Future Stages Festival 2022
Performance Group Bios

Helzberg Hall Performers

11:00 AM – MSACP Orchestra

**MSA Crescendo Project Orchestra** (MSACP) seeks to build confidence, creativity and musicianship through unique repertoire selection and smaller class sizes that allow more solo and section leadership opportunities. Director Natasha Kwapich actively involves interested students in repertoire selection and creative planning as well as provides an outlet for student composers. Concert themes range from Flamenco to film scores and are often at unique performance venues such as the Union Station Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. With a variety of class levels for ages 7 through adult, the MSACP is an orchestra for everyone!

[msaorchestras.com](http://msaorchestras.com)

11:30 AM - Camerata Orchestra - Harmony Project KC

**Harmony Project KC**, the flagship program of the Northeast Community Center, harnesses the transformative power of music to increase access to higher education for students. By removing systemic barriers to achievement through academic and social support, music can be the vehicle to growing a stronger community. Harmony Project KC’s vision is that in a neighborhood with 25+ languages spoken and cultural diversity, music is the universal language. [necc-kc.org](http://necc-kc.org)

12:00 PM - A-Flat Youth Orchestra

The **A-Flat Youth Orchestra** was founded by Darryl Chamberlain as an avenue for youth who want to play a musical instrument but don’t have the opportunity through their public school. The A-Flat Youth Orchestra is open to any youth in the Kansas City Area who would like to study instrumental music. The teaching staff of A-Flat Music Studio Inc. provides education which adheres to guidelines set by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. A-Flat Youth Orchestra has been featured on the NBC Today Show’s Feel-Good Friday series and numerous media outlets across the Kansas City area. [aflatmusicstudio.com](http://aflatmusicstudio.com)
12:30 PM - KC Youth Percussion Ensemble

The Kansas City Youth Percussion Ensemble (KCYPE) is made up of several performing groups, including large ensembles, small chamber ensembles and mallet percussion orchestras. The ensemble features a wide variety of percussion literature composed and/or arranged specifically for percussion instruments. Groups are available for middle school students, high school students and young professionals. At KCYPE, students come together from across the KC Metro region from Smithville, MO to Edgerton, KS. With internationally recognized faculty, KCYPE provides unparalleled experiences and performances. [kcype.org](http://kcype.org)

1:00 PM – Chinese School of Greater Kansas City

The Chinese School of Greater Kansas City strives for their students to be educated on the beauty and importance of Chinese culture through language classes and cultural activities including Yo-Yo and Folk Dance. Performers from the school have showcased their talents at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, StarTalk Summer Camp, Ethnic Festival and other organizations and schools in the Kansas City metro area. [kcchineseschool.org](http://kcchineseschool.org)

1:30 PM – Priscilla & Dana’s Tap Dance Company

Young dancers from across the metro area come together in North Kansas City to study the art of tap dancing at Priscilla & Dana’s. These dancers learn performance skills, musicality, tap technique, improvisation and tap history under the direction of Teri Day. These young people are active in the community, not only as entertainers, but also as volunteers involved in service projects for organizations such as Bishop Sullivan Center, Synergy, NAWS and the National Brain Tumor Society. Priscilla & Dana’s provides a well-rounded dance education while teaching essential life skills. The qualified staff loves spreading the joy of dance in a safe and loving environment. [priscillaanddanas.net](http://priscillaanddanas.net)

2:00 PM – Lyric Singers of St. Joseph Youth Chorale

Lyric Singers is the advanced performing group of St. Joseph Youth Chorale (SJYC). Founded in 2012, SJYC is a 501c3 non-profit educational charity dedicated to the promotion of advanced choral music education experiences for exceptional singers in St. Joseph and the surrounding communities. Comprised of members from public, parochial, private and home schools, Lyric Singers is made up of youth grades 6 - 12 who seek to expand their choral skills and performance opportunities. The group provides challenging literature including sacred, secular,
classical, folk and contemporary songs in as many as six parts, sung in foreign languages including Latin, Italian, German, French and Spanish. Lyric Singers performs in and around the St. Joseph area at the request of businesses, events and organizations, such as the St. Joseph Allied Arts, with additional performances at area nursing homes. Membership for the group is by audition and scholarships are available for those who qualify. Karen Heyde-Lipanovich, Co-Founder and Artistic Director, serves as Director of Lyric Singers with Lori West Reents, accompanist. sjycsings.org

