

youth symphony of Kansas City





Welcome





Dear Friends,

Thank you for being a part of the Youth Symphony of Kansas City family and for attending today's performance!

Now celebrating its 65th Anniversary Season, Youth

Symphony of Kansas City is fortunate to be sustained by a community of extraordinary individuals. On behalf of my colleagues, I'd like to express gratitude for all educators, families, alumni, donors and volunteers who devote their time and resources to ensure the Youth Symphony can fulfill its mission: to challenge, educate and inspire students through meaningful and enriching musical experiences.

In this milestone year, we are pleased to announce the launch of several new and exciting program offerings. The YSKC Academy program began in September, affording musicians the opportunity to enroll in supplemental exploratory classes in areas including conducting, theory, pedagogy, business and others.

Now within the umbrella of the YSKC Academy, chamber ensembles have expanded to include four string quartets and one string sextet, as well as a brass ensemble and a woodwind ensemble. Solo Showcase recitals and Orchestra Workshop sessions are also planned for this season, the latter being open for registration to all musicians across the metropolitan area. These initiatives are only possible thanks to the support of community members just like you. If you'd like to play a part, I invite you to check out page 18 and make a gift today.

I hope that the performance by our talented musicians brightens your day and serves as a reminder that, even amidst a fractious world, there are young people committed to working together to create moments in which beauty, harmony and peace prevail.

Thank you again and enjoy the concert!















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Dear YSKC Students, Families and Supporters,

Welcome to this historic 65th Anniversary Season of the Youth Symphony of Kansas City!



Before taking up my role as Artistic Director, I was a longstanding and

fervent admirer of this venerable organization from the outside. The sheer number of Kansas Citians who have been educated by the Youth Symphony since its inception is staggering — almost 25,000 people. I would consistently run into musicians and other professionals who deeply enjoyed their time in the organization, and it was always very inspiring to hear. It is therefore with a deep sense of appreciation and humility that I play a part in the education of today's Youth Symphony musicians - helping both them and our community to Hear the Future Now.

Thanks to the incredible platform the community and the Youth Symphony have built over the past 65 years, I now look to the next 65 years at YSKC. What should our goals be? What can we achieve? What can we do for our community? How can we further enrich the education of our students, and provide them with a richer experience of everything that the classical arts can truly be?

First, we have created a curriculum which plots the course of musical development for every student over the time they spend in our educational care, from joining YSKC in our youngest orchestra to graduating from our program in high school. The establishment of such a pathway allows us to provide a highly structured, detailed and student-focused education, with the clear goals of deepening their musical understanding and appreciation, as well as enhancing their skills in a measured, tailored way.

Second, we have begun offering elective classes to students such as Music Theory, Aural Skills, Performance Psychology in Practice, Conducting, Introduction to Teaching and Business for Young Musicians. The purpose of these classes is to give our talented young students a new opportunity to develop their talent and deeply broaden their musical understanding in similar fashion to pre-conservatoire programs around the world. We aim to add Composition, Choir and Keyboard Skills next academic year.

Finally, starting this academic year, we are enhancing our integration with revered professional arts organizations of our great city. In addition to continuing our educational residency

with The Opus 76 Quartet, who runs our chamber program (and has now been extended to include wind and brass instruments), we are reviving our collaboration with the Kansas City Symphony, who assist in preparing the orchestras in our senior school. We have also forged a new relationship with the Kansas City Ballet and will be working with them on various projects. By consistently surrounding our musicians with the best and brightest professionals in town, students have the opportunity to be inspired by people who live out their dreams and passions on a daily basis, which ensures that students are indeed receiving the best guidance possible at each stage of their development.

I have heard the Youth Symphony of Kansas City described as a professional arts organization which focuses on youth — a sentiment with which I thoroughly agree. By establishing a plan which allows for focus on the development of the individual student, we are able to identify what their real learning needs are and surround them with the best possible support, assistance and environment. In other words: true mentoring.

