



# KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

## **OUR HISTORY**

Founded by R. Crosby Kemper, Jr., in 1982, the Kansas City Symphony has established itself as a major force in the cultural life of the community. Praised for performances of uncompromising standard, the orchestra is the largest in the region and enjoys a national reputation under the artistic leadership of Music Director Michael Stern.

The Kansas City Symphony also experienced impressive artistic growth through its history and under the batons of Russell Patterson (1982-1986), William McGlaughlin (1986-1997) and Anne Manson (1998-2003). Jason Seber, David T. Beals III Associate Conductor, conducts the Family, Pops and Classics Uncorked concerts. Charles Bruffy is the chorus director.

The Kansas City Symphony serves a metropolitan population of 2.1 million people. The orchestra's 80 full-time musicians are area residents and vital contributors to the artistic life of Kansas City. During its 42-week season, the Symphony performs a wide variety of subscription, educational, touring and outreach concerts. In addition, the Kansas City Symphony performs with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City and the Kansas City Ballet.

## **AWARD-WINNING LEADERSHIP**

The Kansas City Symphony is governed by a Board of Directors under the leadership of Board Chair William M. Lyons and is administered by a full-time professional staff led by Executive Director Frank Byrne. In addition, the Kansas City Symphony benefits from the dedicated efforts of its volunteer associations.

The Symphony's four auxiliaries, with total membership of nearly 700, raise more than \$1 million annually, making them some of the most successful orchestra volunteer forces in the nation.

## **FINANCIAL STRENGTH**

The Kansas City Symphony has demonstrated a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility. From a budget of \$1.5 million in its first season, the Symphony's annual operating budget has grown to more than \$16 million. More than 1,000 gifts from the Board, local foundations and members of the community have created an endowment in excess of \$87 million. The Symphony's annual fund campaign and other fundraising activities are integral to our continued success.

## **EDUCATION *and* COMMUNITY FOCUS**

The vision of the Symphony's education department is to enable people of all ages in the greater Kansas City area to learn, create and become inspired through orchestral music. More than 57,000 people participate in Kansas City Symphony education programs annually. Most popular are specially programmed school concerts — KinderKonzerts, Young People's Concerts and Link Up — performed for more than 30,000 students and teachers annually. Several

thousand more are involved with the Symphony through activities including the Open Rehearsal Series, Bush and Jamie Helzberg Instrument Petting Zoo program and Charles and Virginia Clark Inside Music Series. Dozens of area student musicians participate in the Woman's City Club Charitable Foundation Young Artist Competition, where the winner is awarded a cash prize and the opportunity to perform with the Kansas City Symphony. The Symphony's Bill and Peggy Lyons Support School Music program takes the orchestra into area schools to perform a concert and all ticket sales directly benefit the school district's music department. Since the program's inception, nearly \$160,000 has been generated for school music education programs. Recently, the Symphony has piloted new music education programs and partnerships, including Petite Performances for ages 0-6.



### **RECORDINGS and BROADCASTS**

The Symphony has released six recordings on the Reference Recordings label — “Shakespeare’s *Tempest*,” the Grammy® Award-winning “Britten’s Orchestra,” an Elgar/Vaughan Williams project, “*Miraculous Metamorphoses*,” an all-Saint-Saëns CD featuring the magnificent “Organ” Symphony, and most recently, the music of contemporary American composer Adam Schoenberg (released January 2017). Additional projects have been recorded and slated for future release, including Holst’s *The Planets* (recorded January 2015) and an album featuring one-movement symphonies by Barber, Scriabin and Sibelius. The Symphony’s concerts with internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato were featured on the national PBS Summer Arts Series in July 2012, called “Homecoming: Kansas City Symphony Presents Joyce DiDonato.” The Grammy® Award-nominated audio recording of the complete performance may be downloaded from iTunes.

In addition, the Symphony has taped three nationally broadcast PBS television specials and performed on National Public Radio, including on the prestigious SymphonyCast series. Highlights of Classical Series performances are broadcast Thursdays at 9 p.m. on KCUR FM 89.3, Kansas City’s National Public Radio affiliate. ■



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**F**rank Byrne was named Executive Director of the Kansas City Symphony in June 2002. As Executive Director, Byrne oversees all administrative and managerial aspects of the Symphony's operation, while also playing an active role in the programming and execution of hundreds of Symphony performances.

