



2014 Press Kit

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Free Kansas City Symphony Concert to Feature The Texas Tenors, U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America Brass Ensemble, Fireworks for Memorial Day Weekend

KANSAS CITY, Mo. | April 7, 2014 — If you're looking for ways to celebrate and pay tribute this Memorial Day weekend, it doesn't get more American than the Bank of America Celebration at the Station.

The largest event of its kind in the Midwest, the Kansas City Symphony expects 50,000 people to attend the 12th annual free concert event on Sunday, May 25.

Crowds of family and friends will gather on the front lawn of Kansas City's historic Union Station to picnic, listen to patriotic favorites and finish off the evening by watching a massive fireworks display set to the backdrop of the National WWI Museum at Liberty Memorial. The event is not only a holiday celebration but also a tribute to the men and women, past and present, of America's armed forces.

"Thanks to our Bank of America friends, Celebration at the Station has become an annual highlight of the Kansas City Symphony season," said Michael Stern, music director of the Kansas City Symphony. "It's a great party and a great way to start the summer. More importantly, through words, images, ceremony, and especially music, we're able to reflect upon the real meaning of Memorial Day."

The Texas Tenors, including Olathe-resident JC Fisher, are special guests for the evening, performing "God Bless the U.S.A." and a handful of other favorites with the 80-member Kansas City Symphony. The prestigious U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America Brass Ensemble, the local swing band, A La Mode Quintet, and Vine Street Rumble, a big band-style jazz orchestra, will provide continuous pre-concert entertainment. Vietnam veteran Jim Birdsall, known as the signature voice of Hallmark Hall of Fame, the CNBC network, NFL Films and *Inside NASCAR* on Showtime, will serve as emcee and host for the evening. General Richard B. Myers, 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be in attendance along with other guests of honor.

The Symphony takes the stage at 8 p.m. for a rousing set of orchestral music to celebrate all things American, including the *1812 Overture*, complete with 3 live firing cannons managed by "Truman's Own" of the Missouri Army National Guard, Battery D. At 9:45 p.m., all heads will turn to the sky over the National WWI Museum at Liberty Memorial for a stunning display of choreographed fireworks, bursting to the beat of patriotic music. This annual fireworks display is the most blazing fireworks display of the year in Kansas City with more than 1,200 shells deployed.

KCPT 19 will broadcast the event live and is scheduled to rebroadcast the event several times during Memorial Day weekend. KCPT and other public television stations throughout the region will

rebroadcast the event over the Fourth of July weekend. Check local listings for broadcast dates and times.

For those who want to join in on the fun via social media, the official hashtag of this year’s event is #CelebrationKC.

Event Schedule for Sunday, May 25

Time	Event	Location
1 p.m.	<i>Remembering Our Fallen</i> exhibit opens	Inside Union Station
3 p.m.	Grounds open	—
3 p.m.	Food trucks open	Main Street
3:30 p.m.	<i>A La Mode Quintet</i> performs	Main stage
4 p.m.	Kansas City Symphony Instrument Petting Zoo opens	NW corner of Union Station parking lot
4:15 p.m.	Community Drum Circle 1 begins	NW corner of Union Station parking lot
4:30 p.m.	<i>Vine Street Rumble</i> Performs	Main stage
5:15 p.m.	Community Drum Circle 2 begins	NW corner of Union Station parking lot
5:30 p.m.	<i>U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America Brass Ensemble</i> performs	Main stage
6:15 p.m.	Community Drum Circle 3 begins	NW corner of Union Station parking lot
7:15 p.m.	Pre-show announcements begin	Main stage
8 p.m.	Concert begins, featuring special guests The Texas Tenors	Main stage/ Live broadcast
9:45 p.m.	Fireworks begin	—

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 nearly 100 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 four recordings on the Reference Recording label — *Shakespeare’s Tempest*, the Grammy®-winning *Britten’s Orchestra*, an Elgar/Vaughan Williams project and most recently a 20th century project, *Miraculous Metamorphoses*, highlighting composers Hindemith, Prokofiev and Bartók. An additional Saint-Saëns album is slated 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.

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2014 INFO SHEET

What: The Kansas City Symphony's 12th Annual Bank of America Celebration at the Station
Free patriotic concert event with fireworks

When: Sunday, May 25, 2014

- **3 p.m.** Grounds open
- **3 - 7:30 p.m.** Pre-show music and family-friendly activities
- **8 p.m.** Concert
- **9:45 p.m.** Fireworks

Where: South Plaza of Union Station and the north lawn of the National WWI Museum at Liberty Memorial; the intersection of Pershing and Main Streets in Kansas City, Missouri.

