

# *Midwest Chamber Ensemble*

## Midwest Chamber Ensemble announces new artistic director for 2023–2024 season

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

#### **CONTACT**

Kathi Cook / [president@midwestchamberensemble.org](mailto:president@midwestchamberensemble.org)

PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS, March 29, 2023—The Midwest Chamber Ensemble (MCE) announces current Chamber Music Coordinator Kathryn Hilger will take over as Artistic Director at the end of this season. Conductor Steve Lewis founded the Ensemble in 2012 and served as the Music Director for 11 years.

Hilger played viola with Midwest Chamber Ensemble as an undergraduate at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, before earning a Master of Music in Viola Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music in Ohio. She returned to Kansas City in 2020 and began serving as MCE's Chamber Music Coordinator. In that position, she chose repertoire and hired musicians for the Ensemble's chamber music concerts in collaboration with Lewis.

Lewis will continue as principal conductor and will play horn on some chamber music programs. He also performs with the woodwind quintet Beaufort Winds and has served as the Music Director of the Medical Arts Symphony of Kansas City since 2017.

"When we started Midwest Chamber Ensemble as an opportunity for early career professional musicians to gain experience, I knew the goal had to be for me to move on, too," Lewis explained. "Kathryn [Hilger] has the right skill set and experience to lead MCE into its next phase."

Hilger said plans are well underway for the 2023-24 season. "There's a lot of repertoire planned for the upcoming season that I'm excited about, especially on the last two concerts," she said. "We'll be releasing the schedule in late April."

Midwest Chamber Ensemble has one concert remaining of the 2022–23 season: a grand finale on May 14 at the Folly Theater featuring chamber music by Sergei Prokofiev and an orchestral collaboration with the Doug Talley Quintet on Tim Brewer's "Three River Scenes." Beaufort

Winds will also play a woodwind quintet by Ottorino Respighi. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door, but students with ID and anyone under 18 receives free admission.

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[Midwest Chamber Ensemble](#) is a Kansas City–based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the performance of chamber orchestra and chamber ensemble music of the classical tradition. The ensemble's personnel is selected on the basis of artistic merit and comprises early-career professional musicians and exceptional music students. The Midwest Chamber Ensemble prepares its members for future opportunities by creating a professional environment and providing its audiences quality concerts.