LET'S PLAY!
ORCHESTRAS ONLINE
2020-2021

youthsymphonykc.org
Dear Friends,

In a year that has been everything and anything but ordinary, Youth Symphony of Kansas City is fortunate to be sustained by a community of extraordinary individuals! From our students, parents and sectional coaches – to our donors, volunteers and staff – the steadfast commitment by all to provide a meaningful and enriching musical experience is remarkable. Thank you to all who have contributed to the success of our young musicians during this unusual year.

For nearly all of us, a host of unknowns continue to overshadow things on which we can rely. While we remain grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve area student musicians, we recognize that many have faced immeasurable anguish.

Our hearts go out to those who have experienced loss as a result of, and during, the pandemic. Our aim is that this year’s performances by our dedicated student musicians may provide hope for brighter days ahead and bring joy to this day.

— May great music always be a good friend!

Steven C. Murray
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ARTISTIC STAFF
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Steven D. Davis, Conductor
Kirt Mosier, Artistic Director, Conductor

ACADEMY ORCHESTRA
Michelle Davis, Conductor
Sheri Cain, Conductor

PERCUSSION KC
Clif Walker, Conductor

SECTIONAL COACHES
Ho Ahn
Alyssa Bell
Mackenzie Brazier
Sheri Cain
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STEVEN D. DAVIS  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR

Conductor Steven D. Davis is a lauded, versatile, and cosmopolitan conductor who has inspired ensembles around the world. In constant demand as a guest conductor, he has conducted across four continents, working with ensembles in cities such as Bangkok, Beijing, Lisbon, Sydney, and regularly conducts in his favorite city, Kansas City.

Davis currently serves as professor of conducting, and conductor of the Conservatory Wind Symphony at the University of Missouri-Kansas City’s Conservatory of Music and Dance. Davis is now in his fourteenth season as the conductor of the Youth Symphony of Kansas City’s Symphony Orchestra.

KIRT MOSIER  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR

Kirt Mosier is an internationally known and critically acclaimed composer and conductor. Mr. Mosier is Artistic Director for the Youth Symphony of Kansas City and the Associate Conductor of the Lee’s Summit Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Mosier taught high school orchestra for 31 years in the Raytown and Lee’s Summit School Districts, where his groups continuously earned highest ratings. He has also taught orchestration and arranging as an adjunct professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. Mosier has twice won national composition awards. From 1990 to present, Kirt Mosier has conducted numerous all-state and honor orchestras throughout the United States and abroad.

MICHELLE DAVIS  
ACADEMY ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR

Michelle Davis has been a string orchestra educator for over 25 years in Illinois, Michigan and Missouri. She has taught strings/orchestra at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Currently, she is the conductor of the Liberty High School Orchestras in Liberty, Missouri. Michelle has been a guest conductor in school districts across the state, and has presented clinics at state and national conferences. In 2008, she was Liberty Public School District’s “Teacher of the Year.” Michelle is a graduate of The University of Michigan with a bachelor’s degree in viola performance and a master’s degree in music education. She lives with her husband, Steve Davis, and their two daughters, Madeline and Rebecca, in Olathe, Kan. Both are wonderful musicians and avid equestrians.

CLIF WALKER  
PercussionKC

Clif Walker is an active arranger, clinician and composer with original works performed at PASIC, The Midwest Band Orchestra Clinic, TMEA, DCI, BOA, WGI and the Sydney Opera House. He is currently a percussion staff, design team member and co-front ensemble arranger with The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps and the director of the University of Missouri Drumline. Clif holds a BSE from Missouri Western State University and an MME from the University of Central Florida and was the Assistant Director of Bands/Director of Percussion for Blue Springs High School (2011-2015).
A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS IN EDUCATION!

