



Featured Artists

JASON SEBER

DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

Jason Seber is celebrating his fifth year with the Kansas City Symphony, beginning as Assistant Conductor in the 2016-17 season, and as Associate Conductor starting in the 2017-18 season. In this position he has built a strong rapport with the Kansas City community, leading the Symphony in over 70 concerts each season on the Classics Uncorked, Pops, Family, Film + Live Orchestra, Young People's Concerts, KinderKonzerts, and Link Up series, as well as Christmas Festival, Symphony in the Flint Hills, and many other programs. In October 2019, he made his debut on the Classical Series and recently led another Classical Series program in the spring of 2021. He also serves as a co-host for the Symphony's podcast, "Beethoven Walks into a Bar."



Prior to his appointment with the Kansas City Symphony, Seber served as Education and Outreach Conductor of the Louisville Orchestra from 2013 to 2016 and Music Director of the Louisville Youth Orchestra from 2005 to 2016. He has also served as Assistant Conductor of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra and the National Repertory Orchestra. Seber has guest conducted many leading North American orchestras, including the Charleston Symphony, Cleveland Pops, Colorado Symphony, Houston Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, National Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, and the Windsor Symphony.

A passionate advocate of music education, Seber recently conducted the 2019 National Repertory Orchestra at concerts in Breckenridge and as part of the Bravo! Vail Music Festival. He returns to lead the NRO in July 2021.

He has led the Honors Performance Series Orchestra in performances at Royal Festival Hall in London (2019), Carnegie Hall (2018), and the Sydney Opera House (2017). In November 2019 he led the APAC Honors Festival Orchestra in Seoul, South Korea. He served as the Missouri All-State Orchestra Conductor in 2020 and will be the Pennsylvania All-State Conductor in 2022.

Seber has performed with classical artists Jinjoo Cho, Paul Jacobs, Conrad Tao, and Joyce Yang, and a diverse range of pops artists including Patti Austin, Andrew Bird, Boyz II Men, Melissa Etheridge, Ben Folds, Renee Elise Goldsberry, Lyle Lovett, Brian Stokes Mitchell, My Morning Jacket, Leslie Odom, Jr., Aoife O'Donovan, Pink Martini, Doc Severinsen, Bobby Watson, and Wynonna. He earned his master's degree in orchestral conducting from the Cleveland Institute of Music and his bachelor's degrees in violin performance and music education from Baldwin Wallace University.

ANTHONY DeMARCO

VIOLIN

Tony DeMarco has been a member of the Kansas City Symphony for quite some time now, but it's been so much fun that the time seems to have flown by. (Either that or he's just getting old.) His previous professional experience includes Assistant Concertmaster of both the Virginia and North Carolina Symphonies, substitute for the Pittsburgh Symphony, member of the Pittsburgh Opera and Ballet Orchestra, and numerous freelance symphonies and chamber orchestras. His favorite of the latter is the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra of which he is currently co-concertmaster. DeMarco enrolled at Carnegie-Mellon University at age 15 and finished his college education at Oberlin





Conservatory at 19. His principal teachers include Albert Hirtz of the Pittsburgh Symphony (who later became his step-father), Stephen Clapp, Nathan Gottschalk and Raphael Bronstein.

DeMarco credits the violin, his mother Bonnie, and Al Hirtz for the opportunity to travel to Asia, Europe and all around the United States, making lasting friends and playing great music with them. Best among those friends is his wonderful wife, Jeannine Elashewich. Together with sons Albert and Roman, they now reside in a Little House in Prairie Village, Kansas, Somewhere Over On Rainbow. Rainbow Drive, that is... DeMarco's latest challenge lies in woodworking — he is attempting to master the art of crafting an unbreakable custom baton out of maple, for our own Maestro Stern to use at the helm.

PETER SCHLAMB **VIBRAPHONE**

Peter Schlamb is a vibraphonist and pianist based in Kansas City, Missouri. He is a versatile and sought-after musician who maintains a busy schedule performing locally, nationally and internationally. Peter spent several years in New York City where he attended and graduated from The New School university with a degree in jazz performance. He is an active member of several ensembles, including Logan Richardson's Blues People & All Night Trio. He also leads a variety of his own groups, including Electric Tinks.





BOB BOWMAN
BASS

Bob Bowman, a native Kansan, learned to play the piano and clarinet before beginning to play bass at age 12. He won a scholarship to the Stan Kenton Jazz Clinic as a high school freshman, followed by study at North Texas State University. In 1976, he joined the famous Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra, touring and recording several albums, including the GRAMMY® award-winning "Live in Munich." Bob continued his performing and recording career by joining the Toshiko Akiyoshi-Lew Tabakin Big Band in Los Angeles in 1979. He recorded numerous albums as a member of this band, many of which were nominated for GRAMMY® Awards.



Bob has toured and recorded with many artists including the legendary Carmen McRae, Pat Coil, Freddie Hubbard, Bud Shank, Karrin Allyson, Steve Houghton, Steve Allee, Bill Mays, Clay Jenkins, Danny Embrey, Todd Strait, Bob Sheppard, Matt Otto, Rod Fleeman, John Stowell, Jerry Hahn, and others.

Bob moved to Kansas City in 1988 where he has been a major part of the vibrant jazz scene, working with top KC musicians, including Bobby Watson, Tommy Ruskin, Paul Smith, Mike Ning, Claude "Fiddler" Williams, Jay McShann, and Stan Kessler. He was a faculty member of the University of Missouri-Kansas City as well as Ottawa University, and leads legendary Kansas City group INTERSTRING and various version of Bowdog.

Bob now lives in Montana where he first visited when he was 5 years old. He enjoys the beautiful countryside but travels back to the Midwest every few months to perform and record. "Very deep jazz history and great musicians in Kansas City keep me coming back." Bob says.

MATT VILLINGER
PIANO

Matt Villinger was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in jazz performance from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. He has worked along prolific jazz musicians such as Bobby Watson, Reggie Thomas, Peter Martin, Glenn Zaleski, Ryan Lee, Peter Schlamb, Logan Richardson, and many others. Villinger currently resides in Kansas City, leading his own band, All Night Trio, as well as other ensembles. Villinger also plays in Peter Schlamb's Electric Tinks and has several other projects in the works as a highly sought-after pianist.

**RYAN LEE**
PERCUSSION

From jazz to gospel, drums to piano, and hip-hop to funk, Ryan Lee is making an impact on the music scene with his vibrant playing and devotion to humanity. Lee was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, and earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory where he studied jazz performance under the direction of renowned saxophonist Bobby Watson. He has become a fixture on the Kansas City scene, serving as a creative voice for numerous ensembles and a wide range of artistic projects. Lee has shared the stage with artists such as José James, Logan Richardson, A Bu, Hermon Mehari, Gerald Clayton and many other luminaries in performances across the U.S., Europe, and Asia.



**FRANCISCO "PANCHO" JAVIER
VOCALIST**

Francisco "Pancho" Javier is proud to call Kansas City home. With an extensive theatrical and vocal background, Javier has performed at a wide array of venues throughout the area, including Quality Hill Playhouse, Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre, Coterie Theater, and Unicorn Theater. His list of roles is extensive and covers many different genres, from high drama to comedy, highlighting his great flexibility. He is especially committed to education and frequently works with students to help them discover their artistic passion.

