



KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

2022 / 2023 COMPLETE CONCERT GUIDE

**Classical, Pops, Family, Holiday and
Film + Live Orchestra concerts**

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!



(816) 471-0400
kcsymphony.org

2022 / 2023 THINGS TO KNOW

FREE TICKET EXCHANGES

You're busy — we understand! We are happy to make ticket exchanges into most upcoming Symphony performance, subject to seat availability. Some exclusions apply. Subscribers may exchange tickets up to one day prior to a performance without any exchange fees but will be responsible for the difference in ticket price. Single ticket buyers may exchange tickets for a small fee. Simply call our Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400 up to 24 hours before any performance you cannot attend and we'll take care of it.

SIT WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Kansas City Symphony concerts offer a great night out with friends. To sit together, please call the Symphony Box Office. Share their names and phone numbers, and we'll do our best to seat you as close together as possible.

SPECIAL SEATING NEEDS

Accessible seating for patrons using wheelchairs and walkers is available in all areas of Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts except the middle and upper Grand Tier sections. We strongly suggest you call the Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400 to determine the best and most accessible seating options. Assisted listening devices are available upon request in the Kauffman Center gift shop.

CHILDREN AT THE SYMPHONY

Our Symphony Family Series concerts are perfect for children ages 4 and older, and youth pricing is offered. Children ages 8 and older are also welcome to attend our Classical and Pops series performances. Infants, toddlers and children without a ticketed seat assignment will not be admitted into Symphony concerts. Call (816) 471-0400 for details. We ask parents to immediately remove children creating a disturbance during the performance. No refunds will be available.

ONLINE

kcsymphony.org

EMAIL

boxoffice@kcsymphony.org

PHONE

(816) 471-0400

M-F 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

IN PERSON

1644 Wyandotte Street
Kansas City, MO 64108

M-F 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

LIMELIGHT KC EMPLOYER SHARE DISCOUNTS

Some companies pay a portion of Symphony subscription and/or single ticket purchases. If your company participates in the Limelight KC Employer Share program, indicate your company and your employee ID number when you call the Symphony Box Office. To learn if your company participates, contact your company's human resources department.

EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA ALERTS

Receive news of exclusive Symphony events, free community concerts, discounts and more! Sign up for Symphony e-news today by visiting kcsymphony.org. Also, follow the Symphony on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

STUDENTS, SENIORS, SUBSCRIBERS, GROUPS

Student tickets are available for \$12 for most Classical Series concerts, in advance and at the Kauffman Center ticket desk 90 minutes prior to scheduled concerts, subject to availability. Our \$29 Student Season Pass is also available and allows students to attend most Symphony Classical Series concerts throughout the season. Call the Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400 for details. Certain concerts are excluded from these offers. The student discount is valid only for students who are age 30 and younger and who present a valid student ID as well as a government-issued ID.

Seniors age 60 and older and season subscribers may request a \$5 discount on regularly priced adult tickets to individual Symphony concerts, subject to availability. Certain concerts are excluded from this offer.

Groups of 10 or more may receive a wide range of discounts when purchasing in advance for all Classical, Pops and Family concerts, plus Christmas Festival and Handel's *Messiah*. Contact our Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400 or email groups@kcsymphony.org and ask about special group rates. Subject to availability.

G. KENNETH & ANN BAUM CONCERT COMMENTS

Join us for Concert Comments, a lively conversation about our Classical Series programs, beginning one hour prior to most classical concerts. Concert Comments frequently features the conductor and guest artist. Note: Concert Comments are not presented prior to programs featuring the Kansas City Symphony Chorus.



KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

WELCOME TO THIS SYMPHONY SEASON

It is with great excitement and anticipation that we present our 2022/23 Kansas City Symphony season. We can't wait to entertain and inspire you as we welcome longtime Symphony friends and new fans back to Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.



We always strive to present concert programs that allow you to turn off all distractions and let the music speak to your very core. You'll feel the warmth, the angst, the sadness and the hope that lives in the music. We'll all take this emotional journey as a community as we experience it together. Live orchestral music will relax us, reinvigorate us and recharge our minds and souls.

The talented musicians of our Kansas City Symphony are some of the country's best, and our special guests are some of the brightest stars touring the globe. From our Classical Series concerts to Pops, Family, Holiday and Film + Live Orchestra events, you'll find musical variety to fit every taste — with many concerts priced from \$25 (and only \$12 for students and children).

There is nothing else quite like a live Symphony performance in one of the world's finest concert halls. It's something we all need right now. We hope to see in the audience on many occasions this season, as our performances of legendary music and new discoveries help to make your life better and give you something to look forward to in the coming months.

