

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Ellen McDonald, Publicist

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

816.213.4355 | publicity@kauffmancenter.org

Karen Badgett, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

816.994.7229 | kbadgett@kauffmancenter.org

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts to Host Free Pipe Organ Concert for Mother's Day on Saturday, May 11

"An Around-the-World Musical Adventure" program features GRAMMY-nominated artist Jan Kraybill performing on the Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ, Opus 3875 in Helzberg Hall

The FREE event is a Mother's Day gift to the community from Saint Luke's

Kansas City, MO – Celebrate Mother's Day a day early with a free pipe organ concert presented by the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and Saint Luke's on Saturday, May 11, at 3 p.m. in Helzberg Hall. GRAMMY-nominated artist Jan Kraybill will perform "An Around-the-World Musical Adventure" from the console of the spectacular Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ, Opus 3875, one of the finest concert hall organs in the nation.

Jan Kraybill, organ conservator for the Kauffman Center, has curated a 75-minute program that takes patrons on a musical adventure across the globe, including the U.S., the U.K., Europe and Africa.

This free concert is a Mother's Day gift from Saint Luke's to the community in celebration of the 30th anniversary of Saint Luke's Muriel I. Kauffman Women's Heart Center. The Center was the first in the nation to take a proactive role in addressing women's heart health and is dedicated to defining transformational research that addresses cardiovascular conditions across a woman's lifespan.

"Saint Luke's is excited to sponsor this event for the third year and be a part of bringing families together to celebrate the wonderful mothers in their lives," said Dr. Tracy Steven, Medical Director of Saint Luke's Muriel I. Kauffman Women's Heart Center. "Pipe organ music has heart-healthy benefits including lowering blood pressure and reducing stress. Our team at the Muriel I. Kauffman Women's Heart Center is dedicated to the heart health of the women in our community. We wish all

mothers a heart-healthy Mother's Day!"

"We are delighted to partner with Saint Luke's again for what has become a tradition for many families in celebration of Mother's Day by presenting an organ concert at the Kauffman Center," said Kauffman Center President & CEO Paul Schofer. "It seems most fitting that the concert honors not only the Muriel I. Kauffman Women's Heart Center 30th anniversary celebration but also the Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ, Opus 3875. This partnership demonstrates our deep commitment to women's health and well-being, both in body and spirit."

ABOUT JAN KRAYBILL, ORGANIST

GRAMMY-nominated artist Jan Kraybill is a musical leader, international concert organist, pianist, harpsichordist and educator, as well as the organ conservator for the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. She holds piano performance and education degrees from Kansas State University and a doctorate in organ performance from the UMKC Conservatory. In 2010, Kraybill achieved the distinction of Fellow of the American Guild of Organists – the highest certification level for organists.

Kraybill has performed worldwide, including many venues in North America and Europe, as well as Australia, Russia, South Korea and Tahiti. Her solo album, *The Orchestral Organ*, was recorded from the Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ at the Kauffman Center and was nominated for a GRAMMY for Best Classical Instrumental Solo Album in 2020. Kraybill's other interests include antiquing, lacemaking and riding her Harley-Davidson with her husband, Allan.

ABOUT JULIA IRENE KAUFFMAN CASAVANT ORGAN, OPUS 3875

The visual centerpiece of Helzberg Hall is the Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ, Opus 3875, one of the finest concert pipe organs in the country. Quebec-based firm Casavant Frères designed the mechanical-action organ in the French romantic tradition, with 79 stops, 102 ranks and 5,548 pipes.

This custom-built instrument was commissioned to showcase incredible sound, elegant beauty and perfect harmony, complementing the acoustical and visual design of Helzberg Hall. The organ is used throughout the year during various performances offered by the Kauffman Center, the Kansas City Symphony, UMKC Conservatory and select high school choral concerts and recitals.

kauffmancenter.org/about/venues/the-organ.

ABOUT SAINT LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM

[Saint Luke's Health System](#) is a faith-based, not-for-profit organization with 14 hospitals and campuses and more than 200 primary care and specialty clinics, treating patients in 65 specialty services across 67 counties in Missouri and Kansas. Saint Luke's has cared for Kansas City and surrounding communities for more than 140 years and is committed to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. Follow Saint Luke's: [Facebook](#) [X](#) [YouTube](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#)

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for this event are free, but reservations are required. Free tickets will be available to the public at 10 a.m. April 19, 2024. Tickets will be available through the Kauffman Center Ticket Office at 816.994.7222 or online at tickets.kauffmancenter.org.

PARKING & DOWNTOWN MAPS

Find information and maps for Kauffman Center parking and street closure updates at kauffmancenter.org/parking. The Arts District Garage is the primary parking garage for patrons. The garage is directly attached to the Kauffman Center just south of the building with multiple access points to surrounding streets. Purchasing event parking in advance is highly recommended as it often will sell out. The garage is \$13 per car in advance or \$16 upon arrival or valet is \$22 in advance or \$24 upon arrival.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Kauffman Center's promise to bring artists and audiences together is reflected in many ways, including removing barriers and providing access to our performing arts experiences for all patrons. You can learn more by visiting kauffmancenter.org/accessibility. To request services or receive additional information that would make your visit more enjoyable, please contact our ticket office at 816.994.7222 or contact@kauffmancenter.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Receive updates by following our Facebook page at facebook.com/kauffmancenter, Instagram page at instagram.com/kauffmancenter and X (formerly known as Twitter) page at twitter.com/kauffmancenter. Watch videos at youtube.com/kauffmancenter and follow our blog at kauffmancenter.org/news.

MEDIA

Visit the Kauffman Center's online press room for media resources, multimedia library, press release archive and more: kauffmancenter.org/about/press-room.

SPONSORS

The *Kauffman Center Presents* series is made possible by the John N. and Marilyn P. McConnell Foundation, Premier Partner Saint Luke's Health System and Building Sponsor Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City.

ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Opening in 2011, the Kauffman Center serves as a cultural cornerstone for extraordinary and diverse music, opera, theater and dance performances for Kansas City and the region. Designed by internationally recognized architect Moshe Safdie, the Kauffman Center has been honored as one of the World's 15 Most Beautiful Concert Halls, which attracts some of the world's most renowned performers and entertainers. The 285,000-square-foot Center includes two performance halls: the 1,800-seat Muriel Kauffman Theatre that hosts dance performances, operas, plays, and musicals and the 1,600-seat Helzberg Hall, a venue for a wide range of musical performances, from chamber music to full orchestral concerts, jazz and pop, lectures and recitals.

The Kauffman Center is the performance home for three of the region's leading performing arts organizations – Kansas City Ballet, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Kansas City Symphony. In addition,

the *Kauffman Center Presents* series brings in performing artists at the top of their classes as well as *Trailblazing Talks*, a live speaker series. Since opening, the Kauffman Center has offered over 3,100 performances and welcomed more than 4.5 million visitors.

By engaging the community and creating access to arts experiences, more than 415,000 students attended over 366 matinees offered by the Kauffman Center, its resident companies and other arts organizations. More information about the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts can be found at kauffmancenter.org.