



Topeka Symphony Orchestra

Enjoying the TSO	3
Kyle Wiley Pickett Biography	4
The Topeka Symphony Orchestra	5
A Message from the Conductor	7
The Topeka Symphony Board of Directors	8
A Message from the Symphony Board President	9
Topeka Symphony League Board of Directors	10
A Message from the Symphony League President	11
Concert Program	13
Program Notes	14
Assistant Conductor	17
Orchestra Members	18
Guest Artist Bio	19
Corporate and Individual Donors	20
Scholarships and Awards	23
Topeka Youth Orchestras	24
Topeka Symphony Endowment	25
Endowment Fund Donors	26
Ad Index	28

We invite your questions, comments, or concerns. Visit our office located at 2303 SW College Ave. (10:00-3:00 Tuesday-Friday) or contact us via mail, phone, fax, or e-mail:

Topeka Symphony

PO Box 2206, Topeka, KS 66601-2206

Phone: (785) 232-2032

Fax: (785) 232-6204

e-mail: tso@topekasympphony.org

Web site: www.topekasympphony.org

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THE MISSION OF THE TOPEKA SYMPHONY SOCIETY

is to encourage and cultivate appreciation and support for fine music in northeast Kansas by presenting performances of high quality and by providing educational and performance opportunities for youth.

LATE ARRIVALS

To respect the listening enjoyment of the audience in the hall, patrons arriving after the concert begins will be seated only during designated pauses in the program. Latecomers are asked to wait quietly until the first convenient break in the program. If you need to leave early, we ask that you do so between program works so as not to disturb others.

SPECIAL NEEDS

The concert hall is accessible to persons with special needs. Please call the Topeka Symphony Office at 232-2032 in advance to make special seating accommodations for persons in wheelchairs or to request large print programs or assistive listening devices.

TICKET INFORMATION

The Topeka Symphony is proud to offer its patrons many different options for purchasing tickets. Visit our website at www.topekasymphony.org for more information.

HOW TO ORDER TICKETS:

Online: www.topekasymphony.org

By phone: 785-232-2032

Phone hours are 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday.

Major credit cards accepted.

BOX OFFICE:

Tickets may be purchased at the site of the performance one hour prior to the concert.

CAN'T USE YOUR TICKETS?

While we are not able to offer ticket refunds, we will mail you a receipt for a tax deductible contribution if you donate your tickets for resale. You must notify the Topeka Symphony office 24 hours prior to the performance in order to be eligible for the tax deductible receipt.

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MUSIC DIRECTOR
AND CONDUCTOR

**KYLE WILEY
PICKETT**

KYLE WILEY PICKETT is the Music Director and Conductor for the Topeka Symphony Orchestra and the Springfield Symphony in Missouri. He has held both of those posts since 2013. Prior to coming to the Midwest, Maestro Pickett was the Music Director and Conductor of both the North State Symphony in California and the Juneau Symphony in Alaska.

In August of 2019, Maestro Pickett made his Asia conducting debut leading the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra. He has future engagements in Guangxi and Shanghai in China. Internationally, he has conducted the City of Prague Philharmonic in the Czech Republic and the Guanajuato Symphony in Mexico. In 2018 he was a guest conductor with the Naples Philharmonic in Florida in a performance with the Martha Graham Dance Company, and he has conducted many performances with the Montana Ballet Company and Kansas Ballet Academy here in Topeka. He conducted the University of Kansas Symphony in a special performance at the Kaufman Center in Kansas City in 2017, and has been a guest conductor with many orchestras across the United States, including the York Symphony in Pennsylvania, the Rogue Valley Symphony in Oregon, and the Santa Rosa Symphony in California.

A native of Los Gatos, California, Maestro Pickett earned his undergraduate degree at Stanford University. He holds a master's in choral conducting from California State University, Chico, where he studied with William Ramsey, and he completed his doctoral studies at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore under the direction of Frederik Prausnitz. He and his wife Alice and their two sons split their time between Topeka and Springfield.

Visit www.kylewileypickett.com
for a complete biography.

THE TOPEKA SYMPHONY was formed less than a year after the end of World War II by Washburn University music professor Everett Fetter. In those early years it was known as the Topeka Civic Orchestra and consisted of around 60 Washburn and Topeka High students as well as talented town folks. Most of the concerts were performed at MacVicar Chapel on the Washburn campus and at Topeka High's Hoehner Auditorium. The orchestra officially became the Topeka Symphony Orchestra (TSO) in 1980.