PRIVATE EDUCATORS

Thomas Aber
He Ahn
Micheal Arbucci
Jamie Bale
Virginia Beckman
Alyssa Beckman
Matt Beckman
Jeff Beck
Alyssa Bell
Katie Benyo
Michale Bergman
Leah Bernstein
Tina Bilberry
Mariana Birger
Josh Blythe
Denis Bogart
Josh Blythe
Marianna Birger
Tina Bilberry
Leah Bernstein
Michele Bergman
Katie Benyo
Alyssa Bell
Jeff Beck
Matt Beckman
Alyssa Beckman
Virginia Beckman
Mariana Birger
Josh Blythe
Denis Bogart
Mike Harte
Amy Harris
Mike Hardt
Amy Harris
Mike Harte
Maya Hasegawa
Erik Hassell
Jamie Heil
Erik Hassell
Kayo Hasegawa
Barbara Miller
Rachel Morris
Jessica Nance
Karla Nolles
Rebecca O'Brien
Pitouch NAVIN
Lublima Paskaleva
Shelley Peters
Shawn Rogers
Allison Lisi Ross
Richard Ryan
Ruth Sadasivan
Beckin Sanders
Mary Sanders
Tracy Sandritter
Makayla Scott
Becky Schubert
Cynthia Scully
Kelsey Shaw
Jennifer Shyer
Marcia Smith
Jim Spencer
Ashley Stanfield
Joel Stratton
Joael Tod
Beth Titterington
Curt Vellenga
Karisanne Waterland
Susan Wessl
Alia Wijinarski
Jarid Wittkofg
Kristen Wyatt
Diana Yancey
Poeil Yang
Emily Yeh
Peni Yang
Stephanie Zelnick
Terry Ziek

SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Academie Lafayette
 Aubry Bend Middle School
 Basehor Linwood Virtual School
 Benton High School
 Bernard Campbell Middle School
 Bishop Miege High School
 Bishop Seabury Academy
 Blue Springs South High School
 Blue Valley High School
 Blue Valley Middle School
 Blue Valley North High School
 Blue Valley Northwest High School
 Blue Valley Southwest High School
 Blue Valley West High School
 Brighton Academy
 Brittany Hill Middle School
 Center High School
 Chambers Orchestra
 Chadwick
 Cole Camp High School
 Congress Middle School
 Delta Woods Middle School
 Eisenhower Middle School
 FL Schlagal High School
 Fort Osage High School
 Gardner Edgerton High School
 Great Bend High School
 Harmony Middle School
 Harrisonville High School
 Heartland Christian School
 Hesston High School
 Hocker Grove Middle School
 Knob Noster High School
 J.C Harmon High School
 Jardine Middle School
 Kearney Middle School
 Lafayette High School
 Lakewood High School
 LEAD Innovation Studios
 Leavenworth High School
 Leawood Middle School
 Lebo High School
 Lee’s Summit High School
 Lees Summit High School
 Lees Summit North High School
 Lee’s Summit West High School
 Liberty High School
 Liberty Middle School
 Liberty North High School
 Lincoln College Preparatory Academy
 Lincoln Middle School
 Mill Valley High School
 Mission Trail Middle School
 Monticello Trails Middle School
 North Kansas City High School
 Notre Dame de Sion High School
 Oak Park High School
 Odessa Middle School
 Fort Osage High School
 Gardner Edgerton High School
 Great Bend High School
 Harmony Middle School
 Harrisonville High School
 Heartland Christian School
 Hesston High School
 Hocker Grove Middle School
 Knob Noster High School

