



2026 FUTURE STAGES FESTIVAL

Performance Group Bios



The A-Flat Youth Orchestra

Performing at 12:30 p.m. in Helzberg Hall
aflatmusicstudio.com

The A-Flat Youth Orchestra performs in venues across the Kansas City area. The orchestra recently gave its seventh performance at the GEM Theater for the 44th annual KCBUF Kwanzaa celebration. The orchestra performed at the annual National Baptist Convention held at Bartle Hall in September 2025 and also performed for the seventh time at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts Future Stages Festival in 2025. Two students performed at the Missouri State High School Activities Association's state contest for high school students and received "1" ratings for their performance.



AileyCamp The Group

Performing at 2:30 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage
kcfaa.org

AileyCamp the Group (ACTG) was created in 1995 by Chief Artistic Officer, Tyrone Aiken, for students that complete AileyCamp and students in high school. ACTG is free for students in grades seven through twelve and take up to four dance classes per week in ballet, modern, pointe, and jazz dance. Students also participate in personal development classes and choreographic workshops.



Bellus Music Studio

Performing at 2 p.m. in Helzberg Hall
bellusmusicstudio.com

Bellus Music Studio is a Kansas City-based music studio serving piano and voice students from early childhood through adulthood. Directed by professional musician and educator Eva Peng, the studio emphasizes high-quality, engaging musical training alongside regular performance opportunities and community engagement.



The Chinese School of Greater KC

Performing at 4:30 p.m. in Helzberg Hall
kcchineseschool.org

The Chinese School of Greater Kansas City is a non-profit, educational institution that offers Mandarin Chinese language classes and cultural activities from preschool age to adults. Since 1973, the school has been meeting every Sunday afternoon, teaching students about Chinese culture. After language classes, the school also offers a variety of cultural activities, such as Taekwondo and Go Board. Their Chinese yo-yo and fusion dance classes also fall into their after-class activities, where kids learn either yo-yo tricks or traditional-style dance moves alongside others. If you are in the front few rows, please keep in mind our Chinese yo-yo performances involve high-flying tricks, so beware of the risk of any stray projectiles.



Cirque d'Laire Cascade

Performing at 12 p.m. at the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box
[Trilogy Cultural Arts](http://TrilogyCulturalArts)

Welcome to Alice in Cirque Land!

Tonight, you are entering a world where imagination rises, stories take flight, and creativity knows no limits. This is the spirit of Trilogy Cultural Arts Centre.

Located in Olathe, Trilogy is home to a dynamic School of Theatre, Dance, Cirque/Aerial Arts, Voice, and Musical Theatre. Each year, Trilogy proudly produces six to eight Broadway-style productions, giving our students professional-level performance opportunities in a nurturing and excellence-driven environment.

Our cirque and aerial arts program adds a breathtaking layer to storytelling, combining strength, grace, and courage. Our theatre and musical productions cultivate confident performers who understand teamwork, discipline, and the joy of creative collaboration.



Crescendo Conservatory

Performing at 3:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre
crescendokc.com

