

Contact:
Bess Wallerstein Huff
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
(816) 994-7229 | bw@kauffmancenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 3, 2015

**KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES
TWO NEW PERFORMANCES IN THE 2015-2016
KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SEASON**

*Jake Shimabukuro (October 18, 2015) and Ira Glass (October 24, 2015)
will perform at the Kauffman Center this fall*

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts announced that ukulele virtuoso and composer, Jake Shimabukuro will perform on Sunday, October 18 in Helzberg Hall. Ticket prices range from \$21 to \$59 and will go on sale Friday, June 12.

Host and producer of the radio and television show *This American Life*, Ira Glass will perform *Reinventing Radio: An Evening with Ira Glass* on Saturday, October 24 in Muriel Kauffman Theatre. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$69 and will also go on sale Friday, June 12.

“Kauffman Center is thrilled to welcome back performer and composer Jake Shimabukuro who has redefined ukulele playing and expanded the boundaries of traditional ukulele performance,” said Paul Schofer, President and CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. “In addition, we look forward to welcoming American radio personality and producer Ira Glass to the Kauffman Center to engage audiences about creating and hosting his award-winning program *This American Life*.”

Tickets will be available through the Kauffman Center Box Office at (816) 994-7222, via the Kauffman Center mobile app or online at www.kauffmancenter.org.

ABOUT JAKE SHIMABUKURO

Ukulele master Jake Shimabukuro has taken the four-string, two-octave instrument to places no one has gone before, performing awesome music that ranges from jazz, blues, and rock to bluegrass, classical, and folk. His live concerts are an out-of-the-box blend of stunning virtuosity, deep musicality and a natural entertainer's flair. Shimabukuro got his start at age four, when his mother gave him his first ukulele lesson. Fascinated by the instrument, he eventually began playing regularly at a local café, where his talent and reputation blossomed. Fast-forward several years and Shimabukuro now has his own record label, and tours extensively in the U.S. and Japan. Shimabukuro has completely rewritten the book on the possibilities of the ukulele -- and is adding new chapters with every CD he records.

ABOUT IRA GLASS

Ira Glass started working in public radio in 1978, when he was 19, as an intern at NPR's headquarters in Washington D.C. Over the next 17 years, he worked on nearly every NPR news show and did nearly every production job they had: tape-

cutter, desk assistant, newscast writer, editor, producer, reporter, and substitute host. He spent a year in a high school for NPR, and a year in an elementary school, filing stories for *All Things Considered*. He moved to Chicago in 1989 and put *This American Life* on the air in 1995.

In *Reinventing Radio: An Evening with Ira Glass*, the creator of the public radio show *This American Life* talks about his program and how it's put together: what makes a compelling story, where they find the amazing stories for their show, how he and his staff are trying to push broadcast journalism to do things it doesn't usually do. As part of this, Glass mixes stories from the show, live onstage, combining his narration with pre-taped quotes and music, recreating the sound of the show as the audience watches. And he plays funny and memorable moments from the show, and talks about what was behind their creation.

ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts – a major not-for-profit center for music, opera, theater and dance designed by Moshe Safdie – opened in 2011. Serving as a cultural cornerstone for Kansas City and the region, the Kauffman Center delivers extraordinary and diverse performing arts experiences. Honored as one of the World's 15 Most Beautiful Concert Halls, the Kauffman Center attracts some of the world's most renowned performers and entertainers.

Through educational outreach programs and community enrichment, the Kauffman Center supports Kansas City as a cultural destination. More information on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is available at kauffmancenter.org.

Reinventing Radio: An Evening with Ira Glass is sponsored by Lawrence and Donna Gould Cohen and Martha Gershun and Don Goldman in memory of Gloria P. Gershun, a professional librarian and passionate booklover with deep ties to the Jewish community. The event is supported in partnership with KCUR 89.3 FM.

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts would like to thank our official building sponsors and Kauffman Center Presents series sponsors, Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City. We also thank Sprint, our premier Ensemble member, for their generous support of our 2015–2016 season.

Follow the Kauffman Center on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get details about upcoming performances and behind-the-scenes access.



#kauffmancenter