

Midwest Chamber Ensemble

announces the final concert of 11th season and plans for 2023-24

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT

Kathi Cook / president@midwestchamberensemble.org

PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS, April 27, 2023—The Midwest Chamber Ensemble (MCE) is pleased to announce the final concert of their 11th season on Sunday, May 14 at the C. Stephen Metzler Hall at The Folly Theater in downtown Kansas City, Mo. The Folly is the perfect atmosphere for a jazzy collaboration with the Doug Talley Quintet.

The concert will open with Beaufort Winds, Kansas City's newest wind quintet, playing Ottorino Respighi's Quintet in G minor. Beaufort Winds consists of Virginia Q. Backman, flute; Shawn Nemati-Baghestani, oboe; Jeffrey Anderson, clarinet; Mark Adair, bassoon; and Steve Lewis, horn.

Continuing MCE's tradition of performing under-the-radar chamber music, the second piece on the program is Sergei Prokofiev's Quintet in G minor, Op. 39. Composed in 1924, the quintet features an unusual combination of instruments: oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, and double bass.

On the second half of the program, the MCE orchestra joins with the Doug Talley Quintet for Kansas City composer Tim Brewer's *Three River Scenes*. Brewer is an alumnus of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory and has been in the classical and jazz scene in Kansas City for 45 years alongside his 32 of dentistry practice.

Music Director Steve Lewis, in his last concert before stepping back to Principal Conductor of MCE, said, "I am looking forward to this cross-genre collaboration with local musicians. *Three River Scenes* reflects Tim's years of classical and jazz experience in fresh ways that our audience will enjoy." Chamber Music Coordinator Kathryn Hilger added, "Combining classical and jazz seems especially fitting given the historical significance of jazz in Kansas City."

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door, but students with ID and anyone under 18 receives free admission.

2023–24 Season

Incoming Artistic Director Kathryn Hilger and the board of Midwest Chamber Ensemble are pleased to announce plans for their 12th season in 2023–24. The season opens with ChoralFest '23 on September 24, with conductor Sara McClure and local singers performing Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols." The concert will also include Francis Poulenc's Sinfonietta.

On October 22, a program of chamber music piano will include two piano trios: Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's Five Negro Melodies and Gabriel Fauré's Piano Trio in D minor. Beaufort Winds returns on November 19 with a varied program for wind quintet.

Another chamber music program on February 4, 2024, will include Darius Milhaud's Quartet for flute, oboe, clarinet, and piano, as well as Alyssa Morris's "Brushstrokes" for flute, oboe, and bassoon. Guest conductor Ramiro Miranda joins MCE on March 17 for a concert that includes Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 1, Stravinsky's "Dumbarton Oaks," and Joan Tower's "Dumbarton" Quintet.

The season closes on May 5 in another collaboration with the Kansas City Kansas Community College Choir and conductor John Stafford II on Paul Mealor's Stabat Mater. "It is always a pleasure to work with John and his singers," Hilger said. "We are also looking forward to welcoming back pianist Charl Louw to perform Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto with the orchestra on that concert, led by Steve Lewis."

-30-

[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.