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Executive Director

Michael Stern,
Music Director

Charles Bruffy,
Chorus Director

Steven Jarvi,
Associate Conductor



Kansas City Symphony

A resident company of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, the Kansas City Symphony performs in Helzberg Hall.

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Founded in 1982 by businessman and philanthropist R. Crosby Kemper, Jr., the Kansas City Symphony is the region's only full-time professional orchestra and is a major force in the cultural life of the community. Under the artistic leadership of Music Director Michael Stern, the Symphony's eighty full-time musicians perform more than 50 concerts each year, and also serve as the orchestra for Kansas City Ballet and Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Praised for providing performances of uncompromising standard, the ensemble often welcomes guest artists of international acclaim as part of their classical and pops subscriptions series. Past soloists have included luminaries such as Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Emanuel Ax, Chris Botti, Neil Sedaka, and Marvin Hamlisch. Committed to the presentation of music of our time, the Symphony has commissioned several of today's leading composers, with recent world premieres including Avner Dorman's piano concerto *Lost Souls*; a flute concerto by Luca Lombardi; and Adam Schoenberg's *American Symphony*. Recent U.S. premieres include Menachem Wiesenberg's *Reflections* and Avner Dorman's percussion concerto *Frozen in Time*. In addition to its performances in Kansas City, the Symphony tours throughout the Midwest.

Complementing its full schedule of concerts, the Symphony strives to enrich the lives of Kansas City residents by providing music education opportunities for children and adults. Highlights each season include a range of free master classes, events, and concerts reaching over 100,000 community members each year—including the annual Bank of America "Celebration at the Station" concert, performed at Union Station on Memorial Day weekend and "Symphony in the Flint Hills," featuring classical works performed against the breathtaking backdrop of the Flint Hills of Kansas. Through its education department, the musicians of the orchestra engage more than 25,000 people annually through a variety of initiatives, including "KinderKonzerts" and "Young People's Concerts" which feature interactive concerts for elementary and middle school students, complete with curriculum guides and other tools for teachers. Also popular is the Symphony's Instrument Petting Zoo, which travels to elementary school classrooms throughout the region and gives students the opportunity for hands-on exploration of instruments.

Under Michael Stern's baton since 2005, the Symphony has achieved unprecedented growth and acclaim, releasing two recordings on the Reference Recording label—the Grammy®-nominated *Britten's Orchestra* in 2009 and *Shakespeare's Tempest* in 2008—as well as recordings on the Naxos label. The Symphony has also been featured on two nationally broadcast PBS specials and on National Public Radio's *SymphonyCast* series. They can be heard locally each week on KCUR-FM, Kansas City's NPR affiliate.

More information on the Kansas City Symphony is available at www.kcsymphony.org.

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