



Stunning Music Stars in Kansas City Symphony's 2018/19 Season

Featuring Beethoven's Seventh, Carmina Burana, Lyle Lovett, Pink Martini, Leslie Odom Jr., Ben Folds, Wynonna Judd plus the music of Gershwin, Star Wars, Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston, and much more

KANSAS CITY, Mo. | Feb. 20, 2018 — Exhilarating, inspiring and well-balanced all at once — the Kansas City Symphony promises stunning music with a little something for everyone in the 2018/19 season.

“Our 2018/19 season is extraordinary,” said Symphony Executive Director Frank Byrne. “With each season we strive to reach new heights of artistic excellence and reach new audiences. This coming season accomplishes that, and I am confident that we will delight and inspire audiences as never before. I am proud of the many ways our community can connect with the Kansas City Symphony and we can’t wait to share these great concerts with you.”

The 14-concert Classical Series begins in September and runs through June 2019. The Classical Series is available for purchase as the Bravo Series (7 concerts), Ovation Series (7 concerts) or Masterworks Series (all 14 concerts). The 2018/19 season will mark Music Director Michael Stern’s 14th season this September and the Symphony’s eighth season in Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

2018/19 CLASSICAL SERIES

Fourteen concert weekends: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays.

- Opening Weekend: Beethoven’s Triple Concerto and Symphonic Dances (Sept. 14-16)
- Beethoven’s Seventh and Grieg’s Piano Concerto (Oct. 5-7)
- Mozart, Bach and Schubert’s Ninth (Nov. 16-18)
- Mozart’s “Jupiter” with Haydn’s Trumpet Concerto (Nov. 23-25)
- Russian Romantics: Tchaikovsky and Glazunov (Jan. 11-13, 2019)
- Enchanting and Exotic: Firebird, Aladdin and Rachmaninoff (Jan. 25-27, 2019)
- Dvořák’s “New World,” Gershwin and Pat Metheny (Feb. 8-10, 2019)
- Mendelssohn’s “Scottish” with Barber’s Piano Concerto (March 8-10, 2019)
- Carmina Burana (March 29-31, 2019)
- La Valse with Copland’s Appalachian Spring (April 12-14, 2019)
- Stern Conducts Mahler’s Third (May 17-19, 2019)

- Mozart's Fifth Violin Concerto with Brahms (May 31-June 2, 2019)
- Symphonic Metamorphosis plus Bach and Brahms (June 7-9, 2019)
- Season Finale: Pictures at an Exhibition (June 21-23, 2019)

"I'm thrilled by our 2018/19 season," Stern says. "We continue to accelerate our musical adventure together, making the case for music in this great American city by featuring multifaceted American composers from John Adams and Augusta Read Thomas to Aaron Copland and George Gershwin, to name only a few. A wonderfully eclectic work for percussion and orchestra based on Pat Metheny's music will receive its Kansas City premiere as do three splendid works by Anna Clyne, Sarah Kirkland Snider and Michael Kurth.

"We're also continuing our Mahler cycle with his transcendent Third Symphony, which has not been performed in Kansas City for more than three decades," Stern adds. "We welcome esteemed guest conductors, with first visits from Andrey Boreyko and Edo de Waart, plus exceptional soloists including our own Noah Geller, Mark Gibbs, Julian Kaplan and Chris McLaurin. Of course, we also have great music by Beethoven, Mozart, Brahms, Rachmaninoff, Haydn and Schubert as well as Orff's ever-popular *Carmina burana*. There's something for everyone in this season!"

The 2018/19 Symphony Pops Series offers entertaining fun with concerts led by David T. Beals III Associate Conductor Jason Seber.

