

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kauffman Center Presents
Black Violin Experience and
Croce Plays Croce 50th Anniversary

Black Violin Experience, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024
Croce Plays Croce 50th Anniversary, Saturday, April 13, 2024
TICKETS ON SALE Oct. 6, 2023

Kansas City, MO – Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is pleased to announce two new additions to the 2023-2024 season, *Black Violin Experience*, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. and *Croce Plays Croce 50th Anniversary*, Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Both performances will take place in the Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

Kauffman Center Presents promises to deliver extraordinary and diverse experiences featuring internationally recognized artists and performers for Kansas City audiences. High-resolution photos with IDs can be found [here](#).

President and CEO Paul Schofer has a special place in his heart for both artists. “We have welcomed Black Violin three times here at the Kauffman Center and every time, our audiences are jam-packed and having a wonderful time. It’s always such fun to hear them perform. And I am not ashamed to share that I’m of an age who can claim Jim Croce as part of my youth. To be able to share his timeless music with a new generation is exactly what the Kauffman Center is all about. We’re excited to welcome them both!”

Black Violin Experience

Feb. 7, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre

Single Ticket On-Sale Date: Oct. 6 at 10 a.m.

The *Black Violin Experience* Tour showcases the two-time Grammy nominated duo Black Violin, brought to life by Kev Marcus and Wil Baptiste, invoking a mystifying musical fusion of exquisite classical sounds and exhilarating hip-hop beats. It's a concert performance that boldly merges centuries of music and unites audiences with a message of hope and possibility. Fans can expect to be immersed in a sound that transcends categories and celebrates ingenuity and ambition, proving anything is possible.

On stage, Kev Marcus gives an electrifying violin performance along with Wil Baptiste's magnetizing viola and vocal performance. Joining them are Nat Stokes on drums, DJ SPS on the turntable and Liston Gregory on keys. Together they are reconceptualizing what a violin concert looks and sounds like as well as building bridges to a place where Mozart, Marvin Gaye and Kendrick Lamar harmoniously coexist. Black Violin invites you to think outside of the box.

Listen to *Take the Stairs* here: orcd.co/takethestairs

For more information about Black Violin visit blackviolin.net.

Black Violin will also present a matinee for school audiences on Feb. 7 at 10:30 a.m. Educators can find more information and request tickets at kauffmancenter.org/schoolmatinees.

The Black Violin Foundation Inc. (BVF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to empowering youth by working with them in their communities to provide access to quality music programs that encourage creativity. \$1 from each ticket purchased helps support the organization's long-term goal to empower youth to color outside of the lines and push the boundaries of music through innovation. For more information visit blackviolinfoundation.org.

Croce Plays Croce 50th Anniversary

April 13, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre

Single Ticket On-Sale Date: Oct. 6 at 10 a.m.

A.J. Croce performs ***Croce Plays Croce 50th Anniversary***, a special night of music featuring a complete set of classics by his late father Jim Croce, some of his own tunes, and songs that influenced both him and his father. The show features a legendary band (including drummer Gary Mallaber, bassist David Barard, guitar/violin James Pennebaker) and a moving multi-media presentation accompanying Jim Croce's songs. It was fan-demand for more and the camaraderie that A.J. felt with the audience, the players and the connection to his father's timeless music that inspired him to embark on

the 50th Anniversary tour for 2023. “The audience reaction has been so great,” says Croce. “The shows we did last year were not only met with a huge response, but I learned so much about what works and what resonates, we knew we had to keep going.”

The gifted multi-instrumentalist says besides the two albums *Life and Times* and *I Got A Name*, tracks from the popular *You Don't Mess Around With Jim* – which fueled last year's run – will also be part of the new show. “We'll be playing songs representative from all three albums, and also some songs the audience might not know from more obscure artists that I realized connected me and my father. It was those songs that eventually led me to do this show in the first place.”

For more information about *Croce Plays Croce* visit ajcrocemusic.com/croce-plays-croce.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets go on sale to the public Oct. 6, 2023, at 10 a.m. Tickets will be available through the Kauffman Center Ticket Office at 816.994.7222 or online at tickets.kauffmancenter.org.

