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## **Kansas City Symphony to present ‘best of’ broadcast for 2020 Bank of America Celebration at the Station**

*Special compilation to air Memorial Day weekend on KCPT in lieu of live concert*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** | May 4, 2020 — The Kansas City Symphony is taking a walk down memory lane to create ***Best of Bank of America Celebration at the Station by the Kansas City Symphony.***

In collaboration with KCPT (Kansas City PBS) and generously supported by Bank of America, the Symphony will present a “best of” broadcast compilation from the last several years. Music Director Michael Stern will introduce the evening and provide comments throughout. The broadcast will air at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 24 and again at 8:30 p.m. Monday, May 25 on KCPT/Channel 19. KCPT also will simulcast on YouTube TV through the PBS channel.

The Symphony decided to share the “best of” broadcast in place of the outdoor live concert, which is the largest free Memorial Day weekend concert in the Midwest. It regularly draws crowds of 50,000 people to the grounds of Union Station and the National WWI Museum and Memorial. The Symphony [canceled](#) the in-person festivities this year due to ongoing concerns regarding the coronavirus pandemic.

“Bank of America Celebration at the Station is presented each year by the Symphony for the entire Kansas City community,” says Symphony Executive Director Danny Beckley. “Our goal was to find a way to share this beautiful and powerful performance with our community safely, and remember what Memorial Day is all about — commemorating the brave men and women who gave their lives for our freedom. There is something uniquely special about this year. While we cannot gather in a large group in person, by sharing our music we’re reminded that we are still bonded together, still hopeful, and still supporting our heroes of past and present. This ‘best of’ broadcast is going to be a spectacular showcase, and we invite everyone to tune in as we share some of our best moments through the years.”

Broadcast highlights include:

**Hometown favorites:** Performances by Bobby Watson, The Elders and Jim Birdsall reciting a poem by John Musgrave.

**Special guests:** Performances by MusiCorps and Oleta Adams, John Brancy, Capathia Jenkins and Jim Birdsall.

**Honoring troops:** Favorites such as “Danny Boy,” “Taps,” “Armed Forces Salute,” “WWI Medley” and more.

**Orchestral showstoppers:** Kansas City Symphony performs hits like “Sing Sing Sing,” “Hands Across the Sea,” “Saint Bailey’s Rag” and, of course, Tchaikovsky’s “1812 Overture.”

Generous support from Bank of America is making this “best of” compilation possible.

“We’re proud of our longstanding support that has made Bank of America Celebration at the Station possible for 17 years,” says Matt Linski, Kansas City Market President, Bank of America. “Though we won’t be together in person this year, thanks to KCPT, our community’s tradition of honoring the military with memorable performances by the Kansas City Symphony will continue.”

Additionally, the broadcast will include messages from Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas and program collaborators Union Station, the National WWI Museum and Memorial, Bank of America and KCPT.

“We are pleased and honored to partner with the Kansas City Symphony and Bank of America to bring the ‘best of’ program to people throughout Kansas City,” says Kliff Kuehl, President and CEO of Kansas City PBS. “May it serve as a reminder of the wonderful Bank of America Celebration at the Station events we have had and as a nod to the wonderful concerts we will have again.”

For interview requests or more information, please contact Symphony Communications Manager Beth Buchanan at [bbuchanan@kcsymphony.org](mailto:bbuchanan@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 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](http://kcsymphony.org).

#### **About KCPT**

KCPT is a non-profit multimedia organization located in midtown Kansas City. Founded in 1961, KCPT operates four television channels, as well as working with sister brands Flatland, a digital news and culture magazine, and 90.9 The Bridge, an NPR music discovery public radio station.

#### **About Bank of America**

At Bank of America, we’re guided by a common purpose to help make financial lives better, through the power of every connection. We’re delivering on this through responsible growth with a focus on our environmental, social and governance (ESG) leadership. ESG is embedded across our eight lines of business and reflects how we help fuel the global economy, build trust and credibility, and represent a company that people want to work for, invest in and do business with. It’s demonstrated in the inclusive and supportive workplace we create for our employees, the responsible products and services we offer our clients, and the impact we make around the world in helping local economies thrive. An important part of this work is forming strong partnerships with nonprofits and advocacy groups, such as community, consumer and environmental organizations, to bring together our collective networks and expertise to achieve greater impact. Learn more at [about.bankofamerica.com](http://about.bankofamerica.com), and connect with us on Twitter ([@BofA\\_News](https://twitter.com/BofA_News)).

Bank of America has delivered more than \$2 billion in philanthropic investments since 2009, with approximately \$250 million in 2019 alone. In April 2019, the company announced a \$5 billion Bank of America Community Homeownership Commitment™ to benefit low- and moderate-income homebuyers and communities across the U.S. over the next five years. Also in 2019, Bank of America Community Development Banking provided a record \$4.88 billion in loans, tax credit equity investments and other real estate development solutions. Between 2005 and 2019, Bank of America financed 202,800 affordable housing units. To meet the unique needs of its 12 million small business owners, the company provides advice, solutions and dedicated support. Bank of America maintained its position as the nation’s top small business lender at the end of 2019, with \$38.9 billion in total outstanding small business loan balances (defined as business loans in original amounts of \$1 million and under), up 7% year over year.

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