2:30 PM – The Kansas City Boys Choir and The Kansas City Girls Choir

Formed in 1996, The Kansas City Boys Choir (KCBC) and The Kansas City Girls Choir (KCGC), was founded by visionary Ah’Lee Robinson for the purpose of developing and enhancing the minds of youth through classical choir traditions. While choristers are engaged in performances using dramatizations, as well as traditional-sacred-contemporary music, KCBC and KCGC have extended their techniques to include cultural dance, American Sign and other forms of artistic communication and expression. Under the direction of Executive Director Mia Ramsey, choristers learn presentation and communication skills, job preparation and readiness. Members have access to educational tutoring and volunteer opportunities as well as music and art therapy. Youth ranging from ages 8 to 19, can meet individually or in groups with licensed clinicians and facilitators, as well as artistic consultants. Today, KCBC and KCGC continues the mission started in 1996 to stay community-minded, culturally aware and to make change that echoes throughout the world we live in. WE ARE MORE THAN MUSIC. kbcgc.org

3:00 PM – The Young MAIsterSingers

The Young MAIsterSingers of Music/Arts Institute, Millicent A. Daugherty Community School of the Arts is a professional children’s choir of students ranging from grades 3 - 10. The choir, headquartered in Independence, MO, performs a variety of classical and modern repertoire, encouraging the development of many styles of music. Faculty fosters many life skills including self-discipline, inquisitiveness, a desire to improve and the tools necessary to make informed decisions through the advanced study of music.

musicartsinstitute.org
11:00 AM - KCYA Community School of the Arts Dancers

Kansas City Young Audiences (KCYA) believes that every child deserves the transformational spark the arts ignite. Established as a non-profit agency in 1961, by a group of dedicated volunteers, KCYA’s mission is to engage all youth in the arts, promote creativity and inspire success in education. Participation in the arts helps students discover new ways of viewing the world and expressing themselves. KCYA Community School of the Arts Dancers represent hundreds of children who participate in dance, music, theatre and visual arts classes and camps at the creative space in midtown Kansas City. kcy.org

11:30 AM - Bharathanatyam from Chilanka School of Dance

Krishnapriya Pramod is the Artistic director of Chilanka School of Dance in Kansas. She has trained in Bharatanatyam and Mohiniyattam under highly respected Gurus and has graduated from NrityaSri School of Dance in India. Bharatanatyam is a classical Indian dance form that has been in practice for thousands of years. The dance form places equal emphasis on different aspects that comprise a dance, namely Bhava (expression), Raga (melody) and Tala (rhythm). Bharatanatyam is always accompanied by Carnatic vocal music and instrumental music like mridangam, nadaswaram, flute, violin and veena. chilankakc.com

12:00 PM - Kathak Aura

Kathak Aura promotes and preserves Kathak, a classical dance from North India, in a traditional setting. Students learn and understand the nuances of the art form via storytelling, intricate footwork and elaborate pirouettes. Kathak Aura brings rich, cultural diversity for those over 6 to Kansas City. Follow on Facebook @KathakAura.
12:30 PM - Jasmine Dance Group

Jasmine Dance Group is a Kansas City non-profit organization founded in 2008 with a mission to share Chinese culture through dance performances and build friendships through community service. The group’s name is derived from the Jasmine flower which symbolizes femininity in Chinese culture, and in particular, gratitude, beauty and kindness. Jasmine Dance Group dancers express grace, beauty and elegance through eye-catching performances and service to the community through its youth program Giving Heart. This program organizes monthly dance performances at several senior homes and fundraises for various humanitarian causes. Over the years, Jasmine has grown to over 60 youth and adult members and is a regular performer at cultural events across the Kansas City metropolitan area. jasminedance.org

1:00 PM - Los Bailadores de Kansas City

Los Bailadores de Kansas City started in 1988 to teach Hispanic culture through regional dances, beautiful costumes and festive dance music. The group has performed at various events in the Kansas City community including Mayor Quinton Lucas' Tree Lighting Ceremony at City Hall. The group often performs Jalisco, one of the most popular dances in Mexico, that is known for its Mariachi music accompaniment. Follow on Instagram @LosBailadoresdeKansasCity.