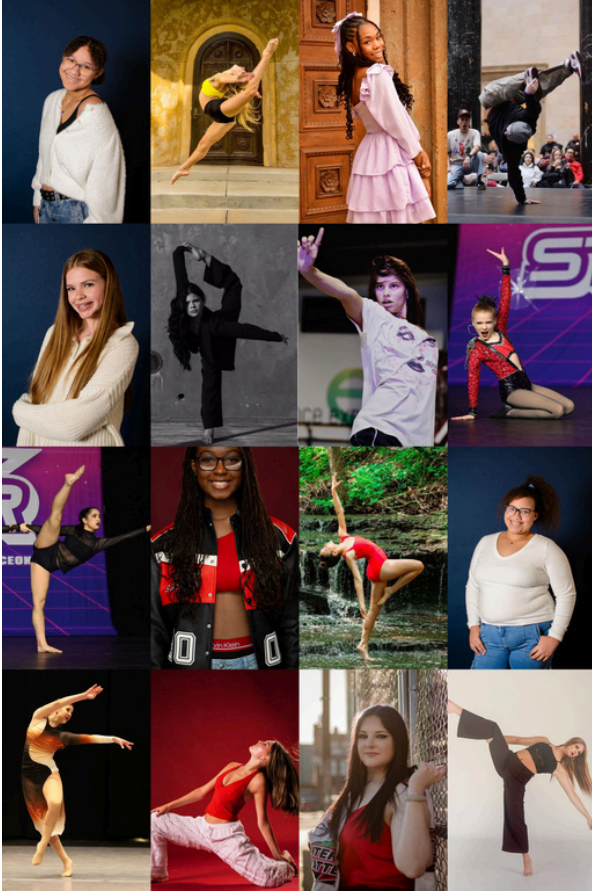
Crescendo Conservatory, a ballet conservatory located in Olathe Kansas, is a non-competition studio that focuses on dance as a performing art. Crescendo Conservatory offers professional, creative dance instruction in ballet, pointe, contemporary, jazz, and progressive ballet technique. All aspects of dance education at Crescendo Conservatory are age appropriate from costumes to music and choreography. Dancers at Crescendo share their love of dance by performing throughout the Kansas City area.



Dance Electric Performance Troupe

Performing at 1 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage
limelightapa.com

Limelight Academy of Performing Arts Presents the Dance Electric Performing Troupe! D.E.P.T. members perform around the KC Metro at sporting and civic events and enjoy giving back to our community through performing at nursing homes. Students also participate in local competitions, earning high score awards and special judges awards. Limelight offers classes in ballet, tap, jazz, acrobatics, musical theatre, and voice at both the recreational and competitive level. In addition to our performance troupe, Limelight also offers a Professionally Trained Student Program which prepares students for a career in the arts.



Dancers of Kansas City

Performing at 3:30 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage

Sydney Jackson, the choreographer for this piece, is a dancer and choreographer in Kansas City, who has been dancing for 15 years and teaching for the last 5. She began as a competitive dancer before moving into professional work in music videos, commercials, and teaching at several studios.

For this performance, she has brought together talented dancers from studios and companies throughout the city, including Ipush The Community, Red Kingdom Crew, Monarch Conservatory, and more. Many are competitive dancers who have performed at major community events here in Kansas City.

This piece highlights their skill, artistry, and passion, bringing together different parts of the Kansas City dance community for one powerful performance.



Fourth Horizon Jazz Ensemble

Performing at 3:30 p.m.
at the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box

Fourth Horizon jazz ensemble was formed when four Indian Woods middle school jazz band members wanted to jam outside of class. Isaac Datu, piano, JJ Gustafson, alto sax, Henry Hipp, bass and Liam Krueger, drums, met after the bell in their school's band room and played. Under the direction of their teacher Megan Hoelscher, soon they were gigging all over town.

Datu has been playing piano for five years, Gustafson has been playing alto sax for four years, Henry Hipp has been playing bass for two years and Liam Krueger started playing drums at the age of 8 in line with his older sibling's love of jazz.



Good Storey

Performing at 12:30 p.m.
at the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box

Good Storey is a new alternative band formed in 2024. They all share a love for classic rock. Featuring Ira Good on drums, his brother Arlo on bass and Alex Storey on guitar. They strive to embrace the classic rock sound with a contemporary approach.

They have experience playing live, recording music and are eager to perform and write more. They have been working to develop a distinctive sound and are excited to share their music. All band members grew up in Kansas City and love to explore the fine arts. Arlo and Ira are twin brothers who met Alex through KCYA's garage band program. They believe in collaboration and creativity. Their chemistry helps them create interesting music with a spark of emotion and drive. Good Storey work to be recognized and hope they can inspire others like the greats before them.

