



## Free Kansas City Symphony Concert, Fireworks, Family Activities, Veteran Services on Deck for 2018 Bank of America Celebration at the Station

*The Symphony's 16th annual Memorial Day weekend event features live pre-show music, food trucks, family activities, veteran services, Symphony concert and KC's largest fireworks display.*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** | May 7, 2018 — The Kansas City Symphony welcomes all ages to its 16th annual Bank of America Celebration at the Station on Sunday, May 27, held at Union Station.

As the largest FREE Memorial Day Weekend event in the Midwest, with an expected attendance of 50,000, the Symphony continues to expand its annual gift to the region while honoring the men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Grounds open at 3 p.m. with pre-concert entertainment by the [United States Air Force Band of Mid-America's](#) Hot Brass! ensemble, [A La Mode](#) and [Heartland Men's Chorus](#). Adding to the festivities, an array of family friendly activities in the Lee Jeans Family Zone, veteran offerings in the Honeywell Veterans Place and nearly 20 food trucks, will be on site.

The Honeywell Veterans Place includes the Veterans Community Project tiny home model, the V.A. Mobile Vet unit, Kansas City Public Television's large-scale Vietnam map, Warrior's Best Friend, KC Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Bank of America's financial health information and resources for veterans and active-duty military, as well as a tent with even more resources and opportunities for veterans.

At 8 p.m., Music Director Michael Stern will lead the Kansas City Symphony and guests in a 100-minute, no-intermission concert filled with patriotic favorites such as "Stars and Stripes Forever," "Armed Forces Salute" and Tchaikovsky's ever-rousing "1812 Overture."

To recognize the great Leonard Bernstein, who would have been 100 this year, the Symphony will perform selections from the musical "On the Town." As orchestras across the world commemorate Bernstein this year, the Kansas City Symphony continues its celebration of the composer not only in this outdoor concert but also at its [season finale](#) concerts, June 22-24, with Bernstein's *Age of Anxiety* performed by guest pianist Ran Dank.

To mark the 100th anniversary of WWI ending in 1918, guest baritone [John Brancy](#) will sing a WWI-era song, "God Be with Our Boys Tonight" as well as "[Danny Boy](#)." Guest host and narrator Jim Birdsall (announcer for CNBC and NFL Films) and members of the U.S. Air Force

Band of Mid-America also will take part in the concert, including Airman First Class [Melissa Edgmon](#) who will sing “God Bless America” and “Star-Spangled Banner” with a flyover by [KC Flight](#).

The program culminates at 9:40 p.m. with a grand finale when all eyes turn skyward for the city’s largest display of choreographed fireworks, presented to the beat of patriotic music and overlooking the National World War I Museum and Memorial.

Attendees are encouraged to take the [Kansas City streetcar](#), which is free to ride, and will operate until 11 p.m. The streetcar runs a 2-mile loop with 16 stops from the River Market area through downtown and the Crossroads Arts District to Union Station, which is the event stop. For additional parking options, view a map [here](#).

As the event draws near, the Symphony will post details regarding pre-show entertainment, special exhibits and more at [kcsymphony.org/celebration](#) and on the Symphony’s [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and Snapchat accounts. The official event hashtag is #celebrationkc.

Kansas City Public Television (KCPT) will broadcast the event live on Channel 19 and re-air the event on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28. The rebroadcast airs regionally on Independence Day as well. For the first time, the Bridge 90.9 FM also will live stream the concert on the radio and online at [bridge909.org](#).

For interviews, photography or other media requests, please contact Communications Manager Beth Buchanan at [bbuchanan@kcsymphony.org](mailto:bbuchanan@kcsymphony.org) or (816) 218-2621.

High-resolution publicity photos are available for download [here](#).

To learn more about the Kansas City Symphony, visit [kcsymphony.org](#) or call (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](http://kcsymphony.org).