Under his leadership, the Kansas City Symphony has experienced remarkable success and stability, markedly growing its audience as well as both earned and contributed revenue. Byrne helped guide the organization through its transformational move into Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Over five seasons in the state-of-the-art facility, the Symphony has performed for patrons from 13 foreign countries and all 50 states, while consistently meeting or exceeding its ticket sales and fundraising expectations.



The Symphony has dramatically increased its outreach to the community since Byrne's tenure began, developing new initiatives and concert series as well as presenting popular, free events around the KC metro area. Under Byrne's leadership, the Symphony also has built a very successful partnership with respected audiophile label Reference Recordings, releasing five CDs since 2008, one of which won a Grammy® Award for Best Surround Sound recording. Additionally, in the inaugural season in Helzberg Hall, the Kansas City Symphony was featured on the prestigious PBS Arts Summer Series in a program with Kansas City native mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato. The audio recording of this concert was nominated for a Grammy® Award.

A native of North Carolina, Byrne also lived in Florida and Hawaii. A self-described "recovering tuba player," he was trained as a professional musician and Arnold Jacobs, legendary tuba player of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, was his primary teacher. He produced two recordings for Summit Records in tribute to his former teacher, and he also has written program notes for recordings on the Reference, EMI and Mark Records labels. Prior to coming to Kansas City, Byrne spent 27 years as a senior administrator with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in Washington, D.C.

Frank Byrne lives in Overland Park, Kansas with his wife, Debbie. They have four grown children: Jeff, a graduate of Kansas State University; Paul, a graduate of the University of Missouri; Jenny, a graduate of the University of Kansas; and Katie, also a graduate of the University of Kansas. Byrne is an avid classical recording collector with a collection encompassing over 10,600 performances. When not listening to or thinking about music, Byrne enjoys photography and cooking. ■



# KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

**M**usic Director Michael Stern is in his 13th season with the Kansas City Symphony, hailed for its remarkable artistic ascent, original programming, organizational development and stability, and the extraordinary growth of its varied audiences since his tenure began. Since 2008, Stern and the orchestra have partnered with Grammy® Award-winning Reference Recordings for an ongoing series of highly praised CDs, including their latest release in January 2017 featuring the music of contemporary composer Adam Schoenberg.

Stern is also the founding artistic director and principal conductor of the IRIS Orchestra in Germantown, Tennessee. This unique group, now in its second decade, has been widely praised for its virtuosity and programming, and has produced a string of recordings and acclaimed commissioned new works by American composers. Stern has led orchestras throughout Europe and Asia, including the Budapest and Vienna radio symphonies, the Helsinki, Israel, London, Moscow and Royal Stockholm philharmonics, London Symphony, National Symphony of Taiwan, Orchestre de Paris and Tokyo's NHK Symphony, among many others.



In North America, Stern has conducted the Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Houston, Indianapolis, National (Washington, D.C.), Montreal, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Seattle and Toronto symphonies, the Cleveland and Philadelphia orchestras, and the New York Philharmonic. He also appears regularly at the Aspen Music Festival and has served on the faculty of the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen.

Stern received his music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where his major teacher was the noted conductor and scholar Max Rudolf. Stern co-edited the third edition of Rudolf's famous textbook, "The Grammar of Conducting," and also edited a new volume of Rudolf's collected writings and correspondence. He is a 1981 graduate of Harvard University, where he earned a degree in American history. ■



# KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

**K**nown for his affable and engaging approach, Jason Seber, David T. Beals III Associate Conductor of the Kansas City Symphony, has built a great rapport with audience members from nine to 90. After a highly successful initial season, Seber continues to lead the Symphony in nearly 70 performances each season for Classics Uncorked, Pops, Family, Screenland at the Symphony and education concerts, as well as Christmas Festival, Symphony in the Flint Hills and a multitude of other programs in the community.

