

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)



5 Star Jazz Band

Performing at 12 p.m. on the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box stage.

www.5starjazzband.com

5 Star Jazz Band is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community big band that's been around for 16 years. The band has attracted students from more than 47 schools in the bi-state region, logged hundreds of performances and earned support from the nation's leading art patrons. A true community amenity,

5 Star Jazz Band is totally independent, self-supporting and tuition free. Its members are dedicated to keeping alive Kansas City's musical heritage in Big Band, Swing and Jazz. Photo by Sara Unrein.



AileyCamp The Group

Performing at 12 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage.

www.kcfaa.org

AileyCamp The Group was founded in 1997 as a continuation of Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey's nationally awarded AileyCamp. The group gives students opportunities to train, perform and continue their personal development. They perform annually at their Spring Concert in addition to performing at KCFAA's gala, The Black United Front's

Kwanzaa Celebration and EarlystART's Fall Festival. Photo by Starra Zwegardt.



Art as Mentorship's Rebel Song Academy

Performing at 2:30 p.m. on the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box stage.

www.artasmentorship.org

Art as Mentorship is a Kansas City-based non-profit organization that empowers young people to write their own success stories. Art as Mentorship envisions an inclusive community where under-represented artists are emboldened to raise their voices through music. Students

have performed around the Kansas City metro and surrounding region at festivals, concerts and events including Celebrate AMERI'KANA, Plaza Art Fair, Crossroads Music Fest and others. Photo by Sara Unrein.

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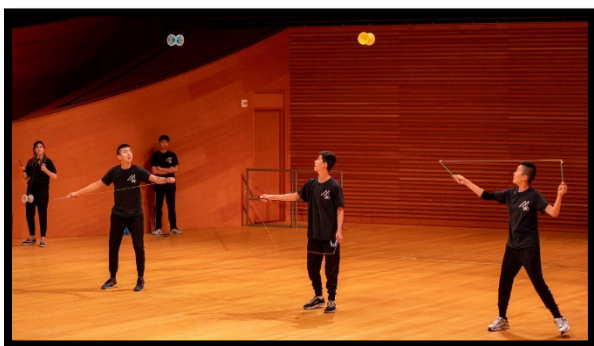
Cathy's Creative Dance School

Performing at 3:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

www.cathyscreativedanceschool.com

Cathy's Creative Dance School has been Independence's hometown dance center since 1981. The school has been educating boys and girls in dance and tumbling for more than 40 years. Cathy's Creative Dance School partners with the Independence Community Education program to offer dance opportunities to school-age students through the

Independence School District. Each year students perform in a holiday benefit program that raises funds for Dancers Against Cancer, American Cancer Society, Community Services League and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Many students are second and third generation students of Cathy's Creative Dance School. Photo by Frank Porter.



Chinese School of Greater Kansas City

Performing at 12 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

www.kcchineseschool.org

The Chinese School of Greater Kansas City is a non-profit educational institution that offers Mandarin Chinese language classes and cultural activities such as Chinese Yo-Yo (spinning a diabolo on a string attached to two hand sticks), Fusion Dance (traditional Chinese dance with elements of modern dance and hip-hop), Go-Board and Taekwondo. The

Chinese School of Greater Kansas City recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and received a "Certificate of Congratulations" from the mayor of the City of Leawood for its dedication to providing Chinese cultural learning for all people in the Kansas City metro area since 1973. Photo by Cassandra Schmidt.



Creative Emajinations Music Group

Performing at 2 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage.

www.ce816kids.org

Creative Emajinations, a performing arts organization in Kansas City, offers a safe space for youth to learn and explore self-expression and movement through dance and music. Youth are inspired to use their imagination without limitation, to dream big, to build confidence and to reach their full potential. Creative Emajinations Music Group, "5

Stone Stack," is a dynamic collective of young talent poised to revolutionize the hip-hop scene with a mission to inspire, educate and entertain audiences of all ages. Photo contributed by Creative Emajinations.

