



## Kansas City Symphony

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

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 80 full-time musicians perform a wide variety of subscription, educational, touring and outreach concerts during the ensemble's 42-week season. In addition, the Kansas City Symphony performs with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City and the Kansas City Ballet. 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.

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 more than 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 30,000 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 six recordings on the Reference Recordings label. The Symphony has also been featured on three 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.

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Updated April 24, 2019

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