Prior to his appointment with the Kansas City Symphony, Seber served as education and outreach conductor of the Louisville Orchestra and music director of the Louisville Youth Orchestra. In his three seasons with the Louisville Orchestra, he created and led many programs on the education, family, holiday, pops and Music Without Borders series and served as cover conductor for Teddy Abrams on the classics series. During his tenure with the Louisville Youth Orchestra, membership grew from 200 to more than 350 members in nine orchestras and ensembles. Under his baton, the LYO Symphony Orchestra performed on National Public Radio's "From the Top" in the spring of 2016.



Seber previously served as assistant conductor of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra and the National Repertory Orchestra. He has recently guest conducted the Charleston (South Carolina), Colorado, Houston, Indianapolis, Mansfield (Ohio), National and Windsor (Ontario) symphonies, as well as the Cleveland Pops and the Denver Young Artists Orchestra. This season's highlights include leading the WorldStrides Honors Orchestra at the Opera House in Sydney, Australia, and return engagements with the Colorado Symphony and Houston Symphony.

Seber earned his master's degree in orchestral conducting from the Cleveland Institute of Music and his bachelor's degrees in violin performance and music education from Baldwin Wallace University. ■



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**Michael Stern**, *Music Director*

**Jason Seber**, *David T. Beals III Associate Conductor*

### FIRST VIOLINS

Noah Geller, *concertmaster*  
*Miller Nichols Chair*  
Justine Lamb-Budge,  
*associate concertmaster*  
Sunho Kim, *assistant concertmaster*  
Gregory Sandomirsky  
*associate concertmaster emeritus*  
Anne-Marie Brown  
Betty Chen  
Anthony DeMarco  
Susan Goldenberg\*  
Tomoko Iguchi  
Dorris Dai Janssen  
Chiafei Lin  
Phillip Marten  
Vladimir Rykov  
Alex Shum\*

### SECOND VIOLINS

Tamamo Someya Gibbs, *principal*  
Stirling Trent, *associate principal*  
Kristin Velicer, *assistant principal*  
Nancy Beckmann  
Kathy Haid Berry  
Stephanie Cathcart  
Minhye Helena Choi  
Mary Garcia Grant  
Kevin Hao  
Kazato Inouye  
Rena Ishii  
Francesca Manheim

### VIOLAS

Christine Grossman, *principal*  
Jessica Nance, *acting associate principal*  
Duke Lee, *acting assistant principal*  
Kent Brauningner  
Sean Brumble  
Marvin Gruenbaum  
Jenifer Houck  
Bohyun Kim^Δ  
Matthew Rombaum

### CELLOS

Mark Gibbs, *principal*  
*Robert A. Kipp Chair*  
Susie Yang, *associate principal*  
*Richard Hill Chair*  
Alexander East, *assistant principal*  
Maria Crosby  
John Eadie  
Lawrence Figg  
Rung Lee\*  
Meredith McCook  
Allen Probus

### DOUBLE BASSES

Jeffrey Kail, *principal*  
Evan Halloin, *associate principal*  
Brandon Mason  
Caleb Quillen  
Richard Ryan  
Nash Tomey^

### FLUTES

Michael Gordon, *principal*  
*Marylou and John Dodds Turner Chair*  
Ford Musician Awardee  
Shannon Finney, *associate principal*  
Diane Schick

### PICCOLO

Diane Schick

### OBOES

Kristina Fulton, *principal*  
*Shirley Bush Helzberg Chair*  
Alison Chung^, *associate principal*  
Kenneth Lawrence

### ENGLISH HORN

Kenneth Lawrence

### CLARINETS

Raymond Santos, *principal*  
Rebecca Tobin^Δ,  
*acting associate principal*  
John Klinghammer

### E-FLAT CLARINET

Rebecca Tobin^Δ

### BASS CLARINET

John Klinghammer

### BASSOONS

Ann Bilderback, *principal*  
*Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Chair*  
Thomas DeWitt, *associate principal*  
Marita Abner

### CONTRABASSOON

Thomas DeWitt

### HORNS

Alberto Suarez, *principal*  
*Landon and Sarah Rowland Chair*  
David Sullivan, *associate principal*  
Elizabeth Gray  
David Gamble  
Stephen Multer,  
*associate principal emeritus*

