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SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025 | 8 PM

UNION STATION AND THE GROUNDS
OF THE NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

Kansas City Symphony Jason Seber, guest conductor Mikaela Bennett, soprano Jim Birdsall, host

PRE-CONCERT ENTERTAINERS

A La Mode and Roots in Blue USAF Band of Mid-America

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FEATURING

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

JASON SEBER, guest conductor

Jason Seber is known for his inviting and engaging approach on and off the podium. A strong believer in the eclectic experiences that today's symphony orchestras offer their communities, he strives to make music of many genres and styles accessible, relevant and meaningful to diverse audiences across the country.



Seber served as associate conductor of the Kansas City Symphony from 2016 to 2022. In this position he led the Symphony in more than 300 performances on the Classical, Pops, Classics Uncorked, Family, Film + Live Orchestra, Education and Christmas Festival series. He also served as co-host for the Symphony's podcast, "Beethoven Walks Into a Bar." Prior to Kansas City, Seber was the education and outreach conductor at the Louisville Orchestra from 2013 to 2016 and music director of the Louisville Youth Orchestra from 2005 to 2016.



MIKAELA BENNETT, soprano

Mikaela Bennett is a celebrated singer and actress who is garnering praise for her artistic versatility on stage and in concert halls across the globe and is a recent recipient of the Lincoln Center Award for Emerging Artists. Equally at home collaborating with Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic at Disney Hall and singing Maria in *West Side Story* at the BBC Proms, Mikaela is

a skilled cross-genre interpreter. Additional career highlights include premiering an original composition by Michael Tilson Thomas with the San Fransisco Symphony, her New York City solo recital debut at Alice Tully Hall, her Lyric Opera of Kansas City debut in *The Sound of Music* (Maria), Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Grapes of Wrath* (Rosasharn) with MasterVoices at Carnegie Hall, and Handel's *Israel in Egypt* with MasterVoices and the Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall. Mikaela is a native of Ottawa, Canada and a graduate of the Juilliard School.

JIM BIRDSALL, host United States Army veteran

Jim Birdsall served in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry and the 101st Airborne divisions. He finished his education with help from the GI Bill, then moved to Kansas City and began his career as an actor and announcer. He has appeared on stage at nearly every theater in Kansas City. As a voiceover artist, Jim is the signature



voice of the CNBC Network and for 25 years was proudly the voice of the Hallmark Hall of Fame. Jim is also one of the lead narrators for NFL Films as well as the voice of many TV and radio commercials.

JAMES STEPHENSON American Fanfare

SMITH "The Star-Spangled Banner"

MSqt. Joanne Griffin, vocals

BERNSTEIN Overture to Candide

LOEWE "I Could Have Danced All Night" from My Fair Lady

Mikaela Bennett, vocals

BERNSTEIN "Somewhere" from West Side Story

Mikaela Bennett, vocals

CARLOS SIMON Hellfighters' Blues

RODGERS/BENNETT "Hymn of Victory" from "Victory at Sea"

SOUSA/MCALISTER Semper Fidelis March

JOHN WILLIAMS Music from Lincoln

"With Malice Toward None" for String Orchestra

VARIOUS/HAYMAN/KESSLER Armed Forces Medley

TRADITIONAL Taps

SSG Daniel Loeschen, 312th Army Band, bugle

JOHN WILLIAMS

Hymn to the Fallen from "Saving Private Ryan"

NEWTON/HART "Amazing Grace"

Mikaela Bennett, vocals

WARD/ROTHMAN "America, the Beautiful"

Mikaela Bennett, vocals

TCHAIKOVSKY 1812, Overture solennelle, op. 49

JOHN WILLIAMS Midway March

WILLSON/RICKETTS "Seventy-Six Trombones" from *The Music Man*

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