Greenleaf Performing Arts Academy

Performing at 3 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage
greenleafstudio.org



Greenleaf Performing Arts Academy was established in 1999, and provides quality classical training in dance, voice, choir, piano, and theater for students of all ages. Greenleaf's mission is to be a place to grow. Whether you are a seasoned performer or just beginning your journey, Greenleaf is an encouraging space for artists to cultivate their gifts and talents. Greenleaf is now enrolling for summer camps and classes! Join the fun at greenleafstudio.org.

Grupo Folklórico Alma Tapatía

Performing at 1:30 p.m. at the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box
gfalmatapatia.com



Grupo Folklórico Alma Tapatía is a passionate dance group dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of México. With a focus on community and culture, each performance is a celebration of the unique regional styles and cultural traditions that have shaped Mexican folklore over time. Alma Tapatia fills the stage with color and life inviting the audience to share in the fiesta.



Gurukul Dance Company

Performing at 12 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre
facebook.com/GurukulDanceCompany

Gurukul Dance Company is a well established East Indian classical dance studio and has been an active part of the KC cultural life. Gurukul performs annually at the Nelson Atkins Museum, India Association of KC, Kauffman Centre Future Stages (since 2020) and other regional organizations. In 2025 Gurukul launched its own dance festival, the Kuchipudi Mahotsav, that will feature internationally acclaimed East Indian dancers along with senior Gurukul students. In 2026, Gurukul will also participate in a youth outreach program at the Yardley Hall at JCCC. Gurukul has also been approached to present a cultural segment during one of the FIFA matches to be held in KC in 2026.



Harmony Project KC

Performing at 1 p.m. in Helzberg Hall
necc-kc.org

Harmony Project KC's Concert Band is an intermediate ensemble featuring our school-aged band students. The ensemble regularly performs at community events and high-profile venues, providing students with invaluable artistic and educational experiences. Through its flagship program, Harmony Project KC, students ages six - 18 receive free instruments, music education and wraparound support.



Heart of America Youth Ballet

Performing at 4 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre
khadc.biz/heart-of-america-youth-ballet

HAYB has maintained its goal of receiving non-profit status through years of community service characterized by dance education, free seminars, and charitable donations. The Company has made a commitment to provide affordable, quality, local ballet to the community. Additionally, the youth ballet has become a regular attraction at the historic Folly Theater in downtown Kansas City. They have produced traditional ballets such as, The Nutcracker, Coppelia, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, along with their original ballets, Alice In Wonderland, Little Mermaid, The Wizard of Oz, and "Snow Queen" a reimagined Frozen Ballet.



HK Chinese Folk Dance Group

Performing at 4:30 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage
kccaks.org

KCCA, the Kansas City Chinese Association, former knowing as KCCNA, Kansas City Chinese Network Association, is a non-profit, non-political, non-religious organization whose purpose is to promote socialization, improve benefits, develop common interests, and to satisfy the needs of Kansan City area's Chinese-American community.

By organizing and providing various Chinese programs such as drum show, folk dance, lion dance, martial arts, traditional instrument performance and so on, KCCA is increasing cultural awareness and celebrating a storied heritage along the way.



ICE Studios School of Dance

Performing at 1:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre
icestudiosdance.org

ICE Studios Dance Team is a Kansas City based youth performance and competition team dedicated to developing confident, disciplined, and expressive dancers through high-quality dance education and live performance experiences. Based in the Kansas City metro area, ICE Studios serves dancers of diverse backgrounds, providing structured training in technique, performance quality, teamwork and professionalism.



Island Style Productions

Performing at 1:30 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage

We are Island Style Productions, a Kansas City based Polynesian dance group that has performed in over 75 events in 2025. We feature all forms of Pacific Island dance, including Hula, Ori Tahiti, Samoan fire knife and much more.