### TRUMPETS

Julian Kaplan, *principal*  
*James B. and Annabel Nutter Chair*  
Phillip Clark, *associate principal*  
Brian Rood

### TROMBONES

Roger Oyster, *principal*  
Porter Wyatt Henderson,  
*associate principal*  
Adam Rainey

### BASS TROMBONE

Adam Rainey

### TUBA

Steven Seward, *principal*

### TIMPANI

Timothy Jepson, *principal*

### PERCUSSION

Christopher McLaurin, *principal*  
Daniel Morris^Δ,  
*acting associate principal*  
Joseph Petrasek‡, *associate principal*

### HARP

Deborah Wells Clark, *principal*

### LIBRARIANS

Elena Lence Talley, *principal*  
Fabrice Curtis

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Justin White,  
*personnel manager*

Matt Henderson,  
*assistant personnel manager*

David Tebow,  
*stage manager*

Mark Watson,  
*assistant stage manager*

\* Non-Rotating Musician  
^ New Member  
‡ On Leave of Absence  
Δ One-Year Member



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## ACCLAIM FOR KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

Voted “Favorite Performing Arts Group” by Visit KC for the Visitor’s Choice Awards (2016)

Voted “Best Performing Arts Group” by The Pitch (2016).

Voted “Best Performing Arts Group” by KC Magazine (2015).

Kansas City Symphony Executive Director Frank Byrne named Nonprofit Professional of the Year by Nonprofit Connect (2017).

Principal Flute Michael Gordon is one five U.S. musicians to be honored with the Ford Musician Award for Excellence in Community Service (2017).

The Kansas City Public Television broadcast of Kansas City Symphony’s 2017 Bank of America Celebration at the Station was nominated for a Regional Emmy Award. Previously, the broadcast won Regional Emmys in 2012 and 2011.

As Kansas City’s largest performing arts organization, the Symphony sets a tone and a standard for the area’s cultural life.



### **Kansas City Star editorial**

At a time when orchestras across the country are struggling to stay alive, amid financial troubles and labor disputes, the Kansas City Symphony has been on a steady path to success. For those who have yet to participate in the experience, it’s time to tune in.

### **Kansas City Star editorial**

A great hall needs a great orchestra, and the Kansas City Symphony does not fail to deliver.

**Andrew Crust, Bachtrack.com**

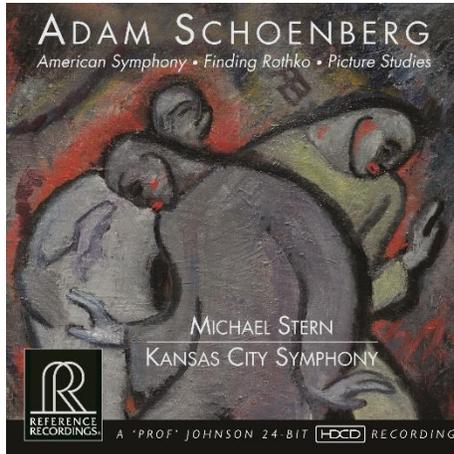
It is a true pleasure to read about the health and harmony that reigns at the Kansas City Symphony.

**Michael Kaiser, President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, special feature to Huffington Post**



# KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

## ACCLAIM FOR RECORDINGS



Michael Stern and his excellent orchestra meet these challenges head-on and with relish. ...[T]hese performances seem highly accomplished and confident. ... This is another top-drawer recording. ... Artistically and sonically this is an exciting disc.

**John Quinn, Musicweb International**

The Kansas City Symphony, which has been championing Schoenberg's music for some time now, sounds superb under Michael Stern's direction. ... Multiple hearings will be our pleasure.

**Andrew Anderson, Theater Jones**



The Kansas City Symphony continues to please as it has become a major U.S. Orchestra under Michael Stern.

