

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2014

**MORE THAN 450 YOUTH ARTISTS TO PERFORM ON STAGE  
AT KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS FOR  
FUTURE STAGES FESTIVAL**

*Free community event connects youth and families with Kauffman Center arts experiences,  
creates opportunities for youth to perform on stages from noon-5 p.m. on June 22<sup>nd</sup>*

Kansas City, MO – Since opening in September of 2011, more than one million visitors have attended an event at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. To celebrate this milestone, Kauffman Center is hosting a new, free community event: **Future Stages Festival**.

Future Stages Festival will be held at the Kauffman Center on Sunday, June 22, 2014 from 12 pm – 5pm and invites the community to experience a diverse range of performance and interactive arts activities. The one-day festival, an extension of the Kauffman Center’s Open Doors Spotlight on Youth program, also provides opportunities for youth and arts organizations to perform on stage at Kauffman Center.

"We are committed to encouraging students and young artists to participate in creative endeavors. Future Stages Festival will provide opportunities for future artists to take center stage at the Kauffman Center," stated Jane Chu, President & CEO of Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

More than 450 artists from the Greater Kansas City community are anticipated to perform on Kauffman Center stages as part of Future Stages Festival. 24 performing arts organizations were selected to perform after a community request for performance group nominations resulted in more than 130 submissions. In addition, the Kauffman Center’s resident companies, the Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony and Lyric Opera of Kansas City will take part in the event. Families and young people attending the event are invited to participate in interactive arts and crafts activities throughout the day.

Future Stages Festival is open to the public and attendees are encouraged to register for free at [kauffmancenter.org/futurestages](http://kauffmancenter.org/futurestages) or by phone at (816) 994-7222 to receive the latest event updates and schedule for performances and activities. All ages are welcome and programming is suggested as most suitable for families with youth ages 4 - 15.

**Future Stages Festival Features Performances by:**

5 Star Jazz Band (North Kansas City, MO)  
City in Motion Children’s Dance Theater (Kansas City, MO)  
Dr. Jan Kraybill (Independence, MO)  
Global Rhythm Project of the Music/Arts Institute (Independence, MO)  
The GRAMMY Museum’s Music Revolution Project (Metro-wide)  
Heart of America Youth Ballet (Lee’s Summit, MO)  
Kansas Bluegrass Association “Treblemakers” (Wichita, KS)

Kansas City Ballet's ROAD Program Interactive Dance Class with Sean Duus & Ken Lovern (Kansas City, MO)  
Kansas City Symphony Chamber Ensemble (Kansas City, MO)  
Kansas City Young Audiences Community School of the Arts Dance Students (Kansas City, MO)  
Lawrence Children's Choir (Lawrence, KS)  
Legacy School of the Arts (Olathe, KS)  
Lucia Aerial Performing Arts (Leawood, KS)  
The Metropolitan Strings Academy's "Advanced Chamber Strings Orchestra" (Olathe, KS)  
Miller Marley Entertainers (Overland Park, KS)  
O'Riada Manning Academy of Irish Dance (Shawnee, KS)  
Ottawa Suzuki Strings (Ottawa, KS)  
Quixotic School of Performing Arts (Kansas City, MO)  
Rock School KC (Olathe, KS)  
Sinag-tala Performing Arts Troupe of Greater Kansas City (Overland Park, KS)  
StoneLion Puppet Theatre (Kansas City, MO)  
Soundz of Africa Dance Ensemble (Kansas City, MO)  
Voices of Change- Young Men's Choir (Kansas City, KS)  
Starlight STARS of Tomorrow (Kansas City, MO)

**Interactive Arts Activities and More by:**

**American Institute of Architects Kansas City:** Learn how architects were involved in the design of Kauffman Center and participate in a design arts drawing project.

**The GRAMMY Museum:** Learn about GRAMMY Museum programs here in KC and get hands on to create your own instrument.

**Kansas City Kite Club:** Watch dazzling kite displays by the Kansas City Kite Club and participate in a kite making activity.

**Kansas City Symphony's Instrument Petting Zoo:** Discover orchestral instruments through the Symphony's Instrument Petting Zoo where kids can touch and play instruments under the guidance of Symphony staff and volunteers. Open from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**Prop-a-palooza:** Lyric Opera of Kansas City's Prop Master, Debbie Morgan, will give an insider's look at how props are made! Learn how to make your own prop during presentations at 12:30, 1:45, 3:00 and 4:15 p.m.

**Perform and Play with Lyric Opera of Kansas City:** Learn to be an opera star with interactive theater games, vocal exercises and more! Classes at 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.

**Mattie Rhodes Center:** Join Mattie Rhodes staff and volunteers to create Mexican Tissue Paper Flowers and learn about other cultural arts activities.

**The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art:** Participate in a visual arts activity in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Donald J. Hall Sculpture Park.

*Please note, schedule and activities subject to change.*

## **ABOUT THE OPEN DOORS PROGRAM**

The Kauffman Center Open Doors program connects young people to the arts through three major components:

- The Open Doors *Spotlight on Youth* program inspires and nurtures the next generation of artists by giving young performers the opportunity to perform on the stages of the Kauffman Center.
- The Open Doors *Community Ticket Fund* offers access to programming at the Kauffman Center for youth and families through reduced price or free tickets.
- The Open Doors *Transportation Fund* offers funding to schools in the metropolitan area so that bringing students to the Kauffman Center for school matinee performances is more affordable.

## **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).