Danny Beckley, President and CEO
Kansas City Symphony

"I've enjoyed local symphonies and traveling European orchestras in cities across America, and I find the KC Symphony very impressive. The Symphony is a true gem of the city. There is a lot of great talent within this orchestra."

Carlene, Blue Springs





HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE™ IN CONCERT

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, September 7-9 at 7 p.m.

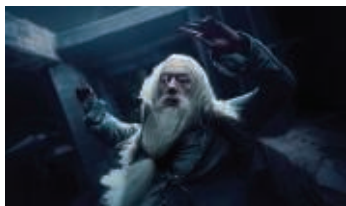
Sunday, September 11 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

Relive the magic of year six in Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince™ in Concert. With this film, based on the sixth installment of J.K. Rowling's classic saga, fans of all ages can now experience the thrilling tale of Harry's obsession with a mysterious potions book, accompanied by the music of a live symphony orchestra as Harry soars across the big screen in HD! Watch Harry become a wiz at potions, win Felix Felicis and uncover the meaning of Horcruxes! Tickets start at \$45 for adults and \$32 for children.

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COPLAND'S THIRD SYMPHONY, WITH SAINT-SAËNS' THIRD VIOLIN CONCERTO

Friday & Saturday, September 16-17 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, September 18 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

MICHAEL STERN CONDUCTOR | **GIL SHAHAM** VIOLIN

JAMES LEE III *Amer'ican*

SAINT-SAËNS Violin Concerto No. 3

COPLAND Symphony No. 3

Let's celebrate the beginning of another magnificent season of music together! James Lee III's vivacious *Amer'ican*, a work inspired by paintings emblematic of America, is a 21st-century response to Antonín Dvořák's call for American composers to embrace Black and Indigenous music. Dazzling audiences with his flawless technique and incomparable warmth, KC favorite Gil Shaham brings his absolute mastery to Saint-Saëns' most famous violin concerto. An elegant work that blends graceful sophistication with fiery virtuosity, the concerto's exciting conclusion will bring you to your feet. Aaron Copland sought to express the breadth of America in his Symphony No. 3. Composed at the end of World War II, the symphony reflected what Copland called "the euphoric spirit of the country at the time." Tickets from \$25.



Gil Shaham



BROADWAY'S LEADING MEN

Friday & Saturday, September 23-24 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, September 25 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

JACK EVERLY GUEST CONDUCTOR

BEN CRAWFORD VOCALIST

JIM HOGAN VOCALIST

JACOB DICKEY VOCALIST

SHEREEN PIMENTEL VOCALIST

HEARTLAND MEN'S CHORUS

SHAWN CULLEN ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR



Four of Broadway's brightest stars take the stage with guest conductor Jack Everly and your Kansas City Symphony for an evening of sizzling showstoppers. All your favorites from "The Great White Way" by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stephen Sondheim and others. Tickets from \$40.

Sponsored by  **theaterleague**[™]





VIOLENT FEMMES WITH THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

Saturday, October 1 at 8 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

The Violent Femmes formed in 1981 as an acoustic punk-rock band playing on the streets of Milwaukee, influenced by The Velvet Underground. Original members Gordon Gano, Brian Ritchie and others join your KC Symphony for a full orchestra experience. Get set for a long list of cult classics such as “Add It Up,” “Blister in the Sun,” “Kiss Off,” “Gone Daddy Gone,” “American Song” and “Gimme the Car.” Tickets start at \$45.

MAKE IT EASY! BUY YOUR PARKING IN ADVANCE.

Purchase parking now for every concert and guarantee your parking spot in the Arts District garage, attached to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Parking is available for \$10 per concert. Valet parking is \$18 per concert pre-paid in advance and \$20 the night of the concert. Call the Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400 to purchase with your order or online up to 24 hours before a performance.

STRAUSS' *ALPINE SYMPHONY*

Friday & Saturday, October 7-8 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 9 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

MICHAEL STERN CONDUCTOR | **JOSH JONES** PERCUSSION

IMAN HABIBI *Jeder Baum Spricht* (Every Tree Speaks)

ADAM SCHOENBERG *Losing Earth* Percussion Concerto

R. STRAUSS *An Alpine Symphony*

Iranian-Canadian composer Iman Habibi wrote *Jeder Baum Spricht* (Every Tree Speaks) as a reflection on Beethoven's Fifth and Sixth symphonies, encapsulating reverence for nature and worries about — and hope for — our environment. Adam Schoenberg's percussion concerto, *Losing Earth*, embodies the cyclical timelines of humanity and Earth, and the crisis presented by climate change. The music drives forward relentlessly but not without offering a sense of hope and optimism. Superbly skilled KC Symphony Principal Percussionist Josh Jones is featured in this kaleidoscopic concerto. Richard Strauss' vivid depiction of summiting an Alpine peak is an exquisite expression of nature. *An Alpine Symphony* illustrates woods, meadows, a stream, a pasture, sunrise and a storm — while also conveying the human emotions they evoke. Tickets from \$25.



SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE, **BRAHMS AND MENDELSSOHN**

Friday & Saturday, October 28-29 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 30 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

DOMINGO HINDOYAN GUEST CONDUCTOR

KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY CHORUS

CHARLES BRUFFY CHORUS DIRECTOR

MENDELSSOHN Overture to *Ruy Blas*

BRAHMS *Nänie*

BRAHMS *Schicksalslied*

BERLIOZ *Symphonie fantastique*

A program filled with drama and fantasy! Mendelssohn's Overture to *Ruy Blas* features noble brass chorales and nimble string passages with lively woodwind punctuation. Brahms' nostalgic *Nänie* is focused on the beauty of life. Written a decade earlier, Brahms' *Schicksalslied* contrasts the idyllic existence led by mythical Greek gods with the restless and doomed fate of humans. Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* is fantastic in every sense. Stunning orchestrations, eerie harmonies, and totally wild storyline. Radical, edgy, forlorn, grotesque, peaceful, bold — *Symphonie fantastique* has it all. Tickets from \$25.





MAGIC CIRCLE MIMES: THE LISTENER

Sunday, November 6 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

Your KC Symphony musicians have prepared a wonderful program of music but find their efforts complicated by the unexpected participation of two audience members. Musical challenges between bugle and trumpet and tap dancing to ballet music are just part of the action as these two characters and the entire audience learn about the orchestra, its music and the art of listening. You'll hear John Williams movie music, selections from Benjamin Britten's *A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, Bizet's *Carmen* and more. Tickets start at \$29 for adults and \$12 for children.



Gonzalo Farias

THANK YOU!

The 2022/23 Symphony season is generously sponsored by
SHIRLEY AND BARNETT C. HELZBERG JR.

Our 2022/23 Classical Series is sponsored by
MURIEL MCBRIEN KAUFFMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT WITH THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY: OH WHAT A WORLD OF RUFUS

Saturday, November 12 at 8 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR



Rufus Wainwright's music is larger than pop. It is symphonic. Growing up in a folk music household with his mother, Canadian folk legend Kate McGarrigle, Wainwright discovered opera at the age of 12. He always described classical music and opera in particular as his "secret sauce" for his pop music, something that makes him sound unique. At the beginning of his career, Elton John hailed him as "the best songwriter on the planet." The New York Times praised his "genuine originality," and the London Times recently wrote "when he unleashes that velvety truffle of a voice...you want it to go on and on." For his debut with the KC Symphony he goes deep into his vast catalogue, from his eponymous debut album to his latest Grammy® nominated "Unfollow the Rules." Enjoy lush orchestral arrangements of classics such as "Going to a Town" and "Oh What a World" as well as solo renditions of new material and covers. This concert will take you on an emotional, uplifting and entertaining journey with one of the great and most original singer-songwriters and composers of our time. Tickets start at \$40.

KENNY G WITH THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

Friday & Saturday, November 18-19 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 20 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

Grammy Award®-winning saxophonist Kenny G is the top selling instrumental musician of our time. His easy style and smooth sounds will transport you to Havana and beyond. Hear “Songbird,” “Forever in Love,” “Heart and Soul,” “Silhouette” and “My Heart Will Go On.” Kenny G will captivate and carry you away. Tickets from \$50.



DVOŘÁK SYMPHONY NO. 8, WITH PROKOFIEV'S SECOND PIANO CONCERTO

Friday and Saturday, November 25-26 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 27 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

AZIZ SHOKHAKIMOV GUEST CONDUCTOR

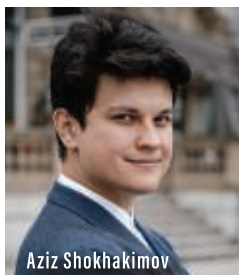
BEHZOD ABDURAIMOV PIANO

SMETANA Overture to *The Bartered Bride*

PROKOFIEV Piano Concerto No. 2

DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 8

Behzod Abduraimov returns to KC from international touring to perform Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto with your Kansas City Symphony. Abduraimov brings an amazing intensity to Prokofiev's spiky score with its combination of ardor, angularity and rampant virtuosity. Guest conductor Aziz Shokhakimov is equally at home in operatic or orchestral repertoire, and he opens this concert with the sparkling overture to Bedřich Smetana's high-energy opera *The Bartered Bride*. Fellow Bohemian composer Antonín Dvořák had an incredible gift for melodies and his Symphony No. 8 is a shining example. From trumpet fanfare to wistful reminiscence followed by glorious exultation, this symphony is like a walk in the Czech countryside teeming with life. Tickets from \$25.