1:30 PM - AileyCamp The Group

AileyCamp The Group was founded in 1997 to support arts education opportunities for students completing AileyCamp. The program has a long-term record of measurable success as an innovative summer and after-school hours youth violence prevention program. Students participate in dance classes, workshops and forums about wellness and civic engagement as well as attend performances and cultural events. AileyCamp The Group students also volunteer with Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey. kcfaa.org

2:00 PM - O’Riada Manning Academy of Irish Dance

O’Riada Manning Academy of Irish Dance (OM), the originally certified Kansas City Irish dance academy, has offered a wide range of classes for both children and adults of all levels and backgrounds for over 30 years in Kansas City. OM is known for producing well-rounded competitors and performers of both traditional and modern Irish dance techniques. Over the years, dancers have performed at a wide variety of events including at a Kansas City Monarch’s baseball game. omirishdance.com
2:30 PM - Kansas City Institute of Chinese Language and Culture Dance Team

Kansas City Institute of Chinese Language and Culture Dance Team has a history of actively participating in various community activities all year around. Performing in nursing homes, the Chinese spring festival celebration, the mid-America Asian Association’s event in April and the Dragon boat festival are just a few ways the group is involved in the community. The dance team’s most recent performance happened at MidAmerica Nazarene University in celebration of the 2022 Chinese New Year. kcschools.org

3:00 PM - Crescendo in Motion

Crescendo Conservatory is a non-competitive ballet conservatory in Olathe, KS. Crescendo Conservatory is inspired by and celebrates artistry in all its forms. Before the pandemic, the ballet company, Crescendo in Motion, would perform in city-wide collaborative art events. During the pandemic, Crescendo shared their love of dance via digital platforms. Their ballet "Black Swan", which was released March 2021, currently has over 402,000 views on YouTube. This past December the company returned to live performances of the Nutcracker Tea party in partnership with the Arts and Recreation Foundation of Overland Park. Crescendo Conservatory strives to preserve the beauty of dance as a performing art and offer a safe place where students can socialize, dance and grow as young artists. crescendokc.com
**Saint Luke’s Outdoor Stage Performers**

**11:00 AM - 5 Star Jazz Band**

5 Star Jazz Band is an all-volunteer, educational nonprofit dedicated to keeping Kansas City’s music legacy alive in Big Band, Swing and Jazz. Membership in 5 Star Jazz Band is for student musicians ages 12 - 21 who are eager to advance their musicianship and perform at some of the most exciting venues in Kansas City and beyond. Over the years, 5 Star Jazz Band has logged over 800 performances at community, civic and charitable organizations, corporate functions and private parties while encouraging students to grow as musicians, Big Band team members and as leaders. Members receive advanced performance-based training (instrumental and vocal) in a 30-piece Big Band and an 8-piece combo. [fivestarjazzband.com](http://fivestarjazzband.com)

**11:30 AM - St. Joseph Arts Academy**

The St. Joseph Arts Academy supports advancing musicians from over 200 families across northwest Missouri. Academy students study their chosen instrument and perform year-round in multiple styles under the guidance and encouragement of more than 20 master coaches. The Academy’s mission is to foster the love of playing music and the learning process as well as reap the benefits of music for students, families and the entire community. Students of all ages can perform in regular monthly recitals, special concerts and summer music festivals. Our motto is... Music Accomplished! [stjosepsartsacademy.com](http://stjosepsartsacademy.com)

**12:00 PM - Starlight Stars**

The Starlight Stars program is structured to develop and hone the skills of high school performers. Since 2003, this educational program has prepared company members to pursue arts careers, with alumni performing across the country and abroad. Selected students strengthen their resumes, cultivate skills, network with industry professionals, gain experience in a variety of performance styles and become part of the Starlight community. [kcstarlight.com](http://kcstarlight.com)
12:30 PM - IGNITE Youth Contemporary Dance Group

IGNITE is a new contemporary dance performance group based in Kansas City for students ages 8-18. Dancers of all backgrounds, whether independently or studio trained, can audition for IGNITE. This group gives youth in Kansas City the opportunity to unite through performance and training in contemporary dance without the pressures of competition. Follow on Facebook @ignitedancekc.

1:00 PM - Refine The Studio

Specialized classes at Refine The Studio focus in depth on the individual growth of a dancer and their success in all outlets, no matter where their dreams may take them. Each dancer is pushed to become the best version of themselves while influencing growth in their passion, skill and artistry. Many styles of dance are offered at Refine including acrobatics, hip hop, ballet and more for ages 2-18. refinethestudio.com

1:30 PM - Ovation from The Culture House

Ovation from The Culture House has been performing in many venues in the Kansas City area for the last two years. The group is comprised of middle school and high school students currently enrolled in The Culture House’s school of theatre and school of dance. Ovation is scheduled to perform at Boo at the Zoo, the Kansas City Plaza Lighting Ceremony, Union Station and more in addition to shows at their venue at Oak Park mall. culturehouse.com