Who: Kansas City Symphony conducted by music director Michael Stern, with special guests of honor

Special musical guests:

- **The Texas Tenors** — *a unique trio blending the sounds of country, gospel, pop, classical and Broadway with a down-home sensibility of humor and cowboy charm.*
- **U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America Brass Ensemble** — *a group of 12 enlisted professional musicians with repertoire including symphonic band masterworks, traditional marches, modern compositions and jazz.*
- **A la Mode Quintet** — *a classic Kansas City swing band with a splash of blues, folk, and Latin grooves.*
- **Vine Street Rumble Jazz Orchestra** — *an ensemble that honors the legacy of the "golden era" of Kansas City's world renowned jazz history, exclusively performing big band-style tunes from the '30s and '40s.*

Guests of honor:

- **General Richard B. Myers, 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.**
- **Jim Birdsall** — *a Vietnam veteran, who is known as the signature voice of Hallmark Hall of Fame, the CNBC network, NFL Films and Inside NASCAR on Showtime. Birdsall will serve as emcee and host.*
- **Missouri Army National Guard, Battery D, "Truman's Own"** — *managing the firing of three cannons during the 1812 Overture.*
- **Color Guards** — *each military branch will be represented.*
 - The U.S. Army Color Guard supported by the Greater Kansas City Recruiting Company
 - The Color Guard from the 9th Marine Corp Regiment Kansas City
 - The Navy Operational Support Center Kansas City Honor Guard
 - The Air Force Honor Guard from Whitman Air Force Base, Missouri

- U.S. Coast Guard Color Guard from PPC Topeka

Presenting sponsor: Bank of America

Other sponsors: Harvest Productions; Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund, City of Kansas City, Missouri; Jackson County Parks + Rec; Blue Cross Blue Shield; Kansas City Southern Charitable Fund; KC Parks; Bayer CropScience; The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center; DEMDACO; CBIZ; Merrill Lynch; Missouri River Runner; Brancato's Catering; EPR Properties; Lee Jeans; BlueScope Steel; Boulevard Brewing Company; The Coca-Cola Company; Santee Floral Designs and Major Brands. Others may be added.

Media sponsors: KCPT Public Television 19, Cumulus Radio Group, FOX-4 Kansas City, The Kansas City Star and GoVision.

Kansas City Symphony media contacts:

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Event hashtag: #CelebrationKC

Event website: www.CelebrationAtTheStation.com

Event photos: <https://www.kcsymphony.org/GalleryCtl/SectionAct/68>

Event video: youtube.com/user/kcsymphony

KCPT 2012 broadcast, part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYJP4kcWG98>

KCPT 2012 broadcast, part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqOvBthFQGc>

Family-friendly activities:

- **Remembering Our Fallen exhibit** — walls of photo montages inside Union Station created to honor and remember men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars. The Kansas City Symphony is sponsoring the Kansas and Missouri walls this year.
- **Kansas City Symphony Instrument Petting Zoo** — an interactive display for children and their families to see and hear the different instruments of the orchestra — up close and personal!
- **Community Drum Circle** — all are invited to participate in pre-concert Drum Circles at 4:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. to celebrate community through rhythm and music. Participants can bring their own instruments or make one at the Instrument Petting Zoo.
- **Food trucks** — Many of Kansas City's most popular food trucks add to the festival atmosphere by selling a wide variety of food and beverages.

Other noteworthy items for the 12th Annual Bank of American Celebration at the Station:

- This year marks the 100th anniversary of Union Station opening.
- This year commemorates the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI.

- This year is the 200th anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner.
- The Kansas City Symphony concert program will include a photo montage on giant screens flanking the stage. The Northeast Kansas Chapter of Gold Star Mothers has organized the photo collection. A Gold Star Family Member is an individual whose loved one has died during a military conflict.
- The Kansas City Symphony also will have a drawing to giveaway a prize and tickets for upcoming Symphony concerts. Those interested may submit their entry form at the information booths or with an event volunteer.

Additional questions, [contact us](#).

For media inquiries, photos, logos, video, etc., please contact Jeff Barker jbarker@kcsymphony.org, (816) 218-2626 or Beth Buchanan, bbuchanan@kcsymphony.org, (816) 218-2621.

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