



# Happy Hour

**TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 AT 6 PM**

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



**KANSAS CITY  
SYMPHONY**

The 2025/26 season is generously sponsored by  
**Shirley and Barnett C. Helzberg, Jr.**

# PROGRAM

## ANTONIO VIVALDI

Sonata for Flute, Bassoon and Continuo,  
RV 86

I. Largo

II. Allegro

III. Largo cantabile

IV. Allegro molto

Michael Gordon, Flute

Thomas DeWitt, Bassoon

Jan Kraybill, Harpsichord

Evan Halloin, Double Bass

## ANTONIO VIVALDI

Trio Sonata in D Minor, RV 63, "La Follia"

I. Adagio — Andante — Allegro

II. [No tempo indication] — Adagio —

Vivace — Allegro — Larghetto — Allegro

III. Adagio — Allegro

Mary Garcia Grant, Violin

Ayrton Pisco, Violin

Alexander East, Cello

Jan Kraybill, Harpsichord

## PHILLIP FRIEDRICH BÖDDECKER

(arr. DeWitt)

Sonata Sopra La Monica

Michael Gordon, flute

Matthew Lengas, Oboe

Thomas DeWitt, Bassoon

Evan Halloin, Double Bass

## JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Orchestral Suite No. 1 in C Major,  
BWV 1066

I. Overture

II. Courante

III. Gavotte I — Gavotte II

IV. Forlaine

V. Menuet I — Menuet II

VI. Bourrée I — Bourrée II

VII. Passepied I — Passepied II

Kristina Fulton, Oboe

Matthew Lengas, Oboe

Thomas DeWitt, Bassoon

Jan Kraybill, Harpsichord

Ayrton Pisco, Violin

Mary Garcia Grant, Violin

Rena Ishii, Violin

Samuel Frois, Violin

Sean Brumble, Viola

Duke Lee, Viola

Alexander East, Cello

Evan Halloin, Double Bass

The Willard Martin French double harpsichord used in this program was generously donated by the Community of Christ.

# Musician Bios



## MICHAEL GORDON

PRINCIPAL FLUTE,  
MARYLOU AND JOHN DODDS TURNER CHAIR

Michael Gordon joined the Kansas City Symphony as principal flute in 2007. Since that time, he has worked actively throughout the region to promote the value of music in the community. In particular, he has collaborated with Arts in Prison to produce a series of chamber music concerts for inmates at Lansing Correctional Facility. He also serves as a board member for the Northeast Community Center that operates a tuition-free music education program for underprivileged children called Harmony Project KC. An active teacher and performer, Michael has given numerous masterclasses and recitals in Kansas City, as well as around Missouri and nearby Kansas. Before moving to Kansas City, he was a member of the New World Symphony where he also performed as a soloist in 2007. He has performed with several orchestras across the United States including the St. Louis Symphony, the Minnesota Orchestra and the Oregon Symphony. He has performed as both an orchestral and chamber musician at numerous festivals including Tanglewood, the Aspen Music Festival, Arizona Music Fest, and most recently at Kansas City's own Summerfest. Michael is a native of Gloucester, Rhode Island, and he spent his formative years studying flute with Marianne Gedigian (current professor of flute at the University of Texas, Austin) and playing in youth orchestra and chamber music at the New England Conservatory. In 2004, he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Rice University where he studied with Leone Buyse. Michael plays a 14k gold flute made in 2001 by Verne Q. Powell flutes.



## THOMAS DEWITT

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL BASSOON AND CONTRABASSOON

Thomas DeWitt has been a member of the Kansas City Symphony since 2013. Previously, he played second bassoon with the Houston Grand Opera and was a regular player with the Houston Symphony and Ballet. Thomas attended the University of Texas at Austin for his bachelor's degree, where he studied with Kristin Wolfe Jensen and was a winner of the Winds Concerto Competition, performing the Mozart Bassoon Concerto. Thomas continued his studies at Rice University, where studied with Benjamin Kamins and attained a master's degree. He is principal bassoon of the Breckenridge Music Festival, and he has attended the Tanglewood, National Repertory Orchestra, Round Top and Eastern music festivals as a fellow.