2:00 PM - First Act Dance Company

The First Act Dance Company is a select group of dancers who represent the First Act Theatre Arts Dance Studio out in the community and at specialized dance performances. First Act Theatre Arts is a Kansas City-area nonprofit organization that encourages excellence in the theatrical arts, fostering character and community building through training, performance and fellowship in a faith-based environment. Students audition for the group during the fall semester, rehearse in the winter and begin performances during the spring semester. firstactkc.org
2:30 PM - Storybook Theatre

Storybook Theatre is a youth performing arts organization serving the Kansas City metro area. Throughout their more than 16-year history, Storybook has been helping students find ways to tell their stories and experiences through performance. Originally created as a homeschool enrichment program, unprecedented growth has turned Storybook into a full-time studio operation. The goal of the program is to create a spirit of community and a place to belong, while presenting quality productions with small cast sizes that allow each cast member a speaking role in every show. Classes and camps are offered year-round at Storybook’s brick and mortar location that is central to the metro area in Kansas City. [storybooktheatrekc.com](http://storybooktheatrekc.com)

3:00 PM - Lawrence Arts Center Irish Dancers

Lawrence Arts Center has been offering non-competitive Irish Dance classes since 2015 to bring Irish culture and entertainment to the local community. Our mission is to cultivate artistry, excellence and healthy communities through dance training, performance and community engagement. Classes are offered for beginners through advanced elementary aged students in addition to adult classes. [lawrenceartscenter.org](http://lawrenceartscenter.org)
11:00 AM - The Last Carnival

The Last Carnival acrobats are a Lawrence, KS based circus troupe specializing in high danger acts with feats of strength, flexibility and flight that wow audiences of all ages. The first and only circus arts school in Lawrence, KS, The Last Carnival is devoted to performing arts, aerial dance, acrobatics and whole-body fitness training for people of all ages. sihkaanndestroy.com

11:30 AM and 2:30 PM - Kauffman Center
Artful Poetry Youth Winners

Artful Poetry, part of the Kauffman Center’s Open Doors Spotlight on Youth initiatives, focused on the art of the written word. Over 200 submissions from the Kansas City metro and beyond were received from writers between the ages of six and 84 in 2021. Each entry was based on one of three prompts. Poets could write a poem to their future self, convey what community means to them or study a work of art and wax poetic using only one of the five senses. Artful Poetry youth winners, Victoria Rollins (first place), Lauren Kopitas (second place) and Elwyn Patterson (third place), will recite their winning poems as well as additional works.

12:30 PM - St. Joseph Arts Showcase

The St. Joseph Arts Academy supports advancing musicians from over 200 families across northwest Missouri. Academy students study their chosen instrument and perform year-round in multiple styles under the guidance and encouragement of more than 20 master coaches. The Academy’s mission is to foster the love of playing music and the learning process as well as reap the benefits of music for students, families and the entire community. Students of all ages can perform in regular monthly recitals, special concerts and summer music festivals. Our motto is... Music Accomplished! stjosepsartsacademy.com
1:00 PM - Creative Emajinations FreeStyle Dancers

Creative Emajinations is a nonprofit organization that provides performance, art, music and dance services and opportunities to the underserved, regardless of financial circumstances. The organization promotes performers and groups of over 35 performers ages three to 17 skilled in hip hop, majorette, jazz and freestyle dance choreography. Every youth at Creative Emajinations can explore their imagination without limitations in a supportive and safe environment. ce816kids.org

1:30 PM and 2:00 PM - Rebel Song Academy by Art as Mentorship

Rebel Song Academy is a three-month music education program that focuses on songwriting as a vehicle for self-expression. Throughout the program, students will learn from world-class artists, producers and engineers about writing, recording and performing original works. Art as Mentorship was founded in 2017 by Enrique Chi of Latin Grammy-nominated, Kansas City-based band Making Movies. What began a decade ago as an after-school music program for an underserved community has grown into an organized network of international performing artists committed to guiding the next generation through music. artasmentorship.org

3:00 PM - Kansas City Aerial Arts

The Training Company for Kansas City Aerial Arts performs regularly around Kansas City at local events such as Puppets A Glo, Sunset Musicfest, Jazzoo, First Fridays, Third Fridays, KC Fringe Festival and many more. A feature length theatrical production is produced annually at City Stage in Union Station. Students of any background and current physical abilities are invited to learn circus skills in trapeze, aerial hoop (lyra), aerial silks and more. kansascityaerialarts.com