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)



Ekzaltim

Performing at 3:30 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage.
www.sofintl.org

Ekzaltim was founded in 2016 at Seed of Faith International, a Foursquare Church in Raytown, Missouri. The group's dance style, envisioned by lead choreographer Tiffany Clemons, is inspired by Afro rhythms and Eastern African dance. This style of dance represents ceremonial principles through expressive movements. Ekzaltim has performed at

Seed of Faith International and the historic Gem Theater on 18th and Vine. Ekzaltim's mission is to encourage young girls to fulfill their dreams of performing through creative expression. Photo by Myra Scales.



Gurukul Dance Company

Performing at 4:30 p.m. in Helzberg Hall.
www.gurukulacademykc.com

Gurukul Dance Company is a nonprofit dance company with a mission to promote and develop various forms of Indian classical dance in the Kansas City area and Midwest region. Gurukul is a versatile company with a primary focus on Kuchipudi, a dance style from the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. The group demonstrates beauty,

storytelling, tradition and vibrancy through dance and narration, and have received invitations to perform from private organizers and various universities. Since 2004, Artistic Director Samarpita Bajpai has been teaching and raising awareness of the East Indian classical dance forms among mainstream audiences locally and nationally, earning many accolades from dance critics and audiences. Photo by Chandra Ganne.



Harmony Project KC Wind Ensemble

Performing at 12:30 p.m. in Helzberg Hall.
www.necc-kc.org

The Northeast Community Center uses the universal language of music to develop young musicians and to build community in Kansas City. The flagship program, Harmony Project KC, offers free orchestral training to children ages 7 to 18 and provides these students access to the arts in a safe after-school environment. Music is why children come

through the door, but the program's impact is so much more! Through intensive music instruction, educational resources and whole-family wellness services, the Northeast Community Center is leveraging the power of the arts to enrich lives. Photo by Ellie Fehlig.

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)



Heart of America Youth Ballet

Performing at 2:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

www.hadc.biz/heart-of-america-youth-ballet

Heart of America Youth Ballet is a nonprofit organization that has offered years of service characterized by dance education, free seminars, performing at nursing homes and giving charitable donations to organizations. The company is committed to providing quality, affordable ballet to the greater Kansas City community. Led by Founder Cynthia

Monaco and Artistic Director Lisa Anderson, members are made up of apprentice, pre-company and company performers ranging from ages 12 to 18 years old. The youth ballet, a regular attraction at the historic Folly Theater in downtown Kansas City, has produced traditional ballets such as “The Nutcracker”, “Coppelia”, “Cinderella” and “Sleeping Beauty”, along with their original ballets of “Alice in Wonderland”, “Little Mermaid” and “The Wizard of Oz”. Photo contributed by Heart of America Youth Ballet.



HK Chinese Folk Dance

Performing at 4 p.m. on the Saint Luke’s Outdoor Stage.

HK Chinese Folk Dance Group prides itself on community involvement and the ability to showcase the art of Chinese folk dance. Dance teacher Ms. Hoi Kei Au has been teaching Chinese folk dance for more than 25 years, and her group regularly receives invitations to perform for non-profit, religious and ethnic organizations, nursing homes, municipalities, festivals and more.



Ice Studios School of Dance

Performing at 4:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

www.icestudiosdance.org

Ice Studios School of Dance has inspired more than 1,000 youth to live well through their creative dance program. The studio started with one teacher and 11 students and has grown to serve up to 200 students as well as three interns and five dance instructors. The program encourages positive

body image and builds self-esteem through physical activity, health and nutrition education. As a studio that changes lives through the art of dance, Ice Studios engages youth ages 2 ½ to 18 in a year-long dance program teaching various dance styles and healthy living. The studio strives to condition young bodies and minds to live a healthy and balanced lifestyle through the power of dance. Photo by Gary Rohman.