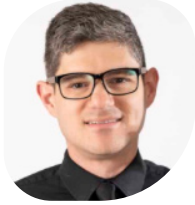
## Musician Bios (cont.)



### **JAN KRAYBILL**

HARPSICHORD

Grammy® Award–nominated artist Jan Kraybill is a concert organist, pianist and harpsichordist; a dynamic speaker, educator, church musician and consultant; and an enthusiastic cheerleader for the power of music to change lives for the better. In addition to maintaining a very active concert schedule, Jan is organ conservator at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri; organist-in-residence at the international headquarters of Community of Christ in Independence, Missouri; and organist at Village on Antioch Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, Kansas. In these roles she plays and oversees the care of three of the Kansas City metro area's largest pipe organs. Throughout her career Jan has performed as both a solo and collaborative musician, designed and led international hymn festivals, taught workshops on a variety of topics and inspired audiences and congregations. She has performed in many venues in North America and Europe, and in Australia, Russia, South Korea and Tahiti. Jan has recorded for Reference Recordings with the Kansas City Symphony on several occasions, including their disc containing Saint-Saëns' "Organ" Symphony, nominated for a Grammy in 2015. Jan's degrees in music education and piano and organ performance were earned at Kansas State University and the UMKC Conservatory. In 2010 she achieved the distinction of Fellow of the AGO, the highest certification level available for organists. She has served in many local, regional and national roles in the AGO, the Hymn Society, and the Master Teacher Institute, most recently as Executive Director of the Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada. She is a member of Mensa. Her extra-musical interests include antiquing, lace-making and riding her Harley-Davidson motorcycle.



### **EVAN HALLOIN**

ACTING PRINCIPAL DOUBLE BASS

Evan Halloin was appointed associate principal bass of the Kansas City Symphony in 2016 after having served as a member of the bass section since 2012. Prior to coming to Kansas City he was a member of the New World Symphony. He earned a master's degree from Rice University and a bachelor's degree from the New England Conservatory. His primary teachers include Timothy Pitts and Donald Palma. Evan has performed as a substitute musician with the Chicago, Milwaukee and Houston symphony orchestras. He is originally from De Pere, Wisconsin.



## **MARY GARCIA GRANT**

SECOND VIOLIN

Mary Grant received her undergraduate degree in violin performance from Rice University, where she studied with Raphael Fliegel. She received a master's degree from Queens College–City University of New York, where she studied with Ruth Waterman and Ani Kavafian. While in New York City, she played with the National Orchestral Association, a training orchestra for young musicians. She also studied baroque violin with Nancy Wilson. She has played with the Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra in Europe and the National Repertory Orchestra in Colorado. Mary has been a violinist with the Kansas City Symphony since 1989 and was a founding member of Summerfest. She teaches violin through Urban Strings and the Kansas City Suzuki Academy. Mary lives with her husband, Jim, and cats, Cedric and Ruth, in the Waldo neighborhood of Kansas City. In their spare time, she and Jim enjoy gardening, hiking, traveling and spending time with their grandchildren.



## **AYRTON PISCO**

SECOND VIOLIN

A native of Brasília, Brazil, Ayrton Pisco holds degrees from Yale University, the University of Southern California and San Diego State University. He has also been a fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and New World Symphony. He has participated in several music festivals including Tanglewood, Aspen, Sarasota, Bayreuth (Germany) and Sapporo (Japan). His principal teachers include Ani Kavafian, Margaret Batjer, Pei-Chun Tsai and his father, Ayrton Macedo Pisco.

Ayrton has received top prizes in numerous competitions throughout the United States and abroad. Concert engagements have taken him across North and South America, Europe and Asia. He also has performed as a soloist in prestigious venues such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Jacobs Music Center and Cláudio Santoro National Theater in Brazil.

A seasoned orchestra musician, Ayrton has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, San Diego Symphony and New Haven Symphony, and under the batons of conductors Zubin Mehta, Gustavo Dudamel, Michael Tilson Thomas, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Larry Rachleff. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with principal players of the New York Philharmonic and has been featured on the WQXR and KUSC radio stations.

