



## Kansas City Symphony Announces 2015-16 Season Lineup

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** | Jan. 12, 2015 — At this past weekend's concerts, the Kansas City Symphony announced programming for its 2015-16 Classical Series. Additionally, the Symphony unveils its dates and guest artists for its 2015-16 Pops and Family Series, plus special and holiday concerts.

The 2015-16 season is the Symphony's fifth in the stunning Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Music Director Michael Stern, who begins his second decade with the Symphony, has curated an exhilarating collection of music and distinguished guest artists. The expansive programming promises to appeal to a variety of tastes while showcasing the extraordinarily talented Symphony musicians and Symphony Chorus.

"We could not be more proud of our 2015-16 season," said Executive Director Frank Byrne. "Building on our previous success in the Kauffman Center, we crafted a classical season that offers superb repertoire, outstanding soloists and guest conductors, premieres, and also mainstream works not seen on the series for decades. An equal amount of thought and care went into creating fun and engaging pops and family programming. We also are happy to expand our special concerts and proud of the range and diversity of programming that we offer. Every concert promises to be an event, and we are delighted to share each performance with our community."

When contemplating Classical programming for the 2015-16 season, Stern says he wanted to include not only monumental works, such as Beethoven's Ninth for the season finale, but also highlights from great American composers like Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland and George Gershwin, plus acclaimed living composers such as John Adams, David Ludwig and Jonathan Leshnoff. He also aimed to put a spotlight on the Symphony musicians: the season opener has several Symphony musicians serving as soloists; likewise, the second concert weekend of the season features famous operatic excerpts with backing by the powerful, 160-voice Symphony Chorus.

"This next season could very well be our best ever," Stern says. "As we begin our second decade together, I'm thrilled more than ever by the shining excellence of our extraordinary musicians, the transformational power of music and our commitment to share all of that with you. The recipe is a simple but winning combination of the greatest music — from Beethoven to Mozart through the Romantics to the music of our time in the company great guests who are also great friends — it doesn't get better than that."

### 2015-16 Classical Series Highlights

With 14 programs each presented for three performances at Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center, the Symphony's bustling 2015-16 season opens Sept. 18-20, 2015. The Classical Series comprises favorite and landmark works, including:

**Sept. 18-20, 2015:** Ravel's *Boléro* and works featuring solos by Symphony musicians

**Oct. 23-25, 2015:** A night of famous operatic excerpts (featuring Symphony Chorus)

**Nov. 20-22, 2015:** Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture*, Mozart's Symphony No. 33 and Brahms' First Serenade

**Nov. 27-29, 2015:** Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony and Albéniz's *Iberia*

**Jan. 8-10, 2016:** Elgar's Cello Concerto and Vaughan Williams' Symphony No. 2, "London"

**Jan. 15-17, 2016:** Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Stravinsky's *Pétrouchka*

**Jan. 29-31, 2016:** Beethoven's "Emperor" Piano Concerto and Sibelius' Symphony No. 7  
**Feb. 5-7, 2016:** Brahms' Violin Concerto and Beethoven's Fourth Symphony  
**March 4-6, 2016:** Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 and Copland's Third Symphony  
**April 1-3, 2016:** Mozart's Piano Concert No. 27 and Mahler's First Symphony  
**April 8-10, 2016:** Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and Debussy's *Ibéria*  
**May 20-22, 2016:** Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 3  
**June 3-5, 2016:** Ravel's Piano Concerto in G, Haydn's Symphony No. 88 and Dvořák's *The Water Goblin* and *The Wood Dove*  
**June 17-19, 2016:** Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (featuring Symphony Chorus)

### **Returning Soloists and Guest Conductors**

The Symphony welcomes back a hand-picked collection of world-renowned guest artists for the upcoming season, including violinists Midori (Jan. 15-17, 2016) and Vadim Gluzman (Feb. 5-7, 2016) as well as pianists Jeremy Denk (Jan. 29-31, 2016) and Behzod Abduraimov (March 4-6, 2016), Kansas City's award-winning star student from Park University's International Center for Music. The Symphony also is pleased to announce debut appearances by guest conductors David Zinman (Nov. 20-22, 2015) and Robert Spano (Jan. 8-10, 2016). Guest conductor and audience favorite Carlos Miguel Prieto returns for his third appearance in five seasons (Nov. 27-29, 2015), and guest conductor Jeffrey Kahane returns, impressively doubling as piano soloist (June 3-5, 2016).