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)



Kansas City Aerial Arts – Training Company

Performing at 12:30 p.m. next to the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box.

kansascityaerialarts.com

Kansas City Aerial Arts – Training Company is a high-quality, passionate local circus troupe that performs a full-length theatrical production twice a year at Union Station's City Stage. The Training Company has also performed at various events throughout the Kansas City metro area, including at

Municipal Arena, in the Crossroads Arts District, at Liberty Memorial, for JuneteenthKC events at 18th and Vine, at KC Pride in Theis Park and for Third Fridays in Kansas City, Kansas. Photo by Ellie Fehlig



Kansas City Horn Club Youth Ensemble

Performing at 1:30 p.m. in Helzberg Hall.

www.kchorclub.org

The Kansas City Horn Club (KCHC), established in 2013 by Natalie Higgins and Stacy Lendt, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering musical excellence and camaraderie among horn players in the Kansas City area. With a passion for the versatile horn and a commitment to musical expression, KCHC serves as a platform for musicians to

showcase their talent and share their love for the instrument.

Central to KCHC's vision is the education and support of young musicians. Through youth ensembles and educational initiatives, KCHC provides valuable opportunities for aspiring horn players to develop their skills and connect with mentors in the field. By increasing community awareness of musical styles and the art of horn playing, KCHC aims to inspire the next generation of horn enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds and career paths.

In pursuit of its mission and vision, KCHC remains committed to providing inclusive educational programs and performance opportunities for horn players of all ages and walks of life. By fostering a supportive and collaborative environment, KCHC continues to make a lasting impact on the Kansas City arts community, ensuring that the legacy of horn music thrives for generations to come. Photo contributed by Kansas City Horn Club.

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)



Kansas City Institute of Chinese Language and Culture

Performing at 3 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

www.kcschool.org/

Founded in 1998, Kansas City Institute of Chinese Language and Culture (KCICLC) is an officially registered non-profit educational organization and the largest Chinese school in Kansas and the greater Kansas City area.

The school's purpose is to spread Chinese culture and to teach Mandarin, Chinese pinyin and simplified Chinese characters. KCICLC also offers various extracurricular courses in dance, traditional Chinese painting, chess and children's basketball. The Chinese School Dance Team has been active on major stages in the local community since its establishment and has been invited to participate in the Spring Festival Gala, The Nelson-Atkins Museum's celebration of the Chinese New Year and many other community events. Kansas City Institute of Chinese Language and Culture has become a portal for many people to view and understand the traditions of China. Photo by Starra Zwegardt.



Kansas City Suzuki Academy

Performing at 3 p.m. in Helzberg Hall.

www.kcsuzukiacademy.com

Kansas City Suzuki Academy (KCSA), inspired by philosopher and humanist Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, is a growing community of students, teachers and parents dedicated to nurturing young people through the study of music. Founded in 2015, it has a reputation for excellence and sharing the gift of music throughout the region. KCSA student body ranges from birth

through age 18, meeting weekly for group and private lessons with accomplished KCSA faculty. KCSA students perform a vast repertoire of music, presenting mixed ensemble music for violin, viola and cello in a variety of styles in group and solo recitals, including Suzuki Community Concerts at senior centers, schools, churches and other venues throughout the year. Photo by Matt Beckmann.

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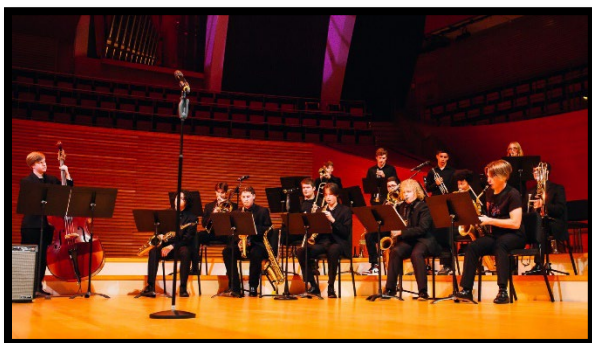
KC Bhangra

Performing at 3 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage.

www.facebook.com/kcbhangra

KC Bhangra, a performing arts school, teaches traditional Indian folk dance to students ages 6 and older. Bhangra, a celebratory folk dance from North India, was traditionally performed to welcome the coming of spring for farmers. In the last 30 years, the dance has evolved, becoming integrated into popular Asian culture after being mixed with

hip-hop, house and reggae musical styles. Traditional Bhangra uses props synonymous with farming tools and movements that resemble farming activities. Photo contributed by KC Bhangra.