Park Hill South High School
 Park Hill High School
 Overland Trail Middle School
 Park Hill High School
 Park Hill South High School
 Pembroke Hill School
 Plaza Middle School
 Pleasant Ridge Middle School
 Prairie Star Middle School
 Prairie Trail Middle School
 Raymore Peculiar High School
 Raytown Central Middle School
 Raytown High School
 Raytown South High School
 Ruskin High School
 Saint Paul Lutheran High School
 Shawnee Mission East High School
 Shawnee Mission North High School
 Shawnee Mission Northwest High School
 Shawnee Mission South High School
 Shawnee Mission West High School
 South Valley Middle School
 St. James Academy
 St. Joseph Catholic School
 St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School
 St. Teresa’s Academy
 Staley High School
 Summit Christian Academy
 Sumner Academy of Arts and Science
 The Barstow School
 Topeka West High School
 Trailridge Middle School
 Truman High School
 Westridge Middle School
 Westridge New Elementary
 Wilson Hill Academy

© YOUTH SYMPHONY OF KANSAS CITY 2020 | 2021

2020 | 2021 YOUTH SYMPHONY OF KANSAS CITY
2020/2021 ENSEMBLES

ACADEMY ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN
Sarah Anderson
Graham Anderson
Nitya Attaluri
Ethan Beloff
Lilly Brown
Evelyn Carter
Daniel Chang
Alexis Chang
Ivan Cummings
Leslie Diaz Marin
Makena Dickens
Benjamin Ding
Aimee Geis
Olivia Gibbs
Bobby (Mingcheng) Guo
Omar Hamarshi
Eoin Harrison
Theodore Henning
Genesis Hernandez
Rebecca Hoff
Daniel Hoff
Johnny Joyce
Jadon Kao
Sarayu Kesarapalli
Hannah Kim
Maria Kinder
Francis G. Lee
Alyssa Libby
Chrisina McLaws
Kristin Mellick
Sofia Mercado
Brooke Mertz
Chloe Montoya
Duy Nguyen
Ethan Nguyen
Evun Nugent
Katelyn Page
Caleb Park
Lydia Peng
Scarlett Pfister
Nalini Portillo Cruz
Kushal Reddy
Lily Rondomanski
Claire Rosen
Cristina Salazar
Joshua Shin
Myna Singh
Alicia Smith
Emily Stubnings
Matthew Sutherland
Allison Tran
Alec Vansandt
Srinivasa Vel
Jack Wing

VIOLA
William Barker
Taryn Dale
Emmy Diaz Marin
Eleanor Erickson
Lucy Garcia-Arroniz
Mia Glasgow
Gunnar Henning
Daylen Jones
Libby Kepler
Stephen Kwon
Elise Lamb
Lidia Mamedrova
Colin Reams
Angela Richardson
Alyssa Shoffner
Duncan Smith
Johnathan Subramanian

CELLO
Sylvia Brown
Leena Dudi
Cristian Gallegos
Amelia Kalahurka
Carter Landau
Rikki-Anne McLeod
Vincent Medina
Katherine Murphy
Juliana Onstott
Alexandra Parcellis
Emma Pogorek
Sarah Powers
Michael Raus Ocasio
Nathan Roelofs
Edward Sayers
Mayank Shrestha
Cole Shyver
Alexsei Sutkin
Joshua Tran
Lola Walter
Avery Waters
Elyse Yung

BASS
Aiden McCall
Maggie Terlouw
Noah Thiele

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN
Isabella Ayala
Braden Bartalos
Skye Bishop
Rebecca Cain
Savannah Collins
Ken Drayke
Jonathan Fang
Nancy Elizabeth Gillespie
Natalie Goldman
Jose Hernandez
Katelynne James
Gretchen Knust
Noah Luke
Reilly Nash
Khang Nguyen
Irene Oh
Grace Olivier
Bayar Qaradaghi
Shaurir Ramanujan
Allison Reeder
Emma Sandbothe
Jameson Sayers
Eric Schin
Benjamin Seitz
Junghyun Seo
Michelle Shin
Victoria Sicola
Sydney Smith
Kerrington Thompson
Kayoko Thornton
Aaron Tseng
Shishir Vargheese
Helton Walker
Jocelyn Wang
Alexandra Williams
Aidan Yong
Jefferson Zhong
Carter Medina
Spenser Nash
Cody Rad
Benjamin Schwab
Matthew Siegwald

