



2019 Bank of America Celebration at the Station to feature free Kansas City Symphony concert, fireworks, family fun, veteran services

Presented by the Kansas City Symphony, the 17th annual Memorial Day weekend tradition includes great music, live firing cannons, food trucks and KC's biggest fireworks display.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. | April 17, 2019 — The cannons ... they're baaack! The 17th annual Bank of America Celebration at the Station, presented by the Kansas City Symphony, will take place 3 to 10 p.m., Sunday, May 26 outside Union Station.

With an expected crowd of 50,000, Bank of America Celebration at the Station is the largest FREE Memorial Day weekend event in the Midwest. The Kansas City Symphony presents this event as a gift to the community each year and as a tribute to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

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" with live firing cannons. After a brief hiatus last year, the unmistakable booms of the heavy artillery (and crowd favorites!) are back for this year's concert.

Main Stage // Live entertainment — 3 p.m. to close

3 p.m. Under the Big Oak Tree

4 p.m. A La Mode with 627 Stomp dancers

5 p.m. U.S.A.F. Band of Mid-America Shades
of Blue Jazz Ensemble

8 p.m. Kansas City Symphony concert

9:40 p.m. Fireworks

10 p.m. Event concludes

Honeywell Veterans Place // Services for veterans — 3 p.m. to close

- Heart of America Patriot Foundation
- Veterans Community Project tiny house model
- V.A. Mobile Vet unit
- Kansas City Public Television's large-scale Vietnam map
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- KC Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
- Bank of America financial health booth
- St. Michael's Veterans Center — donate any worn American flags at their booth for proper retirement at the Flag Day Celebration on June 14

Bayer Family Zone // Fun for the whole crew — 3 to 7 p.m.

- Face painting
- Instrument petting zoo
- Drum Safari Drumming Circle
- And much more!

Food Trucks // Some of KC's finest — 3 p.m. to close

- Cajun Cabin
- Kona Ice
- K&C Concessions
- Scimeca's
- Jerusalem Café
- KC Smoke Burgers
- Brancato's (Beverages)
- Humdinger Food Truck
- KC Fooditude
- Taste of Brazil
- KC Poppers
- Bob 'N' Bowl

Guest host and narrator Jim Birdsall (announcer for CNBC and NFL Films) and members of the U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America will take part in the concert, including Staff Sergeant Paula Hunt who will sing the “Star-Spangled Banner” with a flyover by [KC Flight](#). Trumpet player Airman First Class Andrew Szymanek will play “Taps” later in the concert.

The main theme of the Symphony concert is to thank all generations of service men and women, as well as focus on how those individuals continued to serve their communities after coming home. The program will honor two prominent Kansas Citians, including WWII Navy veteran Edward Matheny, Jr. and Vietnam War Army veteran and battalion surgeon HC Palmer. A historian and retired partner from Husch Blackwell, Matheny is a distinguished civic leader and author of several books. Palmer is a retired medical doctor and poet who leads writing programs to help other veterans with moral injury and PTSD.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, the Symphony will perform a newly co-commissioned work, “From the Earth to the Moon and Beyond” by composer James Beckel, Jr. The Symphony also commissioned Nashville composer and arranger Don Hart to write a piece to underscore the annual Tribute to the Fallen. A collaboration with the Gold Star Families of Northeast Kansas, this part of the program features images and names of local service members who perished while enlisted. Special guest vocalist Capathia Jenkins joins the Symphony in “America the Beautiful,” “Summertime” and “Home” from “The Wiz.”

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

Attendees are encouraged to take the free [Kansas City streetcar](#), which will operate until 11 p.m. For additional parking options, view a map [here](#).

For details about pre-show entertainment, special exhibits and more visit kcsymphony.org/celebration and follow 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 27. The rebroadcast airs regionally on Independence Day as well.

For interviews, photography or other media requests, please contact Communications Manager Beth Buchanan at 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.

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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 130 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.

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.