



# KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

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## **Kansas City Symphony Ramps Up for 2013-14 Season**

*Legendary guests and top-notch programming abound for the coming season;*

*Tickets for all individual Symphony performances available now*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** | August 14, 2013 — From the ardent classical music aficionado to those who've never experienced a Kansas City Symphony concert, the 2013-14 season lineup has something for you.

Light-hearted or serious. Family fun or date night. Choral loft or parterre. With so many choices — from violin sensation Joshua Bell to the iconic Kenny G and from “The Wizard of Oz” to Ben Folds and more — concertgoers can choose how they want to experience the delightful sounds of the Kansas City Symphony. This season includes a myriad of distinguished guest artists, innovative concert formats and a variety of musical programming designed to showcase the Symphony and the sublime acoustics of Helzberg Hall in the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Music Director Michael Stern is nothing short of extremely enthusiastic for the season ahead.

“We’ve put together a season replete with great guest artists and extraordinary music,” Stern says. “The beginning of a new concert year is always something exciting, but I truly don’t remember ever being as thrilled to embark on a new season as I am for this one. I’m energized by what is happening here, on stage in Helzberg Hall and in the community as well as by the increasing primacy of music and the arts as a defining part of our lives here in Kansas City.”

### **2013-14 Classical Series Highlights**

With fourteen programs each presented for three performances at Helzberg Hall, the Symphony’s bustling season begins on Oct. 4-6. The classical season includes great works by Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Dvořák and Berlioz as well as music by Bartók, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninoff and Mahler. American composers are represented with music by Leonard Bernstein, Charles Ives, Steven Stucky, John Corigliano, plus the Kansas City commission and world premiere of a work by gifted, young American composer Chris Rogerson. The Kansas City Symphony Chorus, under the direction of Charles Bruffy, also joins the Symphony for powerful performances of Requiems by composers Gabriel Fauré and Giuseppe Verdi.

### **Distinguished Soloists and Guest Conductors**

The classical season also has an impressive addition of guest artists and conductors, including: the return of legendary pianist Leon Fleisher playing Ravel’s Piano Concerto (Left Hand Alone); violinist Joshua Bell returning to perform Lalo’s *Symphonie espagnole*; and Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4 performed by beloved pianist André Watts. Other much-anticipated guests include conductors Bernard Labadie, Jun Märkl and Carlos Miguel Prieto, and beloved programs, such as Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique*, Mahler’s Ninth and Rachmaninoff’s Symphonic Dances.

Other extraordinary guests include the return of violinist Stefan Jackiw and Kansas City's own brilliant concertmaster Noah Geller, debuting his Classical Series solo for Beethoven's Violin Concerto. Guest pianists Alon Goldstein, Bezhod Abduraimov and Yuja Wang return to appear with the Symphony. The young and gifted prodigy pianist, Andrew Tyson, makes his KCS debut this fall. Virtuoso percussionist Martin Grubinger, who debuted with the Symphony several years ago, returns in early 2014. Distinguished conductor, Gilbert Varga, debuts with the Symphony in the spring. Guitarist Jiyeon Kim also will debut with the Symphony in March 2014. The Almy Legacy Fund, a program that makes it possible each season to feature one of the most promising young talents from the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia (and the alma mater of Music Director Michael Stern), is providing support for Kim's performance.

### **World Premiere**

Entering his ninth season, Music Director Michael Stern will conduct the world premiere and KCS commission of composer Chris Rogerson's new work. At only 23 years of age, Rogerson already has made a name for himself, receiving commissions and performances from major performing ensembles across the nation.

### **Pops, Family and Holiday Concerts**

With two nights of each performance, the Pops Series features top-selling instrumentalist Kenny G, an '80s show with Sheena Easton and Sam Harris, a '60s-hits show, plus crooner Tony DeSare for Valentine's Day. The Family Series includes one performance of the following shows: *Beethoven Lives Upstairs*; a fun Dr. Seuss-themed show; and a hip trio with a beatboxing flutist. The Symphony continues its warm holiday traditions with three performances of Handel's *Messiah* (featuring the Symphony Chorus and the Independence Messiah Choir) and the return of six performances of the family-favorite Christmas Festival, which is Kansas City's grandest holiday concert of classic carols and seasonal songs.

While the standard season series promise to dazzle audiences, this season's other series and special concerts are equally of note.

**Screenland at the Symphony Series:** The Symphony and Screenland Theaters present an eerie Halloween night (Oct. 31) showing of the 1925 silent film, "Phantom of the Opera," with live organ accompaniment, and a two-night screening (Feb. 27-28) of "The Wizard of Oz" as the Symphony performs Harold Arlen's masterful lost scores for the 75th anniversary of the iconic film.

**Special concerts:** The female duo, Indigo Girls, performs with the Symphony on Feb. 22, 2014, and pop vocalist Ben Folds stars alongside the Symphony on June 10, 2014.

**Classics Uncorked Series:** Less formal and themed, the Symphony offers five Classics Uncorked concerts for the season. The concerts feature an earlier start time, shorter concerts and talking from the stage. Afterward, patrons receive a free glass of wine or champagne plus a chance to socialize with Symphony musicians in the Brandmeyer Grand Hall lobby. Associate Conductor Aram Demirjian kicks off the series with Classics Uncorked: Winter's Gift at 7 p.m. on Dec. 11.

**FREE Happy Hour concerts:** With five opportunities this season, the Symphony invites area residents to come by for a drink (cash bar) prior to the 6 p.m. free chamber music concert featuring Symphony musicians. The first concert features works by Beethoven and Brahms on Sept. 6, which is also a First Friday in KC's Crossroads Arts District. Those interested are encouraged to RSVP in advance via [kcsymphony.org](http://kcsymphony.org).

**Symphony Organ Concert Series:** Showcasing Helzberg Hall's magnificent Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant organ, the Symphony continues this three-concert recital series featuring some of today's most

gifted organists. The series begins with a partnership concert offering with the Screenland at the Symphony series as Aaron David Miller performs solo organ alongside a screening of “The Phantom of the Opera.” Peter Richard Conte, who performs 12 concerts weekly on the largest, fully functional instrument in the world at Macy’s Philadelphia store, appears March 20, 2014. The series concludes with elite performer Nathan Laube on May 1, 2014.

**Special Benefit Concerts:** Broadway star and luminous soprano Audra McDonald performs with the Symphony at 8 p.m., Nov. 16 as a benefit for Kansas City Young Audiences. The Texas Tenors, a three-man ensemble blending country, gospel, classical and Broadway, appear with the Symphony at 8 p.m., Dec. 13 as a benefit event for the Mission Project and First Downs for Down syndrome.

To allow the widest possible audience to attend, the Symphony offers a range of ticket prices on both subscriptions and single tickets. Subscriptions remain the best value for attending multiple concerts. Classical subscriptions begin at \$100, Pops Series subscriptions at \$116 and a child’s subscription is only \$10 to the Family Series with a paid adult subscription, which starts at \$80. The 2013-14 season ticket packages are still available online and by calling the Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit [www.kcsymphony.org/](http://www.kcsymphony.org/) for more information.

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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 performs 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*, 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 a Saint-Saëns album for later release. The Symphony and Michael Stern also have recorded for 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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