place with our talented and dedicated musicians through the end of the 2017 season," Lyons said. "We have experienced wonderful growth and success in recent years, accelerated by our move to Helzberg Hall, and this is further evidence of our strong momentum. Board, staff and musicians are united in their desire to present music of the highest quality to Kansas City."

Music Director Michael Stern echoes similar sentiments, stating he is “very proud” of the KCS family for reaching an agreement.

“Everyone came together with the goal of an enlightened, fair, sustainable, and forward looking agreement, and they made it happen 12 months before the expiration of our current contract,” Stern said. “I believe this agreement will only make the Kansas City Symphony stronger, in our commitment to the community, in our music making, and as an organization.”

All parties acknowledged that this new contract renewal makes measured progress toward the organization’s long-term goals of increasing musician salaries and benefits while preserving the orchestra’s financial stability.

The Musicians Negotiating Committee Chair Brian Rood confirms that the musicians are pleased with the process and outcome.

“The musicians overwhelmingly approved the new collective bargaining agreement extending the current contract through the 2016-17 season,” Rood said. “The important partnership forged between the musicians, board, and management fifteen years ago continues to flourish as demonstrated by our second year of critically acclaimed performances in the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The musicians enthusiastically thank Mrs. Barnett C. (Shirley) Helzberg for her extraordinary leadership these past eighteen years as chair of the KCS Board of Trustees. We welcome Mr. William M. Lyons as the next chair and look forward to working with him, the board of trustees, and management as the Symphony rises to even greater heights.”

This early and collaborative contract renewal marks yet another accomplishment for the Kansas City Symphony as it completed its second highly successful year in Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. In the 2012-13 season, the Symphony was part of 159 performances of 51 different programs, including performances with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City and the Kansas City Ballet. In addition, there were also 136 rehearsals for those programs, and an additional 60 Community Connections presentations.

Total attendance at Classical, Pops, Family, and Classics Uncorked performances grew 5.7 percent to more than 89,000 people. Holiday programs saw a 17.7 percent attendance increase to more than 19,000 people. Community engagement performances saw an 11 percent increase to nearly 81,000 people, and youth education programs grew by 4.7 percent to more than 42,000 students. On the revenue side, Classical subscription revenue grew by 6.1 percent to nearly \$2.2 million dollars, and Pops subscription revenue grew 16.6 percent to more than \$468,000 dollars. Single ticket revenues remained very strong with sold-out houses at the majority of Symphony events. The Symphony expects to end its 2013 fiscal year with a surplus exceeding \$200,000 on a \$13.5 million dollar budget. The organization also saw very positive responses to its new concert offerings: Classics Uncorked, the free Happy Hour Chamber Music concerts, the Symphony’s Organ Recital Series, and the “Screenland at the Symphony” film series. Many thousands of Kansas Citians made their first visit to the Kauffman Center to attend one of the Symphony’s new series.

Byrne added, “We have worked hard to achieve and sustain this level of success, and this past season’s achievements bode very well for the future of the Kansas City Symphony.”

For more information, visit 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.

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