Aziz Shokhakimov



Behzod Abduraimov

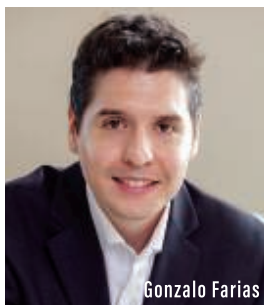
THE DOO WOP PROJECT CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 2 at 8 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

Join your KC Symphony for this special concert featuring The Doo Wop Project as they trace the evolution of Doo Wop, from the classic sound of five guys singing tight harmonies on a street corner to the biggest hits on the radio today. And, they'll perform plenty of Christmas songs, too! Stars of Broadway's *Jersey Boys* and *Motown: The Musical* harmonize classics from The Crests, The Flamingos and The Temptations all the way to Michael Jackson and Adele. Tickets start at \$40. Supported by the Neighborhood Tourism Fund.



KC Symphony holiday
concerts supported by



HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

Friday & Saturday, December 9-10 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 11 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

CHRISTOPHER ALLEN GUEST CONDUCTOR

ZOE ALLEN SOPRANO

DANIELA MACK MEZZO-SOPRANO

ALEK SHRADER TENOR

LEVI HERNANDEZ BARITONE

KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY CHORUS

CHARLES BRUFFY CHORUS DIRECTOR

Witness one of the Kansas City Symphony's most beloved holiday traditions! Featuring the Kansas City Symphony Chorus and some of America's most accomplished soloists, Handel's *Messiah* includes the iconic "Hallelujah Chorus" and sweeping solos portraying one of the greatest stories ever told. Handel's glorious choral masterpiece will bring hope and joy to your Christmas season. Tickets from \$30. Supported by the Neighborhood Tourism Fund.



CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Thursday & Friday, December 15-16 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 17 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 18 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

SCARLETT STRALLEN VOCALIST

HUGH PANARO VOCALIST

KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY CHORUS

CHARLES BRUFFY CHORUS DIRECTOR

Bring your family to experience the concert that feels like Christmas! Beautiful arrangements of carols and songs of the season are performed by your KC Symphony, Symphony Chorus and amazing special guests. From the family sing-along to an early visit from Santa, come and take a musical sleigh ride with us! Tickets start at \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. Supported by the Neighborhood Tourism Fund.



ELF™ IN CONCERT

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, December 21-23 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 24 at 11 a.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



Buddy was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and raised to adulthood among Santa's elves. Unable to shake the feeling that he doesn't fit in, the adult Buddy travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. This holiday season, relive this heartwarming holiday classic on a giant screen as every note of John Debney's wonderful score is played live to picture by your KC Symphony in Elf™ in Concert! Tickets start at \$40 for adults and \$25 for children. Supported by the Neighborhood Tourism Fund.
MPAA Rating: PG

ELF and all related characters and elements © & ™ New Line Productions, Inc. (s22)

(816) 471-0400 / KCSYMPHONY.ORG



UPTOWN NIGHTS

Friday & Saturday, January 6-7, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

BYRON STRIPLING GUEST CONDUCTOR,
TRUMPET, VOCALIST

CARMEN BRADFORD VOCALIST

LEO MANZARI DANCER

Byron Stripling is heralded as a “powerhouse trumpeter gifted with a soulful voice and a charismatic onstage swagger.” He’ll explore a magical world of song and dance popularized in the clubs of the ’40s and ’50s. Inspired by Harlem’s famed musical hot spots like The Cotton Club and The Savoy, this swingin’ night of musical sensations focuses on Harlem’s heyday — a time when Duke Ellington’s orchestra was the house band, and Cab Calloway, Ella Fitzgerald and Ethel Waters showcased the classics. Tickets from \$40.

PODCAST: BEETHOVEN WALKS INTO A BAR

A behind-the-scenes glimpse on what drives the passion and people of your KC Symphony, mixed with laughter, love and music. Find new and past podcast episodes at kcsymphony.org or wherever you listen to your podcasts: Apple, Stitcher, Google and Spotify.