This vision for the next 65 years is not something from my imagination but rather from my memory of the education I received whilst attending a similar organization as a child in Europe which left a profound impact on my ability as a musician and my passion for music. I have spent time in our archives looking at the previous concert programs of our past, noting the exciting programs we performed and where in Kansas City (and beyond) our music has been heard. The evolution of this organization from its first season to its current is truly remarkable. As that evolution continues, I am certain the next 65 years will continue to fulfill our great tradition of serving our community and, most importantly, our students, through music.





New in 2023/2024, Youth Symphony of Kansas City and The Opus 76 Quartet have created YSKC Academy, a collaborative programming initiative which pairs the quartet's members — violinists Keith Stanfield and Zsolt Eder, violist Ashley Stanfield and cellist Daniel Ketter — with Youth Symphony musicians in weekly rehearsals, sectionals, a chamber music program, and elective courses. YSKC Academy offers a unique opportunity for current



YSKC students from all backgrounds to develop all aspects of their musicianship in a creative learning environment and form strong bonds and lifelong friendships along the way. This year, our chamber music initiative has expanded to include four string quartets, a string sextet, a wind quintet and a brass quintet. Students also have the opportunity to take various elective courses including Introduction to Conducting, AP Music Theory Prep, Aural Skills, Business for Young Musicians, Performance Psychology in Practice and more, taught by members of Opus 76 and other area professional musicians.

The Opus 76 Quartet-In-Residence and YSKC Academy are supported in part by a generous grant from the Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts
- Commerce Bank, Trustee.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE AND VIEW ARCHIVED PERFORMANCES BY THE OPUS 76 QUARTET AT OPUS76.ORG



2023/2024 ENSEMBLES

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN

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CELLO Sylvia Brown

Logan Carr Eliza Cockrell Alex Cross Michael Fang Ethan Franz Andrew Hodges Sophie Hof Julian Jones Reaganne Kovac John Lee Antonino Libarnes Jennifer Liu Carter Medina

KJ Murphy

Emma Pogorek

Sarah Powers Joshua Tran Adele Van Lieshout Solomon Wu

DOUBLE BASS

J Buch Sarah Hide Jaden Jarman Nikhil Maddipoti Clare O'Malley Jacob O'Toole Guna Thatipelli Remi Ward

FLUTE

Jacqueline Chang Anahi Silva Maggie Terlouw Maren Tims

OBOE

Monte Asisian Jessica Cheng Eric Seo Elliese Thurlby

CLARINET

Sean Hong Jacqueline Lee Aileen Ng Branden Xiao

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HORN

Sophia Luce Erik Mason Lauren Redding Natalie Smith

TRUMPET

Andrea Butler Toni DeBiaso Sophie Heidelmann

TROMBONE

Kingston Del Cid

TUBA

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Cole Higgins Athan Tran Ash Wallace



STEVEN D. DAVIS CONDUCTOR

Steven D. Davis has inspired ensembles around the world and is celebrated as a conductor of wind ensembles, orchestras, opera, ballet and new music ensembles. In addition to conducting symphonic repertoire of significant composers, Davis is fervently committed to initiating and performing new repertoire written by both emerging and acclaimed living composers, with intentional focus placed on collaborating with diverse artists. Davis currently serves as the Rose Ann Carr Millsap Missouri Distinguished Professor of Music and Professor of Conducting at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory. He spends his summers conducting at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, where he serves as director of the wind ensemble program.