Live Jazz KC High School All Star Big Band

Performing at 1 p.m. in Helzberg Hall.

www.livejazzkc.com/highschoolallstarband

The Live Jazz KC High School All Star Big Band is comprised of Kansas City's top high school musicians from both sides of the state line and highlights the depth of talent in Kansas City. The group offers students the opportunity to perform and collaborate with other talented youths using a traditional and contemporary approach to Kansas City style

jazz music. Live Jazz KC High School All Star Big Band is noted as one of the premier youth jazz programs in Kansas City. Photo by Bernadette Hursh.



Lyric Singers of St. Joseph Youth Chorale

Performing at 4 p.m. in Helzberg Hall.

www.sjycsings.org

St. Joseph Youth Chorale (SJYC) is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit dedicated to the advancement of choral music educational experiences for exceptional singers in grades 2 to 12. Founded in 2012, SJYC is comprised of members from public, parochial, private and home schools, offering two choirs – Lyric Singers (grades 6 to 12) and Bel Canto (grades

2 to 6). Lyric Singers serves students seeking to expand their choral skills and performance opportunities while providing challenging literature in sacred, secular, classical, folk and contemporary styles. Bel Canto serves singers who wish to learn sight-reading, part singing and proper vocal production skills. Membership is by audition with scholarships for financial aid and merit available for those who qualify. Photo by Cassandra Schmidt.

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)

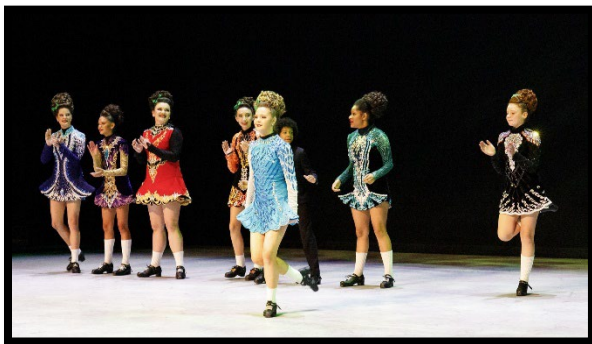


MSACP Orchestra

Performing at 3 p.m. on the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box stage.

www.msaorchestras.com

MSACP Orchestra seeks to build confidence, creativity and musicianship through a unique repertoire selection and smaller class sizes that allow more solo and section leadership opportunities. Director Natasha Kwapich actively involves interested students in repertoire selection and creative planning as well as provides an outlet for student composers. Concert themes have ranged from Renaissance and Classical to film scores to Flamenco to rock. The MSACP Orchestra has performed at community events including the Luminary Walk at the Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, the Union Station Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Kansas City Renaissance Festival, as well as at venues that include the Museum at Prairiefire, the Mahaffie Heritage Center, the Johnson County Library and the Olathe Downtown Library. MSACP Orchestra believes in sharing its talents with the community so their concerts are always free. Photo by Ellie Fehlig.



O'Riada Manning Academy of Irish Dance

Performing at 1:30 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage.

www.omirishdance.com

The originally certified Kansas City Irish dance academy, O'Riada Manning Academy of Irish Dance (OM) offers a wide range of classes for youth and adults of all levels and backgrounds. Owner and Director Joseph Manning, born and raised in Kansas City, uses his experience in all avenues of dance to help his students succeed in their desired focus. For 30 years, the academy has continually produced well-rounded competitors and performers of both traditional and modern Irish dance techniques. O'Riada Manning Academy provides a positive and healthy environment that encourages school spirit and builds camaraderie between dancers and families of the O'Riada Manning community. Photo by Starra Zweygardt.

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)



Ovation Dance Academy Company Dancers

Performing at 12:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

www.ovationdancekc.com

Ovation Dance Academy Company Dancers are an elite-level, intensive performing and competitive team comprised of dancers 5 to 18 years old. Ovation dancers train in many styles of dance and perform at regional and national dance competitions, including community events. Each year, Ovation dancers perform at three local and one national

dance competition. In 2023, they were the opening entertainment at Northeast Johnson County Chamber's annual gala. The group also performed in their own company showcase in March and in their annual recital in June at Yardley Hall. Ovation Dance Academy Company Dancers strive to build community and be the best they can be! Photo by Mike + Julie Storytellers.