THE FOUNTAINS AND PINES OF ROME, PLUS MOZART'S THIRD VIOLIN CONCERTO

Friday and Saturday, January 13-14, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



Francesco Lecce-Chong

FRANCESCO LECCE-CHONG GUEST CONDUCTOR
GENEVA LEWIS VIOLIN

MASON BATES *Garages of the Valley*

W. A. MOZART Violin Concerto No. 3

RESPIGHI *Fountains of Rome*

RESPIGHI *Pines of Rome*

Innovator Mason Bates' *Garages of the Valley* is a trek through the imagined and exotic music of Silicon Valley's tech geniuses in their garage development days. Mozart's Third Violin Concerto is a wonderful gem filled with some of his most irrepressibly joyous music. New Zealand-born violinist Geneva Lewis shares her youthful exuberance — and serious artistry — in performances sure to bring a smile to your face. Guest conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong is your tour guide for a visit to Rome, via Respighi's colossal *Fountains of Rome* and *Pines of Rome*. Respighi depicts nature, centuries-old trees and cascades of water in that "other" City of Fountains. Tickets from \$25.



Geneva Lewis

WAGNER'S *FLYING DUTCHMAN* AND BARBER'S VIOLIN CONCERTO

Friday and Saturday, January 20-21, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

KEVIN JOHN EDUSEI GUEST CONDUCTOR

MARIA IOUDENITCH VIOLIN

WAGNER Overture to *Der fliegende Holländer*

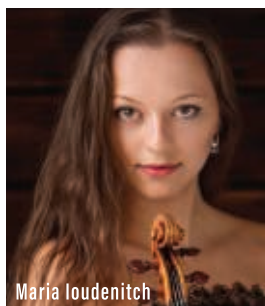
BARBER Violin Concerto

ZEMLINSKY *The Mermaid*

After winning three international violin competitions, Maria Ioudenitch returns home to KC to perform Samuel Barber's lyric Violin Concerto. Ioudenitch will touch your heart and thrill you with one gorgeous melody after another. Exceptionally busy in Europe, guest conductor Kevin John Edusei draws on his operatic expertise to lead the orchestra in the overture to Richard Wagner's early masterpiece *The Flying Dutchman*, a tender and gripping story of redemption through love. The sea and love again form a backdrop for Zemlinsky's musical setting of Hans Christian Andersen's folktale "The Little Mermaid." Composed in the wake of a failed love affair, *The Mermaid* was Zemlinsky's effort at therapy to move on with his life. You'll find the lush orchestration and seeming endless supply of exquisite sounds in this fantasy totally enchanting. Tickets from \$25.



Kevin John Edusei



Maria Ioudenitch

MARVEL STUDIOS' BLACK PANTHER™ IN CONCERT

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, January 25-28, 2023
at 7 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

JASON SEBER GUEST CONDUCTOR



In 2018, Marvel Studios' "Black Panther" quickly became a global sensation and cultural phenomenon, showing a new dimension of what superhero films could be. Rolling Stone raved, "The film lights up the screen with a full-throttle blast of action and fun. That's to be expected. But what sneaks up and floors you is the film's racial conscience and profound, astonishing beauty." Now you can relive the excitement of T'Challa becoming king and battling Killmonger, all while your Kansas City Symphony performs Ludwig Göransson's Oscar® and Grammy® award-winning score live to picture. Former KC Symphony Associate Conductor Jason Seber returns to lead this concert. Tickets start at \$40 for adults and \$25 for children.

PHILHARMONIA FANTASTIQUE: THE MAKING OF THE ORCHESTRA

Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

“Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra” is an animated film that flies through the instruments of the orchestra to explore the age-old



connection of creativity and technology. This collaboration between composer and DJ Mason Bates, director and sound designer Gary Rydstrom, and animator Jim Capobianco is guided by a magical sprite who makes violin strings vibrate, brass valves slice air, and drumheads resonate. Imaginatively blending traditional and modern animation styles, it is a kinetic and cutting-edge guide to the orchestra. By the film’s end, the orchestra overcomes its differences to demonstrate “unity from diversity” in a spectacular finale. Tickets start at \$29 for adults and \$12 for children.



RESPECT: A TRIBUTE TO ARETHA FRANKLIN

Friday & Saturday, February 3-4, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 5, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR



She fought for civil rights. She fought for women's rights. She won eighteen Grammy® Awards. She appeared on the Billboard® charts 112 times making her the most charted female artist in history. She was the first female performer to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. She was named the greatest singer of all time by Rolling Stone. She was the Queen of Soul. The story of Aretha Franklin is the story of America in the second half of the twentieth century. Her music, her activism, her faith and her strength are woven into the fabric of our history. "Respect: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin" celebrates the singer, the icon, the leader, the woman. Tickets from \$40.