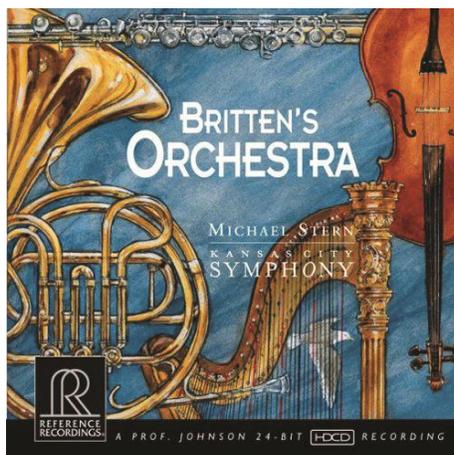
**Mel Martin, Audiophile Audition (U.S.)**

The Kansas City Symphony under Michael Stern withstands comparison to any of the competition.

**David Hurwitz, Classics Today (U.S.)**

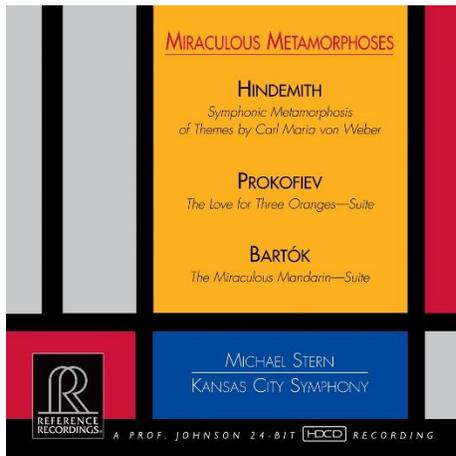
The Kansas City Symphony is one of America's finest ensembles ... And Michael Stern is one of America's finest conductors...

**Brian Wigman, ClassicalNet.com**



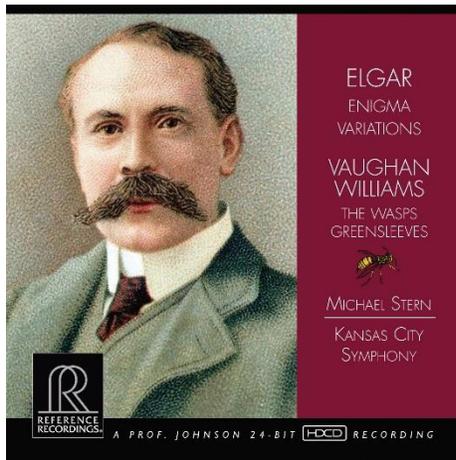
[T]he Kansas City Symphony has grown to a stature that vies with the other top U.S. orchestras. ...The concluding Storm from Peter Grimes is just about the most dramatic musical storm that has ever been recorded. Bravo everyone concerned with this magnificent production.

**John Sunier, Audiophile Audition**



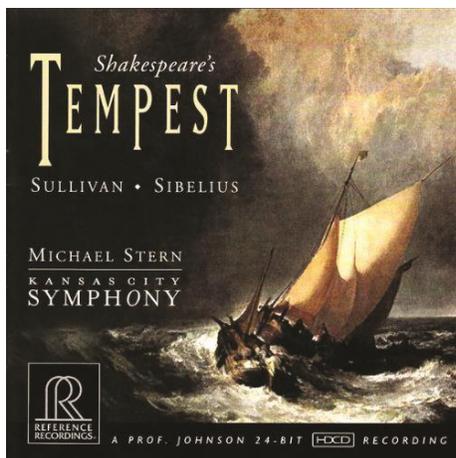
The KCS under the direction of Stern plays with clarity and crispness. Apparently, the KCS has been flying under the radar. But with this new recording, it is soaring higher and could be knocking on the door of the pantheon of American orchestras.

**Henry Schlinger, Culture Spot LA**



The reason to acquire this disc is not necessarily for the music of Elgar and Vaughan Williams, but rather to experience the brilliant playing of the Kansas City Symphony under the inspiring baton of its music director, Michael Stern. The big ticket items on the disc is of course, Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and here, Stern and his great orchestra deliver a thrilling and thoroughly idiomatic performance that can stand toe-to-toe with those of the best British orchestras and conductors.

**Merlin Patterson, Fanfare**



[T]he performances are as smart, atmospheric, and vibrant as the music itself. The more lyrical moments, such as the Berceuse and the various song transcriptions, are all beautifully played by the Kansas [City] orchestra. The wind soloists are uniformly fine. ... It's a winner in all respects.

**David Hurwitz, Classics Today**