PARKING & DOWNTOWN MAPS

Find information and maps for Kauffman Center parking and street closure updates at kauffmancenter.org/parking. The Arts District Garage is the primary parking garage for patrons. The garage is directly attached to the Kauffman Center just south of the building with multiple access points to surrounding streets. Purchasing event parking in advance is highly recommended as it often will sell out. The garage is \$13 per car in advance or \$16 upon arrival or valet is \$22 in advance or \$24 upon arrival.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Kauffman Center's promise to bring artists and audiences together is reflected in many ways, including removing barriers and providing access to our performing arts experiences for all patrons. You can learn more by visiting kauffmancenter.org/accessibility. To request services or receive additional information that would make your visit more enjoyable, please contact our ticket office at 816.994.7222 or contact@kauffmancenter.org.

STUDENT MATINEE SCHEDULE

In addition to the February 7 Black Violin student matinee, the Kauffman Center, as part of the Kauffman Center's Open Doors program, will present three **Trailblazing Talks** matinees in 2024:

- January 9, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. – Ella Al-Shamahi – Are You a Neanderthal?
- February 20, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. – Michael Davie – Documenting Our World
- May 21, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. – Sylvia Earle – Saving Our Blue Planet Together

Educators can find more information and request tickets at kauffmancenter.org/schoolmatinees.

Trailblazing Talks school matinees are supported by the Marlese and Robert Gourley Children's Fund, the Teresa and Tom Walsh Family Foundation, the John N. and Marilyn P. McConnell Foundation and PNC Bank, the Community Tickets sponsor. Schools that attend a student matinee at the Kauffman Center can apply for bus assistance through the Open Doors Transportation Fund. Learn more at kauffmancenter.org/transportation.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Receive updates by following our Facebook page at facebook.com/kauffmancenter, Instagram page at instagram.com/kauffmancenter and Twitter page at twitter.com/kauffmancenter. Watch videos at youtube.com/kauffmancenter and follow our blog at kauffmancenter.org/news.

MEDIA

Visit the Kauffman Center's online press room for media resources, multimedia library, press release archive and more: kauffmancenter.org/about/press-room.

SPONSORS

The *Kauffman Center Presents* series is made possible by the John N. and Marilyn P. McConnell Foundation, Premier Partner Saint Luke's Health System and Building Sponsor Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City.

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.

KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SCHEDULE*

The *Kauffman Center Presents* series features extraordinary and diverse artists from a variety of musical genres and performance styles. Upcoming events include:

2023-2024 Kauffman Center Presents

- Tuesday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m. – Daniel O'Donnell
- Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. – *The Foolers*, Curated by Penn & Teller
- Thursday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. – An Evening with the Late John Cleese
- Sunday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. – Gladys Knight
- Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. – Trailblazing Talks, 2% Neanderthal: Redrawing our Family Tree, Ella Al-Shamahi, Paleoanthropologist
- Saturday, Jan. 20, 2:30 p.m. – Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood LIVE: King for a Day
- Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7:30 p.m. – Black Violin Experience
- Tuesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m. – Trailblazing Talks, Documenting the Red Zone, Michael Davie, Journalist
- Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. – Trailblazing Talks, From Sandlots to Stadium: Inside America's Favorite Pastime, Jean Fruth, Sports Photographer
- Saturday, April 13, 7:30 p.m. – Croce Plays Croce 50th Anniversary
- Tuesday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. – Trailblazing Talks, The Blue Zones: Unlocking the Secrets of Longevity, David McLain, Photographer
- Tuesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m. – Trailblazing Talks, Saving Our Blue Planet, One Hope Spot at a Time, Sylvia Earle, Oceanographer

**Kauffman Center Presents* events announced to date. Additional performances will be announced throughout the 2023-2024 season.

The Kauffman Center offers more than 300 performances annually. The complete calendar of events is available at tickets.kauffmancenter.org.