### **Symphony Pops and Family Series Highlights**

With the option to attend Friday or Saturday evening, the Symphony's four-concert Pops Series offers subscribers a light-hearted and fun lineup for the 2015-16 season. The season begins with a Beatles retrospective (Oct. 30-31, 2015) and goes on to feature music from film score composer John Williams, best known for his work on "Star Wars," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Harry Potter," "Jurassic Park," "Schindler's List" and many more (Jan. 22-23, 2016). Six-time Grammy-winner Amy Grant will shine with her pop hits and contemporary Christian songs (Feb. 12-13, 2016) before the Symphony rounds out its Pops season with Pixar in Concert (April 15-16, 2016). This special presentation in partnership with Screenland Theaters includes highlights from "Toy Story," "The Incredibles," "Up" and more performed by the Symphony underneath a giant screen in Helzberg Hall.

The Symphony's 2015-16 Family Series is sure to entertain and educate children with some of the world's best music through light-hearted, shorter programs on Sundays. The Family Series opens with a unique chamber group PROJECT Trio, featuring a cellist, bassist and beatboxing flutist (Sept. 27, 2015). Gershwin's Magic Key, a Classical Kids production, tells the story of great American composer, George Gershwin (Jan. 24, 2016). And fans of the Harry Potter series will take delight as the Symphony presents Harry Potter and the Magic of Music with an illusionist (April 24, 2016).

### **Holiday and Special Concert Highlights**

The 99-year old tradition continues as the Independence Messiah Choir joins with the Symphony and Symphony Chorus for three performances of Handel's *Messiah* (Dec. 4-6, 2015). Kansas City's grandest holiday concert, Christmas Festival, returns for six performances featuring songs of the season and a visit from Santa (Dec. 17-20, 2015).

The exciting offerings for the 2015-16 season of the popular Screenland at the Symphony Series include a showing of the 1920 silent classic "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" with accompaniment on the Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ by Dorothy Papadacos (Oct. 29, 2015) as well as a full-screening of "Star Trek (2009)" with Michael Giacchino's thrilling score performed live by the Symphony (June 9-10, 2016). The Pixar in Concert event, which is part of the Symphony's Pops Series, will offer a third Sunday showing as a special add-on to all subscribers (April 17, 2016).

In addition, the Symphony has invited Broadway and TV star Matthew Morrison to sing for a one-night-only performance (March 19, 2016). Morrison is best known for his role as Will Schuester on the

TV show, "Glee." The Symphony will present extra concert options to attend Amy Grant (Feb. 14) and Beethoven's Ninth (June 16, 2016) as special add-ons.

The 2015-16 season ticket renewal process begins immediately. Current subscribers can expect to receive renewal packets in the mail shortly and also will have the option to renew online. For current subscribers, the Classical renewal deadline is March 15; the Pops and Family renewal deadline is April 1. New subscribers may purchase Classical, Pops and Family Series subscriptions now. Seating for new subscribers will occur after March 15 for Classical and after April 1 for Pops and Family. For more information, call the Symphony Box Office at (816) 4710-0400 weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit [kcsymphony.org](http://kcsymphony.org).

### **About the Kansas City Symphony and Symphony Chorus**

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 Chorus is a volunteer, 160-member ensemble led by multi-Grammy®-winning conductor, Charles Bruffy, that continues its long tradition of excellence as the choral voice of the Kansas City Symphony. The Kansas City Symphony performs more than 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 200,000 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.

Additionally, the Symphony has released four CDs with Reference Recordings — *Shakespeare's Tempest*, the Grammy®-winning *Britten's Orchestra*, an Elgar/Vaughan Williams project and most recently, *Miraculous Metamorphoses*, which highlights composers Hindemith, Prokofiev and Bartók. Two additional projects have been recorded and slated for future release, including the music of contemporary composer Adam Schoenberg (recorded in June 2014) and the great Symphony No. 3 (Organ Symphony) and other works of Saint-Saëns (planned for spring 2015 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).