



A PLACE WE CALL
HOME

2026-27
CONSERVATORY
PERFORMANCE

UMKC Conservatory and the Society for
American Music present

Sounding Home:
Orchestral Voices, the Pulitzer Prize,
and American Identity at 250

Conservatory Symphony Orchestra Concert
Dr. Christopher Kelts, conductor

with guest speakers

Dr. Courtney Crappell

Dr. Matthew Anderson

Dr. Andrew Granade

Friday, September 18, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
James C. Olson Performing Arts Center
White Recital Hall

Sounding the Nation at 250

A project of the Society for American Music



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2026-27 season of the UMKC Conservatory.

This year's theme, *A Place We Call Home*, invites us to reflect on the spaces, people, and experiences that shape who we are as artists and as a community. Home can be rooted in geography, memory, tradition, or belonging. It can be inherited, discovered, or created together. Across this season, our students and faculty explore these ideas through performances that examine identity, connection, and the ways we carry a sense of home with us as we grow and change.

At the center of this season is our new Dean's Signature Series, a collection of performances that uniquely embody the spirit of this year's theme. Spanning music, dance, and theatre, these productions highlight the remarkable creativity of our students and faculty while inviting audiences into stories of reflection and shared humanity.

This season also arrives at a transformational moment for the Conservatory. As we prepare for the expansion and renovation of the Olson Performing Arts Center, we are reimagining the spaces where our community gathers and creates. For generations, these halls have served as a home for artists finding their voice and building their future. This next chapter reflects our commitment to supporting the evolving needs of our students, faculty, and Kansas City community for years to come.

Thank you for joining us this season. Whether you are returning to the Conservatory or visiting for the first time, we are grateful to welcome you.

Warm regards,
Courtney Crappell
Dean, UMKC Conservatory



Sounding Home:

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and American Identity at 250

CONSERVATORY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Dr. Christopher Kelts, music director and conductor

PROGRAM

—there will be no intermission—

The Star-Spangled Banner (1814/arr. 1941).....John Stafford Smith
(1750–1836)
lyr. Francis Scott Key
arr. Igor Stravinsky

Dean's Welcome – Dr. Courtney Crappell

Introduction to Howard Hanson – Dr. Matthew Anderson

Symphony No. 4, Op. 34 "Requiem" (1943) Howard Hanson
(1896–1981)

- I. Kyrie: Andante inquieto
- II. Requiescat: Largo
- III. Dies irae: Presto
- IV. Lux aeterna: Largo pastorale

Introduction to George Walker – Dr. Christopher Kelts

Lyric for Strings (1990) George Walker
(1922–2018)

Introduction to Aaron Copland – Dr. Andrew Granade

Appalachian Spring Suite for Orchestra (1945) Aaron Copland
(1900–1990)

UMKC Conservatory performances are recorded. Thank you for helping us
maintain a silence in the hall that is conducive to music-making.
Be sure to turn off all electronic devices.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Matthew Anderson is a musicologist whose research explores questions of identity, belonging, and cultural meaning in twentieth-century American music. He was drawn to the field through a love of both performance and critical inquiry, and his dissertation focuses on the symphonies of Howard Hanson and the ways they reflect competing ideas of nationalism, spirituality, and aesthetics. At UMKC, he is excited to bring these research interests into the classroom, helping students connect music to broader cultural and historical conversations. Beyond his academic work, he enjoys engaging with popular music, especially hip-hop music, often drawing connections between his research and contemporary culture.

Dr. Christopher Kelts is the Director of Orchestras at the University of Missouri–Kansas City Conservatory, where he leads the next generation of conductors and orchestral musicians. In addition to his academic post, Dr. Kelts serves as Music Director and Conductor of the Kansas City Civic Orchestra, the Kinnor Philharmonic, and the Saint Joseph Symphony, in addition to his national and international engagements, where his dynamic leadership and artistic vision continue to elevate each ensemble's profile and musical excellence. www.keltsconductor.com

Dr. Andrew Granade is a musicologist, educator, and academic leader in the UMKC Conservatory, where he serves as Associate Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs and Professor of Musicology. His research explores American music, especially the work of composer Harry Partch, music in media, the American wind band tradition, and music history pedagogy, bringing fresh insight into how music reflects culture and identity. His book *Harry Partch, Hobo Composer* explores the impact of the hobo persona on Partch's life, work, and reception, as well as the issues of exoticism that arise from it while his edited collection *The Musical Identities of Harry Partch: History, Theory, Performance* details how Partch's sound-world challenges conventions, reshapes performance conventions, and continues to redefine the possibilities of musical expression. An avid collaborator, he is currently working on two projects with other scholars – a co-edited collection on music in Arkansas for Illinois Press and a collaborative book on *Battlestar Galactica's* music for Palgrave Press.

