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New Performance Announced in the 2019-2020 *Kauffman Center Presents* Series + Renowned Violin and Viola Duo Joins the Kauffman Center's 10-year Anniversary Lineup

Martina McBride to perform in Muriel Kauffman Theatre and Kauffman Center's 10th anniversary season to include Black Violin performance

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts announced two performances including American country music singer-songwriter Martina McBride and dynamic string duo Black Violin.

Martina McBride will perform on August 21 in Muriel Kauffman Theatre as part of the *Kauffman Center Presents* 2019-2020 season. Tickets for the event range from \$39 to \$119, plus applicable fees, and go on sale to the public at 10 a.m. on Friday, February 7.

The *Kauffman Center Presents* Series welcomes the return of classical-meets-hip-hop duo, **Black Violin**, to perform in the 10th anniversary season of the *Kauffman Center Presents* series that begins in July 2020.

Black Violin will perform on October 6, returning for a third time to the Muriel Kauffman Theatre stage after nearly sold-out performances in fall 2016 and 2018. Violist Wil Baptiste and violinist Kev Marcus have crafted a style often described as “classical boom,” aiming to change perceptions of both classical and hip-hop music. Tickets range from \$29 to \$59, plus applicable fees, and go on sale to the public at 10 a.m. Friday, February 7.

Tickets for both events will be available through the Kauffman Center Box Office at (816) 994-7222 or online at kauffmancenter.org.

ABOUT MARTINA MCBRIDE

Multiple GRAMMY nominee Martina McBride has sold over 18 million albums to date, which includes 20 Top 10 singles and six #1 hits. 2017 marked a milestone in Martina’s illustrious career when she hit her 25th year of touring. Last year, Martina released a new Christmas album, *It's The Holiday Season*, that features her favorite Christmas standards, all with the backing of a symphony, and also brought back her “The Joy of Christmas Tour,” this time each with a local orchestra. McBride has earned more than 15 major music awards, including four wins for Female Vocalist of the Year from the Country Music Association and won three Academy of Country Music for Top Female Vocalist. Martina has been awarded 14 Gold Records, nine Platinum honors, three Double Platinum Records, and two Triple Platinum Awards. Martina was awarded the Covenant House Beacon of Hope Award and Music Business Association’s prestigious 2015 Harry Chapin Memorial Humanitarian Award for her philanthropic efforts on behalf of domestic violence. Martina has released two books—the first, [Around the Table](#),

a full-color illustrated collection of her favorite recipes, hosting tips, practical menu planning advice, and themed décor inspiration. She released her second book, [Martina's Kitchen Mix: My Recipe Playlist for Real Life](#), in October 2018.

ABOUT BLACK VIOLIN

For 16 years, Black Violin members Kev Marcus and Wil Baptiste have been merging string arrangements with modern beats and vocals. The two met in orchestra class at Dillard High School in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and became classically trained on the violin and viola through their high school and college careers. Post-college, they reconvened to produce beats for South Florida rappers and began building an audience in local clubs. They later went on to win *Showtime at the Apollo* in 2005 and eventually sold out headline performances at venues across the country, including a sold-out two-night headline run at The Kennedy Center in 2018. Their unique brand of merging the genre they were listening to (hip-hop) with the world they were studying (classical) was celebrated in collaborations with Alicia Keys, Wu-Tang Clan, 2 Chainz and others. NPR took note and declared “their music will keep classical music alive for the next generation.” UPROXX also featured Black Violin in a mini-documentary as part of their “Uncharted” series. [Watch the documentary here.](#)

The duo plays more than 200 shows a year, many of which are performances for young, low-income students in urban communities. In the last year alone, the group played for more than 100,000 students with the goal of challenging stereotypes and preconceived notions of what a “classical musician” looks and sounds like. “The stereotypes are always there, embedded so deep in our culture,” says Wil. “Just by nature of our existence we challenge those ideas. It’s a unique thing that brings people together who aren’t usually in the same room, and in the current climate, it’s good to bring people together.”

Recently, the group launched the Black Violin Foundation, an organization dedicated to empowering youth by providing access to quality music programs in their community. The Black Violin Foundation believes that music and access to music programs should not be determined by race, gender, or socio-economic status. The Black Violin Foundation’s inaugural program will provide scholarships of up to \$1,000 to youth who would like to continue their musical education through a program of their liking that fosters musical creativity and innovation. Programs can range from private lessons, to summer music camps, to college courses. Scholarships will be awarded bi-annually to up to 20 applicants per scholarship cycle. More info at: [blackviolinfoundation.org](#)

[Access video previews of Black Violin performances.](#)

KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SERIES SCHEDULE*

The *Kauffman Center Presents* series features extraordinary and diverse artists from a variety of musical genres and performance styles. [Access to approved media photos of Kauffman Center Presents artists.](#)

2019-2020 *Kauffman Center Presents* events (includes rescheduled date):**

- Sunday, February 9 – Shaken & Stirred: Michael Feinstein and special guest Storm Large – 7 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Tuesday, February 18 – *National Geographic Live: From Summit to Sea* – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre

- Wednesday, March 4 – Cameron Carpenter with Buster Keaton’s *The General* featuring live organ accompaniment – 7 p.m., Helzberg Hall
- Tuesday, March 10, 2020 – *National Geographic Live: Pursuit of the Black Panther* – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Tuesday, May 26, 2020 – *National Geographic Live: Where the Wild Things Live* – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Tuesday, June 9 and Wednesday, June 10, 2020 – *National Geographic Live: JANE in Concert* – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Tuesday, June 16, 2020 – *National Geographic Live: Spinosaurus: Lost Giant of the Cretaceous* – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre**
- Friday, August 21, 2020 – Martina McBride – 7:00p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre**
- Tuesday, November 17, 2020 - Champions of Magic - 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre**
- Sunday, January 17, 2021 – An Intimate Evening with David Foster: Hitman Tour Featuring Special Guest Katharine McPhee – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre**
- Wednesday, April 7, 2021 – Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood: Neighborhood Day – 6:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre**
- Saturday, June 19, 2021 – Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons – 7:30p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre**

10th Anniversary Season 2020-2021 *Kauffman Center Presents* events:

- Monday, August 3, 2020 – The Beach Boys – 7:30p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Tuesday October 6, 2020 – Black Violin: Impossible Tour 2020 – 7:30p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre

*Events announced to date. Additional performances will be announced throughout the season. Updates are available at kauffmancenter.org/events-tickets/kauffman-center-presents/.

ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts – a major not-for-profit center for music, opera, theater and dance designed by Moshe Safdie – opened in 2011. Serving as a cultural cornerstone for Kansas City and the region, the Kauffman Center delivers extraordinary and diverse performing arts experiences. Honored as one of the World’s 15 Most Beautiful Concert Halls, the Kauffman Center attracts some of the world’s most renowned performers and entertainers.

Through educational outreach programs and community enrichment, the Kauffman Center supports Kansas City as a cultural destination. More information on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is available at kauffmancenter.org.

Thanks to Kauffman Center Presents series sponsors for their generous support of the 2019-2020 season: Saint Luke’s Health System, PNC Bank, and Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City.

Visit the Kauffman Center’s online press room for media resources, multimedia library, press release archive and more: kauffmancenter.org/about/press-room/

Follow the Kauffman Center on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get details about upcoming performances and behind-the-scenes access.



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