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KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES NEW CONCERT

George Benson and Kenny G to perform May 24

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts announced a new concert in the 2016-2017 *Kauffman Center Presents* series.

Guitarist and songwriter **George Benson** joins contemporary jazz saxophonist **Kenny G** for *The Breezin' & Breathless Tour* that will perform on **Wednesday, May 24** in Muriel Kauffman Theatre. Ten-time GRAMMY Award-winner Benson recorded the first jazz album to go platinum in 1976. One of music's best-selling instrumentalists, Kenny G has won fans with his smooth melodies and emotive solos. Tickets for the event range from \$59 to \$129, and go on sale to the public at 10 a.m. Friday, March 24.

Tickets will be available through the Kauffman Center Box Office at (816) 994-7222, via the Kauffman Center mobile app, or online at www.kauffmancenter.org.

ABOUT GEORGE BENSON

Since his 1964 Wes Montgomery-inspired debut *The New Boss Guitar*, George Benson has held the dual role of expert improviser and vibrant entertainer. Benson spent the first part of his career playing alongside jazz greats like Ron Carter and Freddie Hubbard, honing a rich tone and blues-inspired solos. On his 1976 album *Breezin'*, Benson scatted along to his solo break on a soulful update of Leon Russell's "This Masquerade," creating a pop smash and making *Breezin'* the first jazz record to achieve platinum sales. Benson followed with more pop hits, including a sultry version of "On Broadway" and the dance tune "Give Me the Night." On more than 30 albums, Benson has continuously reinvented, drawing on his jazz chops and incorporating elements of everything from blues to rock to hip-hop.

ABOUT KENNY G

In a recording career that spans 23 albums and almost three decades, GRAMMY Award-winning saxophonist Kenny G has grafted elements of R&B and pop to a jazz foundation to create his contemporary sound. Kenny G broke out as a commercial success with the release of *Duotones* in 1986, and followed with the chart-soaring *Breathless* in 1992. Through the 1990s, he collaborated on albums with the likes of Aretha Franklin and Whitney Houston, and appeared on film soundtracks including *The Bodyguard*. In 1997, Kenny G set a world record for the longest continuously played note on a saxophone – clocking in at 45 minutes and 47 seconds. Kenny G's most recent studio album, *Brazilian Nights*, came out in 2016.

KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SERIES SCHEDULE

2016-2017 Kauffman Center Presents Events:

Remaining events on the 2016-2017 series schedule:

- Sunday, March 26 – The Oak Ridge Boys – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Thursday, May 11 – Branford Marsalis with special guest Kurt Elling – 7:30 p.m., Helzberg Hall
- Wednesday, May 24 – *George Benson and Kenny G: The Breezin' & Breathless Tour* – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Saturday, June 17 – Michael McDonald & Boz Scaggs – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre

2017-2018 Kauffman Center Presents Events:**

- Tuesday, July 18 – *Blondie & Garbage: The Rage and Rapture Tour* – 7 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Wednesday, July 26 – Mary Chapin Carpenter with special guest Sarah Jarosz – 7:30 p.m. Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Saturday, November 11 – Vienna Boys Choir – 8 p.m., Helzberg Hall

**Events announced to date. Additional performances will be announced leading up to and throughout the 2017-2018 season. Updates are available at www.kauffmancenter.org/events-tickets/kauffman-center-presents/.

ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts – a major not-for-profit center for music, opera, theater and dance designed by Moshe Safdie – opened in 2011. Serving as a cultural cornerstone for Kansas City and the region, the Kauffman Center delivers extraordinary and diverse performing arts experiences. Honored as one of the World's 15 Most Beautiful Concert Halls, the Kauffman Center attracts some of the world's most renowned performers and entertainers.

Through educational outreach programs and community enrichment, the Kauffman Center supports Kansas City as a cultural destination. More information on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is available at kauffmancenter.org.

Follow the Kauffman Center on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get details about upcoming performances and behind-the-scenes access.



#kauffmancenter