One of the key reasons for the success of the orchestra over seven plus decades has been the stability in the leadership position. Everett Fetter remained the Music Director and Conductor for 30 years during which the orchestra increased in size as funding for the concert seasons began to grow. Fetter was succeeded as Music Director and Conductor in 1976 by Jack L. Herriman who held those key positions until 1988 when Dr. John Strickler became the orchestra's first full-time Music Director and Conductor prior to the 1989 season. Dr. Strickler was the longest-tenured full time Music Director and Conductor, serving until 2012. The current Music Director and Conductor, Dr. Kyle Wiley Pickett, is now in his eighth concert season with the Orchestra. A detailed article on his career can be found on page 4 of this program.

Among the many factors that have turned the TSO into a much-heralded professional music organization in Topeka and northeast Kansas are the dedicated efforts of the TSO Board of Directors which was created in 1952. In the succeeding decades, members of the Board have spent countless hours setting policy, raising funds and handling organizational details. Their yearly involvement and guidance has been invaluable in moving the Symphony forward.

Another entity that has played a key role in providing financial assistance for the TSO is the Symphony League composed of members who organize major fund raising events for the Symphony each year. Since its inception in 1968 the League has provided close to \$600,000 for concert programming. Always cognizant of the need for an ongoing sound financial base for the Symphony, the Board of Directors in 1990 created an Endowment Fund which over three decades has grown to over \$1.8 million.

As the size, talent and confidence of the Symphony have grown over the years the range of performances has expanded to include several world and national premiers. The TSO has also performed with internationally famous musicians such as Itzhak Perlman and Jon Nakamatsu.

Thanks to the efforts of the orchestra members, the leadership of outstanding conductors and the generous support of hundreds of patrons and corporate entities, the Topeka Symphony Orchestra has become a true "jewel in the crown" in the musical world of Topeka and northeast Kansas.

THE TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA





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WE ARE DELIGHTED to have you here with us tonight! After years of cancelled events, live-streamed performances, and limited audiences, we here at the Topeka Symphony are ready to fill our concert halls with our friends and neighbors. We don't want you to miss a minute of the excitement of hearing a live orchestra right here in White Concert Hall, and tonight's concert will be a thrilling evening of music and images that will linger in your memory long after the last notes have sounded.

Tonight's concert is full of musical imagery, in which the music is used to paint pictures and stories for the listener. We start with the *Sorcerer's Apprentice*, which composer Paul Dukas based on Goethe's poem by the same name, which of course became arguably the most famous part of Disney's *Fantasia*. In perhaps the only time that Mickey Mouse has been used to tell the story of a Goethe poem, Mickey, as the apprentice of Goethe's tale, dons his master's charmed hat and casts a spell on the broom and bucket in his master's workshop, and ends up in a disastrous flood of water, overflowing buckets, and spirited brooms.

Our second piece is a contemporary concerto for clarinet that will evoke all kind of imagery with its many musical moods. It has soaring melodies, heroic themes, and haunting motifs, along with flamenco clapping and rhythms, and this dramatic and virtuosic new work will undoubtedly move you.

And we finish tonight with possibly the most famous of all masterpieces that paint pictures with music—Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Mussorgsky was inspired to write this piece after the death of his friend, the artist Viktor Hartman, whose work he had viewed just the previous year at an exhibition in St. Petersburg. This suite takes us through a gallery as we view paintings by the artist and our mood changes as we experience the different works.

Thank you for joining us tonight. Enjoy the exhibition!

Kyle Wiley Pickett

Music Director and Conductor



FROM THE CONDUCTOR

Kyle Wiley Pickett

Kyle Wiley Pickett,
*Music Director and
Conductor*

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IT IS MY PLEASURE to welcome you to the Topeka Symphony Orchestra's 78th season, "NOMO FOMO" (no more fear of missing out)! While we will still offer a streaming service for the concerts, we hope you'll be able to join us at White Concert Hall for this exciting season.

The Board thanks our music director, Kyle Wiley Pickett, for preparing such a wonderful season; the musicians for their talent and hard work; Raffaele Cipriano for his conducting assistance; and the staff of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra, who have stepped up in amazing ways while we conduct the search for the next executive director of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra. Thank you, as well, to the Endowment Trustees and Topeka Symphony League for their unwavering support of the Symphony.

We are excited about the direction in which the Symphony is headed and hope you'll enjoy this season with us!

Michelle Ewert

*Board President,
Topeka Symphony Society*



**FROM THE
PRESIDENT**

Michelle Ewert

*Board President
Topeka Symphony
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#NOMOFOMO the 2023-2024 season



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WELCOME TO THE SYMPHONY LEAGUE!