Pythons Drill Team

Performing at 1 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage.

www.pythonsdrillteam.com

Pythons Drill Team is a community-based nonprofit organization that provides a safe outlet for Kansas City youth to express their talents through music and the arts. Organized in 1986 by Wanda Winters, the Pythons Drill Team started with 10 girls performing with a boombox and cassette tape. Two years later, Winters added drums, flags

and rifles, expanding the team to include both boys and girls. Since its establishment, the team has traveled all over the United States and has been featured in documentaries and national TV. Last year, the Pythons traveled to Hollywood, CA, to be featured on the TMZ Show. They also performed at Universal Studios and the legendary Walk of Fame. Photo contributed by Pythons Drill Team.

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)



Refine the Studio

Performing at 4 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

www.refinestudio.com

Refine the Studio brings a new perspective to the dance industry by offering an elite program geared toward dancers who wish to perform professional routines at a competitive level. Devoted company members spend hours learning advanced skills and have weekly rehearsals that prepare them for the stage. Dancers with Refine the Studio are

encouraged to become the best version of themselves and to grow in their passion, skill and artistry. Company members have performed in parades, festivals and conventions, including regional and national competitions. Photo contributed by Refine the Studio.



Reflections of Polynesia

Performing at 1 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

www.reflectionsofpolynesia.com

Aloha! Reflections of Polynesia is dedicated to educating the public and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the South Pacific. The group does this with storytelling through dance and music that takes audiences on an unforgettable journey across the sea to the Kingdom of Tonga, highlighting its

unique blend of traditional and contemporary art forms. Reflections of Polynesia teaches Polynesian culture to students of all ages through dancing, sharing recipes, understanding the language and appreciating the ancestry. The group strives to ensure its cultural heritage will continue to thrive for today, tomorrow and generations to come. Reflections of Polynesia embrace the true essence of teamwork, believing together people can accomplish anything. Photo by Starra Zwegardt.



Starlight Stars

Performing at 2:30 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage.

www.kcstarlight.com/engage/training/starlight-stars

The Starlight Stars summer program is structured to develop and hone the skills of high school performers. Since 2003, this educational program has prepared company members to pursue careers in the arts and alumni of the program have performed across the country and abroad. Company members participate in master classes and workshops, while

creating a musical theatre medley that is performed at Starlight prior to select Broadway performances and at multiple community events like the Plaza Lighting, Fountain Day and numerous holiday events. Photo contributed by Starlight Stars.

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)



Storybook Theatre

Performing at 1:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre.

www.storybooktheatrekc.com

Storybook Theatre, a theatrical and musical arts education program for youth ages 4 to 18, offers performance opportunities year-round with more than 100 students participating in classes each quarter. Storybook Theatre believes artists should be performing and has designed classes where students have routine opportunities to

perform onstage in front of a live audience. Since 2003, Storybook Theatre has been offering these classes and providing a space for students to build community with their peers while becoming stronger performers.

Photo by Zach Anderson-Boland.



String Sprouts KC

Performing at 2 p.m. in Helzberg Hall.

www.stringsproutskc.org

String Sprouts KC is an early childhood music education program whose mission is to connect, engage and inspire students of all ages through a lifetime of musical education and performance. Founded on the belief that every child deserves access to high-quality music education, String Sprouts KC provides instruments and engaging instruction to

children from underserved communities, completely free of charge to families. Young learners are introduced to the joys of playing string instruments through small group classes. With a focus on fostering creativity, discipline and confidence, String Sprouts KC empowers children to express themselves through music while building essential academic and life skills. String Sprouts students annually perform with the UMKC Conservatory Orchestra and have also had performance opportunities with the Kansas City Symphony in 2023 and the Heartland Chamber students at the Band of Angels gala in 2024. Photo by Sara Unrein.

