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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY WITH BRAVOKC!**

*Kauffman Center will mark its fifth birthday with a FREE community-wide celebration during First Friday in September, with performances on three stages, lawn games, food and beverage selections, and of course, birthday cake!*

Kansas City, MO – Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts will celebrate its fifth birthday with a FREE event open to all on First Friday, September 2nd from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. BravoKC: Kauffman Center Turns Five, Live! will feature FREE live performances by your favorite local bands on three stages, lawn games provided by KC Crew, food, cocktails, pop-up interactive activities and birthday cake! This open house shines a spotlight on the community in order to thank and celebrate all who helped make the Kauffman Center a bridge to Kansas City’s most dynamic downtown neighborhoods and a cultural cornerstone of Kansas City.

BravoKC: Kauffman Center Turns Five, Live!  
First Friday, September 2, 2016  
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
FREE EVENT

RSVP and learn more at: [www.kauffmancenter.org/bravokc](http://www.kauffmancenter.org/bravokc)

Since the opening, the Kauffman Center has welcomed more than 2 million audience members and guests through its doors. Its diverse programming continues to showcase Kansas City’s vibrant arts community and attracts acclaimed national talent from all genres. Resident companies the Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony, and Lyric Opera of Kansas City, along with numerous other community arts organizations, have experienced record attendance in their new performance home.

“Kansas Citians have embraced the Kauffman Center as their home for the performing arts in our community since day one. We could not be more grateful. BravoKC: Kauffman Center Turns Five, Live! is our way of thanking the community for this tremendous success,” stated Paul J. Schofer, President and CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. “Since opening in September of 2011, more than 2 million visitors have attended an event at the Kauffman Center and we plan on continuing to provide extraordinary and diverse performing arts experiences for everyone in our community and beyond for generations to come.”

Kauffman Center is committed to serving everyone in the community, evident in its numerous Open Doors initiatives providing children and families access to the Center’s performances. More than 210,000 students have attended a matinee performance at the Kauffman Center and over 108,000 school children have received transportation funding through the Center’s Open Doors Transportation Fund. Additionally, Open Doors Community Tickets continue to provide opportunities

for Kansas City individuals and families to attend performances at no cost through partnerships with social service agencies.

Kauffman Center, its resident companies, and community arts organization partners continue to provide a wide range of free or low-cost programming, while offering young performers the chance to shine on stage. The Future Stages Festival, an annual free community event, welcomed about 6,000 people and provided the opportunity for around 800 performers, mostly youth, to perform on stage as part of the event last June. Audiences are also able to experience affordable presentations and performances with tickets priced as low as \$15 for events such as the popular National Geographic Live series, part of Kauffman Center Presents.

Along with artistic successes, Kauffman Center's first five years have been marked by solid financials due, in no small part, to efficiencies created within the Center's operating and staffing models and from financial and volunteer support within the Kansas City community. Effective management and strong annual fundraising support have allowed Kauffman Center to operate in the black for each of its first five years, which is considered an exceptional accomplishment in comparison with performing arts centers nationally.

## **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](http://kauffmancenter.org).

*The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts would like to thank our official building sponsors, Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City for their generous support of our 2016-2017 season.*

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



**#kauffmancenter**