With David Thurmaier he hosts the popular podcast *Hearing the Pulitzers*, which details the tangled history of the Pulitzer Prize in Music and features the works you're hearing tonight. You can find that podcast on your favorite app or by following this QR code:



CONSERVATORY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

Flute

Dane Frandsen
Bekah Walker
Aubrey Williamson

Oboe/English Horn

Sagar Anupindi
Colby Stevens
Parker Waganer

Clarinet

Darian Angel
Jonathan Cosme Sánchez
Jesus Santiago
Austin Yoder

Bassoon

Emily Mastenbrook
Sarah Stewart

Contrabassoon

Sarah Stewart

Trumpet

Braden Eddington
Jay Morris
Victoria Sewell

Horn

Angie Mejia Argueta
Evan Minsk
Zachary Regin
Riley Swaffar
Alyssa Watney

Trombone

Jacob Keller
Landon Schmidt

Bass Trombone

Jesus Gonzalez

Tuba

Michael Marrone

Piano

Bibiana Miskolciová

Harp

Wesley Snell

Timpani/Percussion

William Clippard
Colton Renfrow
Kayden Sinn
I-Hsuan Tsai

First Violin

Emma Andersen+
Aaron Tseng
Lin Zuo
Thomas Harlan
Lily Wyatt
Jonathan Melton
Rowan Long
Qiufan Chen
Ella Lee

Second Violin

Boxuan Fan+
Gabrielle Griggs
Kade Slayton
Ava Ciccio
John Crow
Madden Stueve
Matthew Parsley

Viola

Wan Loo Soo^
Quin O'Laughlin
Matt Lee
Wesley Lim
Caroline Black
Alena Bunkers
Erik Alvarado
Preston Elliott
Ethan Maisonneuve
Galen Kroeger
Heejung Yang
Chung-Wen Lee

Cello

Michael Puryear^
Elise Thierbach
Margaret Kocher
Rony Castro
Dillon Potts
Feier Ni
Jinxuan Fei
Langston Tervort
Lily Theis
Seungchan Song
Aram Lee

Double Bass

Gillian Calder^
Victoria Driver
Lana Dauw
Jaden Jarman
Noah Blair

Graduate Conductors

David Mascari
Xiang Li

Orchestras Equipment

Manager
Lin Zuo

Orchestras Librarian

David Mascari

+Concertmasters
(switch during concert cycles
or pieces)

^Principal

(Wind and percussion
personnel listed
alphabetically)

UMKC CONSERVATORY / DIVISION OF MUSIC

Dean of UMKC Conservatory..... Courtney Crappell
 Associate Dean of Operations.....James Snell

Chair of the Music Division..... Christopher Hayes
 Director of Orchestras.....Christopher Kelts
 Director of Choral Studies Jennifer Sengin
 Director of Bands and Wind EnsemblesSteven D. Davis
 Associate Director of BandsJoe Parisi
 Interim Director of OperaLinda Ade Brand
 Interim Director of Jazz Studies..... Clint Ashlock

Vocal Area Coordinator.....Raymond Feener
 Instrumental Area Coordinator & Professor of Clarinet.....Jane Carl
 Professor of Cello..... Michael Mermagen
 Professor of Oboe..... Celeste Johnson
 Professor of Saxophone..... Zachary Shemon
 Professor of Violin..... Joseph Genualdi
 Adjunct Associate Professor of Double Bass..... Keith Wymer
 Associate Professor of ViolaScott Lee
 Associate Professor of Voice Maria Kanyova
 Associate Professor of VoiceDale Morehouse
 Associate Professor of VoiceAidan Soder
 Assistant Professor of Bassoon..... Leigh Muñoz
 Assistant Professor of Flute..... Terri Sánchez
 Assistant Professor of Horn..... Alberto G. Suarez
 Assistant Professor of Percussion Bill Shaltis
 Assistant Professor of TrumpetMatthew Vangjel
 Assistant Professor of Trombone Lauren Casey-Clyde
 Assistant Professor of Tuba & Euphonium.....Jarrett McCourt
 Assistant Professor of Voice Seokho Park

Production Manager.....Adam M. Fulmer
 Production Manager..... Chase Ainsworth
 Senior Recording EngineerRobert Beck
 Piano Technician Conrad Hulme
 Senior Executive Assistant Kathryn Motter
 Communications Coordinator..... Anna Hacker
 Scheduling & Volunteer Coordinator Madeline Campbell

UPCOMING DEAN'S SIGNATURE SERIES EVENTS

Conservatory Wind Symphony Concert
White Recital Hall
September 24, 7:30 p.m.

***Working*, Conservatory Fall Musical**
by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso
Spencer Theatre
October 14-17

"At the Heart of Kansas City"
Conservatory Symphony Orchestra and Choirs
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
October 19, 7:00 p.m.

Fall Dance Performances
Spencer Theatre
October 23-25

***Corners Grove*, Conservatory Fall Play**
by Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin
The Arts Asylum
October 30-November 2

CRESCENDO: Conservatory Fundraising Gala
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
November 14

UPCOMING DEAN'S SIGNATURE SERIES EVENTS

Passage, Conservatory Winter Play

by Christopher Chen

The Arts Asylum

November 18-21

"A Celebration of Peace"

Conservatory and Allegro Choirs

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

February 16, 7:00 p.m.

Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi

two one-act operas by Giacomo Puccini

White Recital Hall

March 3-6

The Winter's Tale, Conservatory Play

by William Shakespeare

Spencer Theatre

March 16-20

"The Listening House"

by NEXUS and Dr. Paul Rudy

White Recital Hall

April 7, 7:30 p.m.

Conservatory Finale

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

April 20, 7:00 p.m.

UMKC

Conservatory



The UMKC Conservatory relies on philanthropic support to provide the highest quality educational experiences for our students as well as exceptional performances to the community. To make an online gift to the Conservatory or to direct your gift toward a designated area of study, visit go.umkc.edu/donate-to-conservatory or scan the QR code.

For information about other ways to give including establishing a scholarship, endowed fund or estate gift, please contact:

Mark Mattison | markmattison@umkc.edu | 816-235-1247



For more great Conservatory performances, enjoy the UMKC Conservatory Hour on Classical KC, on air twice per week or anytime online.
classicalkc.org/show/umkc-conservatory

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

go.umkc.edu/conservatory-tickets

conservatory.umkc.edu

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