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)



The A-Flat Youth Orchestra

Performing at 12 p.m. in Helzberg Hall.

www.aflatmusicstudio.com

The A-Flat Youth Orchestra was founded by Darryl Chamberlain as an avenue for youth who want to play a musical instrument but don't have the opportunity to do so through their public school. The youth orchestra, developed and managed by the A-Flat Music Studio Inc., is open to all children in the urban core of Kansas City who want to study

instrumental music. The group is a pop orchestra with a repertoire that ranges from Baroque to modern music. The A-Flat Youth Orchestra has been featured on the NBC Today Show's Feel-Good Friday series and numerous media outlets across the Kansas City area. Photo by Ellie Fehlig.



The Barton Street Band

Performing at 1:30 p.m. on the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box stage.

www.facebook.com/BartonStreetBand

The Barton Street Band features 13-year-old twins, Arlo and Ira Good. Supported by their father on bass, the band has been performing for 7 years at various venues including the Culture House, Overland Park-Carpenter, Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church and in social media videos.

Arlo Good plays guitar as well as sings and is no stranger to the stage. He recently performed in the Lyric Opera of Kansas City's production of "The Sound of Music" as well as in KC Repertory Theater's "A Christmas Carol" and The New Theatre's "Freaky Friday". Arlo enjoys writing his own songs as well as learning classic rock standards.

Ira Good plays drums and piano. A natural musician, Ira also sings and writes songs. Ira enjoys learning movies scores and playing music with a loop pedal. Ira won best commercial in Kansas City's 2023 Reel Spirit Film Festival.

Both boys have participated in various programs at Kansas City Young Audiences and The Culture House. Arlo and Ira have a passion for filmmaking and enjoy making videos for the band and home movies. Together, they won best narrative in Kansas City's 2023 Reel Spirit Film Festival. Photo by Andrew Peterson.

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)



The Kansas City Boys Choir and The Kansas City Girls Choir
Performing at 3:30 p.m. in Helzberg Hall.

www.kcbcgc.org

The Kansas City Boys Choir and The Kansas City Girls Choirs (KCBCGC) is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide a communication style to youth that crosses socioeconomic, gender and ethnic barriers opening portals of creativity through music education and performance. The Kansas City Boys Choir and The Kansas City Girls Choir

perform public and private concerts throughout the year. Last year, the group performed pieces centered around the theme YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND that used a medley of popular "friend themed" songs. The choirs strive to bridge cultural gaps and foster talent through music education, community service and scholarship. Photo by Ellie Fehlig.



The Last Carnival

Performing at 4 p.m. next to the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box.

www.sihkaanddestroy.com

The Last Carnival is a Lawrence, Kansas based circus school that specializes in high danger acts of strength, flexibility and flight that will wow crowds of all ages. The young acrobats perform these thrilling stunts for the audiences' entertainment and have been performing regionally at state

and town fairs, community fundraisers, private events and in their own theatrical productions. Photo by Bernadette Hursh.



Traditional Music Society – Little Africa

Performing at 4:30 p.m. on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage.

www.traditionalmusicsociety.org

The Traditional Music Society is an arts-in-education organization devoted to the development of community cohesiveness through the study of music and dance from primarily West Africa, Brazil, Central America and the Caribbean. Using these cultural art forms, the organization improves self-esteem, interpersonal skills, critical thinking

and cognitive skills in their students as well as addresses risky behavior in undeserved children and young adults from the urban core of Kansas City, Missouri. Photo contributed by Traditional Music Society.

PERFORMANCE GROUP BIOS (ALPHABETICALLY)



Voler Aerial Academy Youth

Performing at 2 p.m. next to the Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box.

Thievesofflight.com

Voler – Thieves of Flight, Kansas City's premier aerial academy, is an edgy and experimental collaboration of aerial dance and acrobatics, comprised of performing artists from the Kansas City area. With more than 15 years of experience, Voler sets the bar high with award winning teaching, notable performance style, innovative curriculum and a supportive community. The academy includes training in aerial silks, straps, hammock, lyra (hoop), static trapeze, hand balancing, acro yoga, aerial yoga, flexibility, modern dance, contemporary dance, ambient characters and theatrical development. At Voler, instructors have a passion for helping mentor future generations of circus performers, and are excited to offer not only classes, but performance opportunities to budding aerialists. Photo contributed by Voler Aerial Academy.