We are the ancillary arm of the Topeka Symphony Society, and eagerly support the programs of the Topeka Symphony, Youth Orchestras, and Endowment through monetary contributions and volunteer activities.

League members have opportunities to assist with concert receptions and dinners, serve as ushers and greeters at concerts, and help with various activities of the Youth Orchestras.

Plans are underway for our 35th major fundraiser, the Symphony League Gala on Friday, April 5, 2024, at the Topeka Country Club. Check the Annual Fundraiser link periodically to view updated details as we get closer to that date! I hope you will mark your calendar and join us for a lively evening to benefit our orchestra and youth orchestras.

The Topeka Symphony League is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We encourage and welcome new members to the Symphony League and deeply appreciate the continued support of our renewing members. Information is available on the Topeka Symphony website - www.topekasympphony.org

The Symphony League looks forward to another year of enjoying live music together!

Barbara Duncan

Topeka Symphony League President

topekasympphonyleague@gmail.com



A MESSAGE FROM THE TOPEKA SYMPHONY LEAGUE PRESIDENT

Barbara Duncan

*Topeka Symphony
League President*

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Central National Bank is proud to support this evening's concert in honor of
Jim Van Slyke, who recently celebrated his retirement after a 30 year career.

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TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WHITE CONCERT HALL, WASHBURN UNIVERSITY, TOPEKA

Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Kyle Wiley Pickett, Conductor

PROGRAM

#OPENINGNIGHT

Paul Dukas
(1865 - 1935)

The Sorcerer's Apprentice (1897)

RUNNING TIME: APPROXIMATELY 12 MINUTES

Oscar Navarro
(b. 1981)

Il Concerto - Concerto
for Clarinet and Orchestra (2012)
With Trevor Stewart, Clarinet

RUNNING TIME: APPROXIMATELY 22 MINUTES

INTERMISSION

Modeste Moussorgsky/Ravel
(1839- 1881)

Pictures at an Exhibition (1874)

Promenade

I. *The Gnome*

Promenade

II. *The Old Castle*

Promenade

III. *Tuileries (Childrens Quarrel after Games)*

IV. *Bydlo (The Ox Cart)*

Promenade

V. *Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks*

VI. *Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle*

VII. *Limoges - The Market*

VIII. *Catacombs (Roman Tomb)*

Cum Mortuis in Lingua Mortua (Speaking to the Dead in a Dead Language)

IX. *The Hut on Chicken Legs (Baba Yaga)*

X. *The Great Gate of Kiev*

RUNNING TIME: APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES



This concert is made possible by a generous contribution from Central National Bank.

Tonight's guest artist appearance is made possible by a generous contribution from an anonymous donor.

THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE (1897)**PAUL DUKAS (1865 - 1935)****PROGRAM NOTES**

By Pam Davis

The *Lie Fancier*, a work by second century Greek satirist Lucian inspired Goethe to write his 1796 poem, *Der Zauberlehrling*, which in turn inspired Dukas to write *The Sorcerers' Apprentice*. Eventually, Dukas also lent inspiration: to Disney's 1940 film *Fantasia*.

All three tales recount the story of an overzealous apprentice's misadventure when he attempts the master's magic. He animates the broom to fetch water but hasn't the spell to stop it. Resorting to a hatchet to destroy it, the splinters come to life as multiple brooms until the room is flooded. The magician returns and reverses the spell, to the shame of the novice.

The mysterious opening represents the magic spell. The apprentice is heard in the flitting woodwinds. A sharp timpani blow is followed by silence and then grunts gradually form a rhythm indicating that the broom is stirring. Three bassoons create the broom's movement. A sharp climax suggests the hatchet blow. Sustained trumpets and horns announce the return of the master and restored order. An explosive finish follows the evaporation of the magic spell theme in solo viola.

Although Dukas composed multiple works, his reputation was cemented with *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. Continuing to compose into his forties, he stopped publishing and ultimately burned many of his later compositions.

WORLD EVENTS:

Bram Stoker's *Dracula* published, Johannes Brahms dies, Contralto Marian Anderson is born.

FIRST PERFORMANCE:

May 1897, Dukas conducting.

MOST RECENT TSO PERFORMANCE:

October 2004

CONCERTO NO. 2 FOR CLARINET AND ORCHESTRA (2012)**ÓSCAR NAVARRO (BORN 1981)**

Spanish composer and clarinetist Óscar Navarro received a diverse music education, earning degrees from the Conservatorio Superior Óscar Esplá, in Alicante, Spain, the Allegro International Music Academy in Valencia, Spain, and the film scoring program at the University of Southern California. His compositions for wind bands, symphony orchestras, chamber groups, soloists, and film scores reflect this variety.