Kansas City Aerial Arts

Performing at 3 p.m. at the
Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box
kansascityaerialarts.com

The Kansas City Aerial Arts Training Company is a performance ensemble rooted in strong technique, collaborative choreography, and confident stage presence. Our work blends athleticism and artistry across aerial and circus disciplines, presented in polished pieces designed for a wide, family-friendly audience. For Future Stages Festival, the Training Company is excited to present Momentum.



The Kansas City Boys Choir and Kansas City Girls Choir

Performing at 4 p.m. in Helzberg Hall
kcbcg.org

The Kansas City Boys Choir and Kansas City Girls Choirs (KCBGCGC) is a non-profit corporation; the Boys Choir was founded in 1995, while the Girls Choir was founded in 2006 by musician and Kansas City recording artist, Ah'Lee Robinson. For over 30 years, the Kansas City Boys and Kansas City Girls Choir's purpose is to teach urban youth and engage young men and women to build self-esteem through the power of music education and performance, music and art therapy, social skills, mental health advocacy, and youth leadership.



Kansas City Institute of Chinese Language and Culture

Performing at 12:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre
kcschool.org/home/author/kcschoolorg/

Founded in 1998, the Kansas City KCICLC Chinese School is the largest of its kind in the region. It offers 16 Chinese language classes and cultural enrichment programs, including traditional Chinese dance. Its dance team, active in the community, delivers captivating performances that enrich Kansas City's cultural landscape.



Kansas City Horn Club Youth Ensemble

Performing at 3:30 p.m. in Helzberg Hall
kchorclub.org

The Kansas City Horn Club Youth Ensemble regularly performs alongside the Kansas City Horn Club at our Spring and Holiday concerts. They also participate in community events, including performing the National Anthem at Monarchs and Royals games, the Holiday Harmony event at the Kansas City Zoo, and the 2024 and 2025 Future Stages Festival.



Kansas City Suzuki Academy

Performing at 12 p.m. in Helzberg Hall
kcsuzukiacademy.com

Inspired by the philosophy and humanism of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, the Kansas City Suzuki Academy is a growing community of parents, students, and teachers dedicated to nurturing young people through the study of music. Since its founding in 2015, the KCSA has enjoyed a reputation for excellence and sharing the gift of music throughout the region. Our program engages students by working with them twice a week, once for a weekly private lesson and once for a Suzuki group lesson or ensemble course. In private lessons, we hone in on developing a beautiful tone and sensitivity to music, and in group lessons our students draw on each other as a source of motivation while developing musical ensemble and listening skills.

KC Bhangra

Performing at 4 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage
facebook.com/kcbhangra

Folk dance academy based in the Kansas City Metro area; with adults and kids classes happening in Olathe every Sunday.



KC BHANGRA



KC Youth Percussion Ensemble

Performing at 3 p.m. in Helzberg Hall
kcype.org

KCYPE performs two full length subscription concerts every year at our home base at Atonement Lutheran Church. We also have been honored to perform as a guest ensemble with the Crossroads Wind Symphony, and have guest appearances at the KS Music Educators Association conference. KCYPE has also been invited to perform at the KC Public Library Central location. KCYPE also does touring to local middle schools to showcase what can be done with a little amount of concentrated practice time.



KCK Diamond Dolls

Performing at 3 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre
facebook.com/kckdiamond.doll

Founded in 2016, the KCK Diamond Dolls began as a halftime and community performance group affiliated with the KC Soul Basketball program, performing at games and local events while establishing their signature colors of red, black, and silver. Built on the mission of providing affordable, high-quality dance training to youth in the Kansas City, Kansas community, the organization offers instruction in majorette, hip-hop, jazz, contemporary, and performance production styles.

More than a dance organization, the KCK Diamond Dolls represent a lifelong sisterhood and leadership program committed to education, character development, and community impact. Guided by the belief that every dancer is "Built to Shine," the organization pledges to prioritize education, promote leadership, encourage self-confidence, and inspire youth to love, respect, and believe in themselves and others because every dancer "IS SOMEBODY."