Sponsored by

HELZBERG
DIAMONDS®

RUTH REINHARDT CONDUCTS SIBELIUS

Friday and Saturday, February 10-11, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

RUTH REINHARDT GUEST CONDUCTOR

STEVEN BANKS SAXOPHONE

BACEWICZ Overture

BILLY CHILDS Saxophone Concerto (KC Symphony co-commission)

SIBELIUS Symphony No. 5



Ruth Reinhardt

We welcome German guest conductor Ruth Reinhardt for her KC Symphony debut. Grażyna Bacewicz's spirited Overture opens the concert with a fabulous flourish of stylish strings that belies its origin in war-torn Poland during World War II. The saxophone's distinctive tone color is on lavish display in Billy Childs' new

Saxophone Concerto, co-commissioned by the KC Symphony. A four-time Grammy® award winner, Childs blends classical, jazz and pop styles into a delectable fusion, while impressive young saxophonist Steven Banks will wow you with his artistry and prodigious talent. Written with a strong sense of Finnish fervor, Sibelius' music conveys his deep love of Finland and its spacious Nordic landscape. The concluding six chords will have you on the edge of your seat! Tickets from \$25.



Steven Banks

RAVEL'S *RAPSODIE* *AND THE POEM OF ECSTASY*

Friday and Saturday, March 3-4, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 5, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

MATTHIAS PINTSCHER GUEST CONDUCTOR
GEORGE LI PIANO

LIGETI *San Francisco Polyphony*

RAVEL Piano Concerto in G Major

RAVEL *Rapsodie espagnole* (Spanish Rhapsody)

SCRIABIN *Poème d'extase* (Poem of Ecstasy)

Guest conductor Matthias Pintscher brings his unique insight to György Ligeti's *San Francisco Polyphony*, filled with melodic patterns rising out of the fog. Ravel's Piano Concerto delights the mind and senses alike with its wit, charm and effervescence. Pianist extraordinaire George Li returns to Kansas City for another star turn in this delightful work. Drawing on his mother's Basque heritage, Ravel captured the flavor of Spain with bejeweled timbres in his *Rapsodie espagnole*. You'll be enthralled by its sensuously lithe lines and rhythmic vitality. Then, Scriabin's obsessive quest for transcendence and metaphysical musings are on full display in *The Poem of Ecstasy*. Its voluptuous sound will envelop you in a wonderfully mystical experience, and the truly ecstatic ending will raise the roof! Tickets from \$25.



Matthias Pintscher



George Li

In partnership with the Kansas City Zoo

SYMPHONY'S WILD ADVENTURE

Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

Lions and tigers and ... horns? ...

oh my! Join in on the fun as we explore different animal families through music. From cute and cuddly to wild and woolly, we'll show a menagerie of images and video of our favorite furry and feathered friends from the

Kansas City Zoo while the orchestra takes us on a wildlife adventure. Tickets start at \$29 for adults and \$12 for children.



INDIGO GIRLS WITH THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

Known for their folk-rock music, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, bring their energetic and captivating music to Helzberg Hall, performing with your KC Symphony. Celebrating their successful four-decade-long career, the program features Indigo Girls' popular hits like "Galileo," "Kid Fears," "Closer to Fine" and "Making Promises." Don't miss this incredible concert that blurs the lines between folk, rock, pop and classical genres. Tickets start at \$45.



Featuring the Women of the Kansas City Symphony Chorus

HOLST'S *THE PLANETS*

Friday and Saturday, March 24-25, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

TEDDY ABRAMS GUEST CONDUCTOR | **JENNIFER KOH** VIOLIN
WOMEN OF THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY CHORUS
CHARLES BRUFFY CHORUS DIRECTOR

CAROLINE SHAW *The Observatory*

MISSY MAZZOLI Violin Concerto

HOLST *The Planets*



Stargazers will revel in Caroline Shaw's expansive piece, *The Observatory*, inspired by a visit to Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles. Eclectic violinist Jennifer Koh commissioned Missy Mazzoli's Violin Concerto, anchored in tradition but modern and fresh. Conducting phenom Teddy Abrams is known for his unquenchable enthusiasm and imaginative approach to classical music. He'll bring that zest to Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, an orchestral tour de force enhanced by the Symphony Chorus. Holst's awe-inspiring musical depictions of the celestial heavens are as richly varied as their planetary namesakes. From the powerful music for Mars and fleet notes representing Mercury to the grandeur of Saturn and the mystical sounds of Neptune, this program is truly out of this world! Tickets from \$30.