As a music educator, Ayrton previously served as a teaching artist at Yale University's Music in Schools Initiative, Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, San Diego State University Community Music School and Ibero-American Philharmonic Academy in Medellín, Colombia.

## Musician Bios (cont.)

Ayrton Pisco (cont.)

In addition to classical music, Ayrton also enjoys performing in genres such as jazz, tango, bossa nova, choro, mariachi and others. He has collaborated with Trio Gadjó and Besos de Coco and participated in shows at House of Blues San Diego and Clube da Bossa Nova in Brazil.



### **ALEXANDER EAST** ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CELLO

Alexander East serves as the assistant principal cello of the Kansas City Symphony. In addition to duties with the Symphony, which often include leading the section as principal for opera, ballet and chamber orchestra performances, Alexander is also heard frequently in recitals and chamber music concerts throughout the Kansas City region and beyond. He has also performed with the Sun Valley (Idaho) Summer Symphony every summer since 1992. In the Kansas City area, he has performed regularly in groups including Summerfest Chamber Music Concerts (also serving as an Artistic Advisor), the Boulevard String Quartet and newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble. Before settling in Kansas City, Alexander spent two seasons as a member of the New World Symphony under the direction of conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, and he was also re-invited to coach the NWS cello section as a guest alumnus. Alexander has been featured as soloist with the Kansas City Symphony, the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, the Sedalia Symphony, the Erie (PA) Chamber Orchestra and the Fredonia Chamber Players. Alexander received his training at Indiana University where he received a bachelor's degree and performer diploma, and he earned his master's degree at the New England Conservatory of Music. His teachers have included Tsuyushi Tsutsumi, Janos Starker, Laurence Lesser and Colin Carr. He performs on either an English cello made in London ca. 1800-10 by John Betts or a contemporary cello made in 2016 by Kenneth Beckmann.



### **MATTHEW LENGAS** OBOE AND ENGLISH HORN

Matt Lengas joined the Kansas City Symphony as English horn and utility oboe in 2022. He previously held similar positions in the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra and the Amarillo Symphony, and has performed as a substitute musician with the San Antonio Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra and Quad City Symphony Orchestra. Matt is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Shepherd School of Music and the University of Texas at Austin, where he earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, respectively. Additional studies have included summer fellowships at the Banff Centre, Round Top Festival Institute and Aspen Music Festival and School. A native Wisconsinite, Matt began his oboe studies in the Peshtigo, Wisconsin public school system and

studied privately with Andrea Gross Hixon throughout high school. His other important mentors include Richard Killmer, Robert Atherholt and Andrew Parker. When he is not playing the oboe or making reeds, Matt enjoys walking in Kansas City's beautiful parks and exploring the diverse art of coffee brewing.



### **KRISTINA FULTON**

PRINCIPAL OBOE, SHIRLEY BUSH HELZBERG CHAIR

Kristina Fulton joined the Kansas City Symphony as principal oboe in September 2011, and she holds the Shirley Bush Helzberg Chair. Prior to her appointment, she spent two seasons as a member of the New World Symphony and served on the faculty at the New World School of the Arts.

She also has performed as guest principal oboe with various orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the San Diego Symphony. As a soloist, Kristina has performed with the Kansas City Symphony, San Diego Symphony, New World Symphony and National Repertory Orchestra, among others. An avid lover of chamber music, she also performs frequently on the Kansas City Symphony's free Happy Hour chamber music series. Kristina holds a bachelor's degree from the Oberlin Conservatory, where she studied with James Caldwell and a master's degree from the New England Conservatory of Music as a student of John Ferrillo. In her spare time, Kristina enjoys gravel cycling, photography, traveling and spending time with her husband and three dogs.