2018/19 SYMPHONY POP SERIES

Four concert weekends: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

- Glorious Gershwin featuring Patti Austin (Oct. 26-27)
- An Evening with Lyle Lovett and the Kansas City Symphony (Jan. 18-19, 2019)
- Film + Live Orchestra: Casablanca in Concert (Feb. 15-16, 2019)
- Pink Martini with the Kansas City Symphony (April 5-6, 2019)

The Symphony Family Series is perfect for introducing children ages 4-13 to symphonic music, including the full-length version of the Symphony's Christmas Festival. Each child subscription is only \$10 with the purchase of an adult subscription.

2018/19 SYMPHONY FAMILY SERIES

Four concert weekends: 2 p.m. Sundays

- Halloween Symphony Spooktacular (Oct. 28)
- Christmas Festival (Dec. 16)
- Peter and the Wolf, Live! (Feb. 17, 2019)
- Cloudy with a Chance of Music (April 28, 2019)

The Symphony offers special and holiday concerts in addition to the core series. From full-length movies to adored holiday concert traditions, there is a concert for everyone. Subscribers have the option to add on these holiday and special concerts when purchasing a 2018/19 subscription. Single tickets for most concerts go on sale in July.

ADD-ON SPECIAL CONCERTS

- Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban™ in Concert (Sept. 6-7 and 9)
- Leslie Odom Jr. with the Kansas City Symphony (Sept. 22)*
- Ben Folds with the Kansas City Symphony (Sept. 25)
- Silent Film + Live Organ: The Hunchback of Notre Dame in Concert (Oct. 31)
- Wynonna with the Kansas City Symphony (Nov. 10)
- Film + Live Orchestra: Star Wars Episode IV — A New Hope (Jan. 31-Feb. 3, 2019)
- The Music of Michael Jackson (Feb. 22-23, 2019)
- Whitney Houston’s Greatest Hits (March 23, 2019)

** Tickets on sale now for this concert.*

ADD-ON HOLIDAY CONCERTS

- The Texas Tenors: Back Home for Christmas (Nov. 30)
- Handel’s Messiah (Dec. 7-9)
- Christmas Festival (Dec. 14-18)
- Film + Live Orchestra: It’s a Wonderful Life in Concert (Dec. 21-22)

The Symphony will announce any remaining 2018/19 concerts and events, such as the Classics Uncorked Series and the FREE Happy Hour Series concerts, in July when single tickets become available to the public.

The opportunity to renew or purchase a new subscription for the 2018/19 season is occurring now, with a renewal deadline of March 15. Symphony season subscribers not only benefit from securing the best seats at the best prices, but many other perks such as free exchanges for most concerts and discounts on additional ticket purchases. To renew or subscribe, visit kcsymphony.org or call the Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400. Most single tickets for the 2018/19 concerts will go on sale to the public in July.

Subscribers can add holiday and special concerts to their orders now. Classical Series season ticket holders who subscribe by March 15 will receive a “Share the Symphony” voucher good for two free tickets to a select Kansas City Symphony 2018/19 Classical Series concert. Some of the top subscriber benefits include access to the best reserved seats at the best prices offered, free exchanges, subscriber discounts, reserving parking in advance, opportunities to buy special concert events before the public, and much more.

To renew or learn more about becoming a Kansas City Symphony season subscriber, visit kcsymphony.org or call the Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400.

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About the Kansas City Symphony and 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® Award-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, often welcomes guests of international acclaim as part of its Classical and Pops Series, and serves as the orchestra for the Kansas City Ballet and Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

Complementing its full schedule of concerts, the Symphony enriches the lives of Kansas City residents by providing music education opportunities for children and adults, such as KinderKonzerts, Young People's Concerts, an instrument petting zoo and concert comments. Highlights each season include a range of free master classes, events and concerts reaching more than 250,000 community members, including the annual Bank of America Celebration at the Station concert each Memorial Day weekend and performing at Symphony in the Flint Hills every summer.

The Symphony has released six highly praised CDs to date with Reference Recordings, with the most recent release featuring the Grammy® Award-nominated music of contemporary composer Adam Schoenberg (released January 20, 2017).

The Symphony and Michael Stern also have recorded for the Naxos label. Kansas City Symphony 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 kcsymphony.org.