Teddy Abrams



Jennifer Koh

GERSHWIN'S *RHAPSODY IN BLUE* AND NIELSEN'S "INEXTINGUISHABLE"

Friday and Saturday, March 31-April 1, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

THOMAS WILKINS GUEST CONDUCTOR

RAY USHIKUBO PIANO

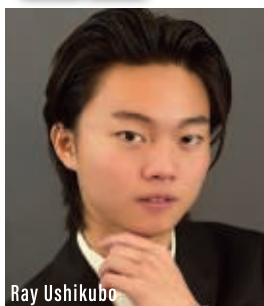
(Underwritten by the Almy Legacy Fund)

COLERIDGE-TAYLOR Suite from *Hiawatha*

GERSHWIN *Rhapsody in Blue*

NIELSEN Symphony No. 4, "Inextinguishable"

You'll delight in this marvelous springtime program led by guest conductor Thomas Wilkins, principal conductor of the Hollywood Bowl orchestra. English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's suite from the ballet *Hiawatha* draws on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic ode, and is radiant, rhythmically animated and utterly captivating. Gershwin's ever-popular *Rhapsody in Blue* features rising talent Ray Ushikubo. Bridging the worlds of classical and popular music, *Rhapsody in Blue* is beloved for its cheeky tunefulness, jaunty rhythms and unabashed sentimentality. Confronted with the ravages of World War I, Danish composer Carl Nielsen wanted to express the spirit of life in his dramatic Symphony No. 4, affirming "the elemental will to live." Tickets from \$30.



THE MUSIC OF RICHARD RODGERS

Friday & Saturday, April 14-15, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

JACK EVERLY GUEST CONDUCTOR

ASHLEY BROWN VOCALIST



Before Rodgers and Hammerstein, there was Rodgers and Hart. They took Broadway (and Hollywood) by storm with one hit show after another: "The Boys From Syracuse," "Jumbo!," "By Jupiter," "Pal Joey," "Babes in Arms" and "One Hour With You." Fall in love all over again with Richard Rodgers' hit songs, whether he was paired with writers Hart, Hammerstein, Charnin, Harnick or Sondheim. You'll hear "Lover," "Falling In Love With Love," "This Can't Be Love," "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered," "My Romance," "Little Girl Blue," "Where Or When," "Blue Moon" and many others. Broadway's original Mary Poppins, Ashley Brown, sings the music of Richard Rodgers for you as only she can. A singular talent brings to life the music of one of America's greatest popular composers. Tickets from \$40.



Thank You!



With your Kansas City Symphony Chorus

HOLST, HAYDN AND HINDEMITH

Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

MICHAEL STERN CONDUCTOR

SASHA COOKE MEZZO-SOPRANO

SCOTT HENDRICKS BARITONE

KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY CHORUS,

CHARLES BRUFFY CHORUS DIRECTOR

HOLST *Walt Whitman Overture*

F. J. HAYDN Symphony No. 96, "The Miracle"

HINDEMITH *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd*

Gustav Holst's *Walt Whitman Overture* evokes Mendelssohn with its shimmering strings and exuberant brass. Haydn's "Miracle" Symphony is gracious, joyous and inventive. Paul Hindemith's moving oratorio *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd* was written to commemorate the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and is based on the poem of the same name by Walt Whitman. Mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke and baritone Scott Hendricks join the Symphony and Chorus in this eloquent music which gives powerful shape to feelings of loss and grief. Tickets from \$25.



Michael Stern



DISCO INFERNO: A '70S CELEBRATION

Friday, May 5, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

Everybody dance! Your KC Symphony musicians invite you to celebrate those disco days and boogie nights with a cast of New York's top performers celebrating super-hits of the decade by ABBA, the Bee Gees, Gloria Gaynor, Barbra Streisand, Barry Manilow, Donna Summer and more! Tickets from \$45.



GET HAPPY: A JUDY GARLAND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WITH MICHAEL FEINSTEIN

Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR
MICHAEL FEINSTEIN VOCALIST AND PIANO



Join Michael Feinstein and your Kansas City Symphony as we travel through the life and songs of Judy Garland, celebrating her 100th birthday. This brand-new multimedia concert event features big screen film clips, never-before-seen photos, rare audio recordings, good humor and of course, great music. Tickets from \$49.