### **RENA ISHII**

SECOND VIOLIN

Rena Ishii joined the orchestra in 2011. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in violin performance from University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Won-Bin Yim. She continued her studies with William Preucil at the Cleveland Institute of Music and received a professional studies certificate. In the Cleveland area, she became active as an orchestra player and was a member of the Canton Symphony, Akron Symphony and Cleveland Pops Orchestra. Rena has spent summers at Aspen Music Festival, Spoleto USA and the Tanglewood Music Center. Rena has a passion for teaching as well. She has been actively teaching privately and at schools. In her free time, she enjoys jogging, cooking and reading.

## Musician Bios (cont.)



### **SAMUEL FROIS**

SECOND VIOLIN

Samuel is a distinguished musician based in New York City. He previously served as the concertmaster for The Orchestra Now, while pursuing a master's degree in orchestral performance. His musical journey began through a government-funded musical program in Brazil. While there he honed his skills under the guidance of esteemed instructors like Jovana Trifunovic. Upon relocating to the United States in 2018, he continued his musical education under the tutelage of renowned mentors such as Wen Qian and Ming Feng Hsin at the Mannes School of Music. Throughout his career, Samuel has garnered numerous accolades, including being a four-time grant recipient of the Latin Grammy Foundation scholarship awards. He achieved notable success in competitions, recently securing the 2nd Prize in the Sphinx Orchestral Partners competition in 2024 and Minnesota Public Radio's Performance Today Young Artists residency. He's been able to collaborate with esteemed artists like Leila Josefowicz, Gil Shaham, JoAnn Falletta, Nikki Chooi and Jean-Marie Zeitouni. Samuel has collaborated with groups such as the Sphinx Virtuosi, Richmond Symphony, Orchestra San Antonio and Nashville Symphony.



### **SEAN BRUMBLE**

VIOLA

Sean was born in Heidelberg, Germany and began studying the viola at age 9. Early teachers include Maria Maxwell and Walter Halen. Sean holds a Bachelor of Music degree from UMKC where he studied with Steve Kruse, former principal violist of the Kansas City Symphony. Upon graduation he was awarded a fellowship to Music Academy of the West under the tutelage of Don McInnes. Sean has been a member of the Kansas City Symphony since 1996. He also has performed with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and is currently principal violist of the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra. In addition to orchestral performance, he also enjoys playing chamber music and performs regularly as part of the Symphony's Community Connections and Happy Hour chamber music series. In February 2017, he was featured in a performance of J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 6. He is a regular guest artist on the Summerfest concert series and the Missouri River Festival of the Arts. Sean resides in Greenwood, Missouri where he teaches and maintains a private violin and viola studio. He enjoys baking, distance running (10K and half-marathon), snuggling with his two maltipoos and travelling with his wife of 25 years to tropical places.



## **DUKE LEE**

VIOLA

Duke Lee is a native of Houston, Texas. He attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Juilliard School. He also was a fellow at the New World Symphony. Duke has been a member of the Kansas City Symphony since 2006.

Duke is married to Kansas City Symphony violinist Rena Ishii and they have three boys, Leon, Anton and Owen.

CLASSICAL CONCERT

## **Gil Shaham Plays Brahms**

Friday, May 29 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 30 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 31 at 2 p.m.

Matthias Pintscher, music director and conductor  
Gil Shaham, violin

**VARIOUS** *Genesis* (KCS commission and world premiere, 7 composers)

**JOHANNES BRAHMS** Violin Concerto



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## UPCOMING CLASSICAL CONCERTS

### Rachmaninoff Celebration, Part Two: Piano Concerto No. 3



Friday, June 5 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, June 6 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m.

Matthias Pintscher, music director and conductor  
Yefim Bronfman, piano

**SERGEI RACHMANINOFF** Symphony No. 3

**MATTHIAS PINTSCHER** Aubade  
(world premiere, piano solo)

**SERGEI RACHMANINOFF** Piano Concerto No. 3

### SEASON FINALE!

### Rhapsody in Blue and Dvořák's New World Symphony

Friday, June 19 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, June 20 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, June 21 at 2 p.m.

Peter Oundjian, guest conductor  
Michelle Cann, piano

**JOAN TOWER** Suite from Concerto for Orchestra

**FLORENCE PRICE** Piano Concerto

**GEORGE GERSHWIN** *Rhapsody in Blue*

**ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK** Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