REPERTORY ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN

Leonardo Aptilon Nitya Attaluri Gretchen Brown Amelia Brown John Crow Lydia Davis Claudia Davis Angela Edwards Isabel Franz **Bryson Gates** Paloma Greim Aiden Hao **Eoin Harrison Daniel Hoff** Katherine Howe Cindy Jiang Neil Joshi Jadon Kao Jua Kim Caroline Lee

Isabella Lee

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Cameron Hagen
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Libby Kepler
Jasper Kim
Elliott Lamb
Aleena Legion
Ash Merenbloom

John Olson Sofia Usoshi Pedraza-Si Colin Reams Katelyn Reed Benjamin Shepherd Evan Summers

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Naasif Ahmed Elias Alavez Leonela Alvarez Eliza Andrews Paul Burfeind Claire Conrad Abigail DuMont Audrey Edwards William Freise Cristian Gallegos Allyssa Hamilton Chloe Han Carter Landau Nikos Lipscomb
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DOUBLE BASS

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FLUTE

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RAFFAELE CIPRIANO CONDUCTOR

Trained at the prestigious Conservatories of Padua and Venice, Dr. Raffaele Cipriano excels in orchestral conducting, collaborative piano, opera repertoire and composition. In 2015, he pursued a Doctorate in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Kansas, mentored by Maestro David Neely, graduating with honors in 2018. Cipriano has garnered acclaim through collaborations with esteemed organizations like Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence Opera Theater and Landlocked Opera. He has recently joined the music faculty at Washburn University as a lecturer and Director of Orchestra. Notable achievements include music direction for Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella and Carmen for Lawrence Opera Theater, conducting A Chorus Line in Topeka and guest conducting the Springfield Symphony. Based in Kansas City, Cipriano is assistant conductor for the Topeka Symphony Orchestra, the music director and conductor of the Overland Park Orchestra and serves as music director at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Shawnee, Kan.

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN

Graham Anderson Lauren Bedell Caroline Burke Hannah Chan Dinah Chapman Georgia Cisar Madeline Ferguson Luke Fleury **Charlotte Fobes** Jacob Foote Lakshman Gupta Adelyn Gustafson Olivia Harris Elizabeth Howe Ryan Huska Shreeya Iyer Neil Jokhi Leo Kane Jesse Kao Jonas Kates Aiden Kim Anirvin Krishna

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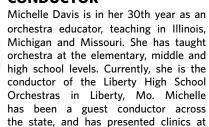
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MICHELLE DAVIS

CONDUCTOR



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 goldendoodles Maddy and Henri.



AMANDA KREMER

CONDUCTOR

Amanda Kremer is originally from Springfield, Mo. She graduated from Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in instrumental & vocal music education and has a masters in educational leadership from St. Mary's University in Minnesota. Amanda taught middle school band for 12 years in Edina, Minn. and played horn with the Minnesota Symphonic Winds under the direction of Timothy Mahr. She

also conducted the Sinfonia Orchestra with the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony for three years; prior to that, she was a GTCYS sectional coach for several years. She and her husband Nate moved to Overland Park, Kan. in 2015 and are enjoying life with their three young daughters. Amanda is also enjoying a new role as the music librarian for the Blue Valley School District.

DEBUT ORCHESTRA

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VIOLA

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CELLO

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ANNA COOK

CONDUCTOR

Originally from Lawrence, Kan., Anna Cook is a music educator and cellist in the Kansas City area. She holds cello performance and music education degrees from Bethel College and a master's degree in educational leadership from Fort Hays State University. Anna began her teaching

career in Wilson, Kan. and has served as the orchestra director at Shawnee Mission North High School in Overland Park, Kan. since 2015. Anna is married to her husband Ryan and enjoys photography, traveling and playing with her twin toddlers Andy and Hal.