THE PRINCESS BRIDE™ IN CONCERT

Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, May 19-20, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 3 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

GONZALO FARIAS DAVID T. BEALS III ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

Fencing, fighting, giants, monsters, true love, miracles. Experience one of the most beloved films of all time as never before, with the power of your KC Symphony performing the entire musical score live-to-picture! Directed by Rob Reiner, “The Princess Bride” features an all-star cast including Robin Wright, Cary Elwes, Mandy Patinkin, Billy Crystal, Carol Kane, Christopher Guest and André the Giant. Mark Knopfler’s unforgettable score has been specially arranged for symphony orchestra. Missing “The Princess Bride™” in Concert would be inconceivable. In the words of Miracle Max ... “Have fun stormin’ the castle!” Tickets start at \$40 for adults and \$25 for children.



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STERN CONDUCTS MAHLER AND MONTGOMERY

Friday and Saturday, June 2-3, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

MICHAEL STERN CONDUCTOR

JULIA BULLOCK SOPRANO

DELIUS *The Walk to the Paradise Garden*

JESSIE MONTGOMERY *Five Freedom Songs*

(KC Symphony co-commission)

MAHLER Symphony No. 4

English composer Frederick Delius' rich orchestration of *The Walk to the Paradise Garden* portrays the timeless gaze between young lovers. We are thrilled to showcase one of America's leading young composers, Jessie Montgomery, with a new work co-commissioned by the Kansas City Symphony. A talented violinist, Montgomery has a unique ability to use symphonic sounds to convey complex thoughts and emotions. Giving voice to Montgomery's *Five Freedom Songs* is Julia Bullock, a soprano superstar known for her deep sense of social consciousness. Gustav Mahler's Fourth Symphony delves into themes of childhood, innocence and spirituality, with Bullock's angelic soprano expressing the child's vision of heaven that is at the heart of this compelling work. Voice and symphony orchestra meld together in serene beauty. Tickets from \$25.



THE RITE OF SPRING, AX PLAYS BEETHOVEN

Friday and Saturday, June 16-17, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 18, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

MICHAEL STERN CONDUCTOR | **EMANUEL AX** PIANO

CARLOS SIMON *AMEN!*

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 3

STRAVINSKY *Le sacre du printemps* (The Rite of Spring)



Emanuel Ax

Emanuel Ax is one of the world's great pianists, and he returns to play Beethoven's exciting Piano Concerto No. 3 — energetic, driving, ingenious and thunderous. You'll be shouting "Amen!" after hearing Carlos Simon's homage to his family's multi-generational experience in the African American Pentecostal church, overflowing with vibrant sounds and jazzy rhythms. More than a century after its epic premiere, *The Rite of Spring* is still powerful and complex. Stravinsky's masterpiece is stunning in the sheer range of its expression. From amorphous swirls to jagged edges, subtle shadings to primal screams, *The Rite of Spring* truly is one of the greatest and most influential works of all time. Tickets from \$30.

Season Finale!

BROBERG PLAYS RACHMANINOFF, WITH PUCCINI AND TCHAIKOVSKY

Friday and Saturday, June 23-24, 2023 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

VALENTINA PELEGGI GUEST CONDUCTOR

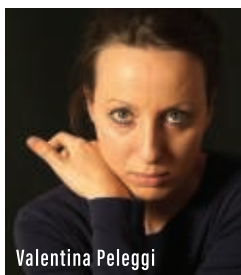
KENNY BROBERG PIANO

PUCCINI *Preludio sinfonico*

RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 2

TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

A blockbuster conclusion to a brilliant season! Award winner at the Van Cliburn and Tchaikovsky international competitions, 2021 American Pianist Kenny Broberg brings his breathtaking virtuosity to Rachmaninoff's utterly mesmerizing Piano Concerto No. 2. Filled with thundering chords and luscious melodies, you'll be humming this on the way home. Absolute genius! The melodies in *Preludio sinfonico* are pure Puccini, richly elegant and enthralling. Italian guest conductor Valentina Peleggi is winning acclaim on three continents for her insightful interpretations of orchestral and operatic repertoire. She leads your Kansas City Symphony in Tchaikovsky's brooding but heroic Symphony No. 4. From its bold opening theme, the work is over the top — deeply melancholy yet exuberant. Tickets from \$30.



Valentina Peleggi



Kenny Broberg



KANSAS CITY
SYMPHONY

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Musicians of the Kansas City Symphony present FREE Happy Hour concerts that will add delightful music to the middle of your week. Bring friends and family to enjoy familiar classical works and exciting modern compositions, too. Join us in the beautiful Kauffman Center Brndmeyer Great Hall lobby for a drink after work starting at 5 p.m., then a short and casual concert starting at 6 p.m. sponsored by Lead Bank. Visit kcsymphony.org for details and free general admission tickets.

Thursday, October 20, 2022

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Wednesday, May 10, 2023



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