



Kansas City Symphony hires John Roloff as Chief Operating Officer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. | August 24, 2021 — The Kansas City Symphony is pleased to announce the hiring of John Roloff as its Chief Operating Officer.

Roloff was most recently the Vice President of Orchestra and Facility Operations for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (MSO), having joined that organization in 2015 as the Director of Operations and Facilities. He was responsible for production of all MSO presentations and served as executive producer for all MSO media activities, including the orchestra's nationally syndicated radio series heard by more than two million listeners annually. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he managed the start-up and production of MSO Live, the orchestra's streaming video program.

In addition, he was instrumental in the design, renovation and restoration of Milwaukee's Bradley Symphony Center (formerly the Warner Grand Theater), serving as the primary staff contact to multiple contractors, architects and other consultants. After the building opened in January 2021, he led the team that transitioned concert and administrative activities to the facility and oversaw the day-to-day operations of the venue.

"I am delighted to have John joining the KCS team," said Executive Director Danny Beckley. "His particular experience and success in orchestra management will expand the capabilities and capacity of our tremendous staff, and I look forward to working closely with John in leading the administration."

In addition to helping manage the Kansas City Symphony's return to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Roloff will be deeply involved with creating opportunities for the public to interact with the Symphony at their new headquarters, the former Webster School building at 17th and Wyandotte streets.



John Roloff

"The new headquarters facility presents multiple opportunities for the Kansas City Symphony to experiment with and expand its programming and mission," said Roloff. "Coming out of the pandemic, I believe there is

going to be a strong desire for everyone to experience new things in a group setting. The facility will be utilized in a variety of ways and provide spaces for people to gather for learning, socialization and entertainment.”

Kristin Velicer, Acting Associate Principal Second Violin and Chair of the Kansas City Symphony Musicians’ Committee, commented, “John brings a wealth of experience and a depth of knowledge that will help propel our continued artistic and organizational growth. He understands the deep cross-constituency relationships we share here and values the importance of collaboration to support these connections. We look forward to working with him and we welcome him to the Symphony family.”

Roloff holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Central College in Pella, Iowa and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Henry B. Tippie School of Management at the University of Iowa. He is a regular participant in the League of American Orchestras’ training programs and was selected to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program during the 2017-18 season. Outside of work, his hobbies include golf, cooking, travel and backpacking.

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About the Kansas City Symphony

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 Symphony performs more than 130 concerts each year, reaching more than 250,000 community members. The Symphony 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. The Mobile Music Box, a popup stage created by the Symphony during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaches thousands of audience members each season with dozens of chamber music concerts throughout the Kansas City metro area.

The Symphony has released nine highly praised CDs to date with Reference Recordings. The latest release features one-movement symphonies by Samuel Barber, Jean Sibelius and Alexander Scriabin. The Symphony and Michael Stern also have recorded for the Naxos label. Kansas City’s new classical music radio station, 91.9 ClassicalKC, broadcasts Kansas City Symphony performances each week. For more information on the Symphony, please visit kcsymphony.org.