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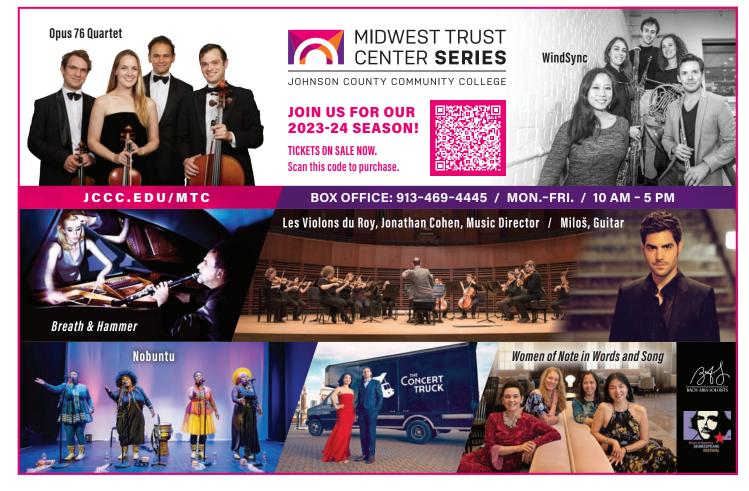
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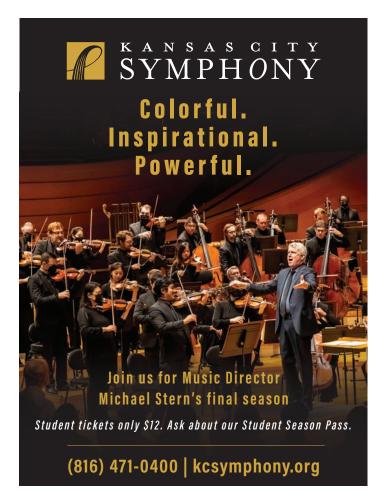


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ALUMNI Spotlight 15



ADRIANNA MARSHALL, Ph.D. YSKC '98

DISTRICT COORDINATOR OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS, KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Which years were you in YSKC, and what did you play?

My passion for playing started at a very young age. I first began playing viola in 5th grade with Youth Symphony of Kansas City. I served as an active member of the program between the years 1991-1998.

Tell us about your career and what led you to pursue it.

Currently, I am serving as the District Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts in Kansas City Public Schools. This position gives me the unique opportunity to provide quality fine arts education to students in the urban core. My mission centers on providing equitable fine arts education to the students within the district. By collaborating with teachers, administration and local institutions, we have provided schools with music, visual arts, theater arts and dance instruction as part of their public K-12 education.

How did YSKC play a role in your musical career?

It played a very prominent role in my career by providing a musical foundation to sustain my passions. Through Youth Symphony, I was able to play advanced repertoire, participate in performances and learn new skills I was able to develop as a musician and as a leader. I also had the opportunity to mentor younger musicians and to share my knowledge and experiences as a high school student.

Can you describe one of your favorite YSKC memories?

During the American Royal, YSKC and the KC Ballet collaborated in performing *Rodeo* by Aaron Copland. It was my first experience playing in an orchestra pit for a ballet.



The event was such a wonderful experience because we were all young talented musicians and dancers from Kansas City. This experience was invaluable, and I'm grateful to YSKC for providing me with the platform and resources to develop my musicianship.

What are some ways you've incorporated music into your adult life?

Over the years, I have started two string ensembles. When I lived in New Orleans, La., I managed and played viola in the Crescent Quartet. While studying at Peabody, I continued the Crescent Quartet and also created the Grandeur Trio. Once I moved back to Kansas City, I founded the Marshall Music Foundation, whose mission is to create spaces and opportunities for children to access music education through lessons, summer camps and other community-based events and activities.

What would you say to student musicians who are interested in pursuing a career in music or the arts?

The most important lesson is to work hard and to not give up on your own musicianship. Being a professional in the fine arts industry entails rigor and grit. You must always plan ahead, make time to practice your instrument, study music theory and history and be open to learning to play new instruments and new styles of music. It is also important to be knowledgeable about music technology and how it is evolving in society and to seek out mentorship from your teachers and future professors to help guide and encourage you throughout your musical journey. Lastly, be sure to network with other musicians and industry professionals to gain valuable insight into the industrial trends in the arts.

Thank you, Dr. Marshall, for sharing your YSKC story with us!

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