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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KAUFFMAN CENTER NOW ACCEPTING PERFORMANCE APPLICATIONS FOR 3RD ANNUAL FUTURE STAGES FESTIVAL

*Free community event connects youth and families with Kauffman Center arts experiences,
creates opportunities for youth, school and nonprofit arts groups to perform on stages*

Kansas City, MO – Kauffman Center is celebrating youth and the arts in Kansas City with the third annual Future Stages Festival this June. Building on the success of the 2015 second annual event during which Kauffman Center welcomed more than 6,000 guests and hosted 600 performers, the third annual Future Stages Festival is a free community event that showcases youth on stage and invites the community to experience a FREE day of performances at the Kauffman Center.

Future Stages Festival will be held at the Kauffman Center on Sunday, June 26, 2016 from 11 am – 4 pm. The one-day festival invites youth and families to experience a diverse range of performance and interactive arts activities. Future Stages Festival, an extension of the Kauffman Center’s Open Doors Spotlight on Youth program, will also provide opportunities for youth and community arts organizations to perform on stage at Kauffman Center.

Artistic Director Ah’Lee E. Robinson of the Kansas City Boys and Girls Choirs shared the experience of participating in the 2015 festival by stating “as our choirs were in preparation for this production, the choristers began to get excited level by level until the day of the event. For me, as their Director, it was an opportunity to hear many of them speak of the wonderful opportunity to be on the stage, not to mention they felt like ‘stars.’ Having this opportunity to perform on the Future Stages boosts their egos and personality like nothing else.”

"Future Stages Festival is a free event for the community that provides opportunities for future artists to take center stage at the Kauffman Center. We are committed to shining a spotlight on the talented youth in our community and celebrating the diverse array of performing arts experiences available to both participants and audiences in Kansas City," stated Paul Schofer, President & CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Applications are now being accepted for youth performing groups to become part of the 2016 performance schedule. Any community arts organization or school program can apply, however performance groups should be comprised primarily of youth performers between the ages of 5 – 18, and must have a minimum of 5 performers. Strong consideration will be given to larger groups (25+).

The Kauffman Center’s resident companies, the Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony and Lyric Opera of Kansas City will also take part in the event.

For more information or to apply, visit kauffmancenter.org/futurestages. The nomination deadline is April 4, 2016.

The event is open to the public and attendees are encouraged to register for free at kauffmancenter.org/futurestages to receive the latest event updates and schedule for performances and activities.

Funding for Future Stages Festival 2016 is being provided by Sprint, National Endowment for the Arts, Missouri Arts Council and NuWinCare. Support is being provided by 105.1 Jack FM, 94.0 KCMO, KCMO Talk Radio and Magic 107.3.

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.

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts would like to thank our official building sponsors, Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City.

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



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