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**KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES
TWO NEW PERFORMANCES IN THE 2015-2016
KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SEASON**

*Take 6 and The Manhattan Transfer (Sept. 10, 2015) and Jay Leno (Sept. 13, 2015)
will perform in Muriel Kauffman Theatre this fall*

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts announced that combining forces for the first time, The Manhattan Transfer and Take 6 – two of the most acclaimed, award-winning groups in pop music will perform on Thursday, September 10 in Muriel Kauffman Theatre. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$89 and will go on sale Monday, May 11.

Comedian, author and former host of “The Tonight Show,” Jay Leno will perform on Sunday, September 13 in Muriel Kauffman Theatre. Opening for his performance will be the musical maverick Emily West who was recently featured on the hit show “America’s Got Talent.” Ticket prices range from \$49 to \$149 and will also go on sale Monday, May 11.

“The *Kauffman Center Presents* series features some of the greatest performers of our time from a variety of genres,” said Paul Schofer, President and CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. “It is our pleasure to welcome Jay Leno for his Kauffman Center debut and we are looking forward to the one-of-a kind collaborative performance from The Manhattan Transfer and Take 6.”

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 TAKE 6

Take 6 (Claude McKnight, Mark Kibble, Joel Kibble, Dave Thomas, Alvin Chea and Khristian Dentley), heralded by Quincy Jones as the “baddest vocal cats on the planet!” is the quintessential a cappella group and model for vocal genius. Six virtuosic voices united in crystal clear harmony, against a backdrop of syncopated rhythms, innovative arrangements and funky grooves continue to perform an intoxicating brew of gospel, jazz, R&B and pop music. With praise from such luminaries as Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Brian Wilson, Ella Fitzgerald and Whitney Houston, the multi-platinum selling sextet has toured across the globe, collaborated across genres, and is recognized as the pre-eminent a cappella group in the world. Their self-titled debut CD won over jazz and pop critics, scored two 1988 GRAMMY Awards, landed in the Top Ten Billboard Contemporary Jazz and Contemporary Christian Charts, and they’ve never slowed down.

ABOUT THE MANHATTAN TRANSFER

In 1974, The Manhattan Transfer began performing regularly throughout New York City. By the end of the year they were the number one live attraction, prompting *Newsweek* to send a writer to their show at Reno Sweeney's in Greenwich Village to report on this growing phenomenon.

The group released their self-titled debut in 1975. The second single from the album, a remake of the Friendly Brothers gospel classic "Operator," took radio stations by storm, eventually peaking in the Top 20. As "Operator" rose up the charts, the group was invited to make guest appearances on variety shows and television specials. Hollywood took notice, and the band was soon tapped to helm a weekly hour-long summer replacement comedy-variety show. *The Manhattan Transfer* show premiered on August 10, 1975, broadcast in CBS' old Ed Sullivan time slot, Sunday nights at 8:00PM.

In 1981, they became the first group ever to win GRAMMY Awards in both Pop and Jazz categories in the same year. In 1982 and 1983, the group won consecutive GRAMMY Awards in the Best Jazz Vocal Performance, Duo or Group category for "Route 66" and "Why Not!"

The critical praise and commercial success of the group's first seven studio albums could hardly have prepared them for the monumental 12 GRAMMY nominations they received in 1985 for the album *Vocalese*. Those 12 nominations made *Vocalese* the single greatest GRAMMY nominated album in one year, and cemented the group's status as one of the most important and innovative vocal groups in the history of popular music.

ABOUT JAY LENO

Acclaimed TV late night show host, admired stand-up comedian, best-selling children's book author, lovable TV and movie voice-over artist, pioneering car builder and mechanic, and philanthropist – it's no wonder that Jay Leno is widely characterized as "the hardest working man in show business."

Jay Leno's late night television ratings domination included more than two decades of "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," winning every consecutive quarter of his hosting over the past nineteen years. After resuming hosting the 11:35 pm program following its one-time interruption, he made it once again the consistent and uninterrupted ratings leader for late night.

Leno has been honored by the Television Academy with an Emmy for "Outstanding Comedy, Variety or Music Series." "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" has also taken home the trophy for "Favorite Late Night Show" in the annual TV Guide Awards determined by voting viewers, and he was recently installed in the Television Academy's Broadcast Hall of Fame.

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.

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts would like to thank our official building sponsors and Kauffman Center Presents series sponsors, Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City. We also thank our premier business member Sprint, for their generous support of our 2015–2016 season.

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



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