Lawrence Arts Center Irish Dancers

Performing at 2 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage
lawrenceartscenter.org

The Lawrence Arts Center Irish Dancers hope to inspire you to stay active and connected with your community and heritage. LAC's mission is to cultivate artistry, excellence, and healthy communities through dance training, performance, and community engagement.

Learn more at lawrenceartscenter.org



Lyric Singers of St. Joseph Youth Chorale

Performing at 1:30 p.m. in Helzberg Hall
sjycsings.org

Lyric Singers is the advanced performing group of St. Joseph Youth Chorale also known as SJYC. Founded in 2012, SJYC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit educational charity dedicated to the promotion of advanced choral music education experiences for exceptional singers in grades two - 12.



Priscilla & Dana's Tap Dance Company

Performing at 1 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre
priscillaanddanas.net

These talented dancers come from all around the Kansas City metro area, gathering week after week to train, grow, and keep this uniquely American art form alive and well right here in Kansas City. Their dedication has led them to incredible opportunities, including recently performing live alongside Emmy Award-winning dancer Derek Hough and Kansas City jazz legend Lonnie McFadden — experiences that have inspired them to dream even bigger.



Pythons Drill Team

Performing the festival finale 4:50 p.m.
at the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box
pythonsdrillteam.com

Founded in 1986, the Pythons Drill Team is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth in Kansas City through music, dance, discipline, and performance arts. Celebrating 40 years, the Pythons have provided a safe, structured environment where young people develop leadership skills, confidence, teamwork, and pride in their community. Through precision drill, majorette, and musical performance, the Pythons Drill Team mentors hundreds of youth annually, teaching not only performance excellence but also social awareness, responsibility, and character development.



Refine the Studio

Performing at 4:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre
refinestudio.com

While many styles of dance are provided at Refine, our more specialized classes focus in depth on the individual growth of a dancer and their needs to succeed in all outlets and opportunities. We push each dancer to become the best version of themselves while influencing growth in their passion, skill & artistry.



Step Movement

Performing at 12 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage
stepmovement.com

Step Movement is a Kansas City based youth step organization serving students in grades K through 12. As the only non school affiliated community step team for girls ages 8 to 18 in the state of Missouri, Step Movement creates a space where young leaders grow in confidence, discipline, and cultural pride through the art of stepping.

Rooted in the rich tradition of Black Greek stepping, the organization blends rhythm, precision, teamwork, and storytelling to create powerful performances that reflect both heritage and innovation.



Storybook Theatre

Performing at 2:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre
storybooktheatrekc.com

Storybook Theatre, now in its twenty-third year, provides theater arts education for students of all ages in the Kansas City metro area. With more than twenty theatrical productions to participate in each calendar year, students have no shortage of opportunities to find themselves in the spotlight. Storybook puts a strong focus on learning by DOING, which means empowering youth as young as 4 years old to perform onstage in front of a live audience. The whole team at Storybook is honored beyond measure to have been part of the Kauffman Center Future Stages Festival in the past and hopes to continue the tradition for many years to come!



Voler Aerial Academy Youth

Performing at 4 p.m. at the
Kansas City's Symphony Mobile Music Box
Thievesofflight.com

Voler - Thieves of Flight, Kansas City's Premier Aerial Academy, is an edgy and experimental collaboration of aerial dance and acrobatics, comprised of performing artists from the Kansas City area. With over 17 years experience, we have set the bar high with our award winning teaching, notable performance style, innovative curriculum, and supportive community. We feature performances and training in aerial silks, straps, hammock, lyra (hoop), static trapeze, hand balancing, acro yoga, aerial yoga, flexibility, modern dance, contemporary dance, ambient characters, and theatrical development. Jade Ransom & Emily Garnett head the youth program at Voler, and together they have over 30 years combined experience teaching aerial, dance, Pilates, and many other forms of dance & movement. At Voler we have a passion for helping mentor future generations of circus performers, and we are excited to offer not only classes, but performance opportunities to our budding aerialists.