

About the 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 fulltime 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 nearly \$19 million. More than 1,000 gifts from the Board, local foundations and members of the community have created an endowment in excess of \$100 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 60,000 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 the Open Rehearsal Series, Jamie and Bush 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 \$165,000 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.

RECORDING and BROADCASTS

The Symphony has released six other 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 the music of contemporary American composer Adam Schoenberg (nominated for two Grammy® Awards). An additional project featuring one-movement symphonies by Barber, Scriabin and Sibelius has been recorded and slated for future release. The Symphony’s concerts with internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato were featured on the national PBS Summer Arts Series in July 2012. 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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