HORN
Amil Bilberry-McDaniel
Daniel Cheng
Taylor Martin

FLUTE
Shelby Holst
Cherie Liu

OBEO
Sarah Gray
Nola Robinson

BASSOON
Madhumitha Parthasarathy

CLARINET
Victoria Castagneto
Erica Domen
Trystan Lickteig
Megan Myers-Weary
Aileen Ng

TROMBONE
Bobby (Mingcheng) Guo

TRUMPET
Andrea Butler
Devereaux Xander Knight
Jack McNeil
Kevin Truong

TUBA
Billy Sharp

PERCUSSIONKC

Isabella Ayala
Lily Benavides
Michael Chong
Rylan Cobos
Cash McElhany
Casey Reed
August Siefkes
Joe Walker

VIRTUAL CONCERTS AT YSKC.ORG!

Friday, Jan. 1, 2 PM & Sunday, April 18, 2 PM
YOUTH SYMPHONY OF KANSAS CITY

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Listing includes contributions received from July 1, 2019 through December 14, 2020. Youth Symphony of Kansas City strives to acknowledge each of its generous contributors accurately. We regret any errors or omissions.

2020 | 2021 YOUTH SYMPHONY OF KANSAS CITY 12
My mom was a violinist in Kansas City so I grew up going to her rehearsals and concerts. She played in the Civic Orch-estra at UMKC, was a sub in the KC Philharmonic and then joined as a permanent member when it became the KC Symphony. She and my stepdad at the time, played in the pit for traveling shows at the Lyric Opera and at private events.

My job was to screw the legs in and out of the harpsichord before and after they loaded it into the Volvo!

Tell us about some of the diverse music you’ve studied.

While in New York City studying at Barnard, I was interested in ethnomusicology. Upon graduation I spent the summer at the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, France playing chamber music on viola. I then went to India to study North Indian classical music, also on viola.

The time I spent in India was one of the best choices I could have made at that point in my life. It freed me to practice chamber music on viola. I then went to India to study the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, France playing chamber music on viola. I then went to India to study North Indian classical music, also on viola.

How has the pandemic changed your perspective on performing arts?

I’ve heard from some people that they’re not really playing at all, others are practicing like crazy. For me, I have so far seen it as a kind of cosmic intervention, an artistic reset. These past several months have been a chance to calm down, to let the bad habits die out, and to listen again to what is inside me that drew me to music in the first place.

Can you describe your experiences as a musical ambassador?

We were the first American band to tour in Azerbaijan, where the U.S. State Department sent us in 2006. The tradition there is to bring flowers to the stage to the performers, and they would do it literally after every single song. By the end of a 30-minute set there was a mountain of flowers. On the same trip we also performed in several tiny villages with no electricity, so the State Department would bring along a generator and a PA system. The kids and the older people danced traditional dances while we played our hoedowns and fiddle tunes. It was a highlight of my musical life and I look forward to more of those kinds of opportunities.

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What impact did YSKC have in your life?

I always appreciated how high the expectations were. Glenn Block was the conductor when I was in Youth Symphony and there was never any question that we would have anything less than a spectacular, emotional, virtuosic concert of the absolute highest level. Rehearsals were never dumbed down. When I graduated from high school and went to college in New York City, I took lessons at Manhattan School of Music and played with the New York Youth Symphony, Columbia University Chamber Music Program and others. Whatever it was, I always had the confidence that I belonged there and that I could handle it. A lot of that came from my experience playing in YSKC.

READ MORE ABOUT ELANA AT youthsymphonic.org and elanajames.com

2020 | 2021 YOUTH SYMPHONY OF KANSAS CITY
At Country Club Bank, we’ve been committed to and invested in Kansas City’s success for generations. When you love your hometown – and its people – you want to see it thrive. We’re here to build KC together, you can bank on it.