



Kansas City Symphony releases podcast with exclusive recordings

KANSAS CITY, Mo. | May 5, 2020 — The Kansas City Symphony has unveiled its newest podcast — “[Music of Our Time](#).”

The podcast features exclusive, live recordings of Kansas City Symphony performances in Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts from the past decade. It also includes commentary and interviews with Music Director Michael Stern, guest artists, conductors and orchestra members.

Every episode focuses on a common theme or emotion with a sampling of featured works. The podcast also may explore one larger work to show how a composer can weave a storyline throughout an entire piece. Local radio news personality and season subscriber E.J. Becker is the host. “Music of Our Time” is the second podcast the Symphony has launched this year. The Symphony released a lighthearted discussion of composers and a peek behind the scenes with the podcast “[Beethoven Walks Into a Bar...](#)” in March.

“Our new podcast highlights music we love, and how it plays an integral role in our lives,” says Executive Director Danny Beckley. “We hope this podcast appeals to our closest fans as well as people just beginning their journey within the wide-ranging world of classical music. We’ve titled the first episode ‘Music of Elation, Joy and Triumph.’ As we look to a brighter future, can you imagine anything more fitting for our time?”

Stern, who has been in his role with the Symphony for 15 seasons, says that returning to these past performances has been rewarding.

“Especially now, in this time, I am feeling my own connection to music more intensely with each passing day,” Stern says “So, I love the idea of revisiting some of our Kansas City Symphony performances from the past few seasons — works that mean so much to me — and having the chance to share why I think this music is incredibly special. We all need music now more than ever.”

Becker says he is “honored and thrilled” to be part of the project.

“There’s so much more to this incredible music,” Becker says. “We get to hear from Michael, Symphony members and soloists to find out what choices they are making and what they’re feeling in that moment. It’s very revealing and adds a whole new layer to these extraordinary performances.”

The [free podcast](#) is available through Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify and Stitcher.

###

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 seven highly praised CDs to date with Reference Recordings. The latest release features Holst's *The Planets* and *The Perfect Fool*. The Symphony and Michael Stern also have recorded for the Naxos label. Kansas City's NPR affiliate, KCUR 89.3 FM, broadcasts Kansas City Symphony performances each week. More information on the Kansas City Symphony is available at kcsymphony.org.