The second concerto is written in one continuous movement with three distinct sections. The concerto also makes use of several extended techniques for the clarinet, including tongue on the reed, blowing without sound, extreme high pitch, and glissando, in addition to choreographed visual effects.

Barbara Jepson of the *Wall Street Journal* wrote that this work "... pursue(d) populist aims, requiring the clarinetist to simulate ethnic instruments or the inflections of Valencian folk singers. Sam Davies of *The Clarinet* exclaimed, "... The music conveyed every emotion, from heartbreakingly beautiful lyrical sections to a joyously blazing-fast dance-like section, to a perhaps Corigliano- influenced section with some sky-high trills. This amazing piece also gave the orchestra some spectacular moments, most notably some earth-shattering brass and percussion ritornellos in which I thought the four outstanding horns might damage my eardrums (in a good way)."

WORLD EVENTS:

(2012) NASA's Curiosity Rover landed on Mars,
Barack Obama was elected to a second term,
Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Diamond Jubilee

FIRST PERFORMANCE:

March 2, 2012, in Oviedo, Spain,
with Josè Franch-Ballester as soloist

MOST RECENT TSO PERFORMANCE:

TSO Premiere

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION (1874) (1922)

MODEST MUSSORGSKY (1839 - 1881)/MAURICE RAVEL (1875 - 1937)

Mussorgsky was greatly affected by the death of artist Victor Hartmann. A memorial exhibition put together by Vladimir Stasov inspired Mussorgsky to transform some of his friend's art into tone-pictures. He completed his piano suite in 1874, although it was published posthumously, in 1885. In 1922, Maurice Ravel's orchestral metamorphosis got the world's attention. This was the third such attempt and it earned worldwide success.

The ten tone pictures are punctuated by the *Promenade*, in which Mussorgsky pictured himself humming a Russian tune as he ambled, at varying speeds, from one Hartmann picture to the next:

Promenade. An erratic gait is suggested by mixed meter, this first time with the melody in the solo trumpet.

1. **Gnomes.** According to Stasov's original program notes, this depicts Hartmann's design for a nutcracker of a "little gnome walking awkwardly..."

Promenade. A leisurely interlude comes from the solo horn with responding woodwinds.

2. **The Old Castle.** This watercolor depicted a "medieval castle before which stands a singing troubadour." The opening bassoon solo becomes a counter-theme to the alto saxophone's troubadour.

Promenade. Briefer this time, but heavier, trumpet with low woodwinds and strings gives way to full orchestra.

3. **Tuileries.** A Parisian garden scene with romping children is depicted in high register flutes, oboes, and clarinets.
4. **Bydlo.** The heavy Polish oxcart is depicted by a lumbering rhythm above which the peasant driver sings a folkish tune. The solo tuba starts softly, then rises in volume, and finally subsides into the distance.

Promenade. Woodwinds alone and then strings provide this tranquil interlude.

5. **Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks.** A fast and light expression of Hartmann's design uses cheeping woodwinds, harp, and muted string pizzicatos.
6. **Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle.** Mussorgsky himself owned Hartmann's portraits of a "rich Jew wearing a fur hat..." and a "poor Sandomir Jew." Musically satirized by a pompous statement in woodwinds and strings in octaves, contrasted with a whining theme in repeated notes in muted trumpet.
7. **The Market Place at Limoges.** Hartmann depicted "Frenchwomen furiously disputing," with chanting horns and low string pizzicatos, later with celesta and glockenspiel.
8. **Catacombs.** "Hartmann's picture represented the artist himself looking at the catacombs in Paris by the light of a lantern." Full brass and winds take the heavy piano chords, with the first section culminating with the dramatic tam-tam. The second section's eeriness is enhanced by high muted string tremolos.
9. **The Hut of Baba Yaga.** The most fearsome of witches that terrified Russian children stomps around the hut and then takes to the night skies. The terrors rival Night on Bald Mountain. The varied percussion effects, together with rising string and woodwind scales leads directly to...

10. *The Great Gate of Kiev*. Hartmann's drawing was among those submitted to an 1869 architectural contest to commemorate Czar Alexander II's miraculous escape from assassination in 1866. Exultant bell-tolling, and later an apotheosis of the Promenade theme.

WORLD EVENTS:

(1923) Soprano Maria Callas is born, Firestone begins balloon tire production, Henry Kissinger is born

FIRST PERFORMANCE:

May 3, 1923, Paris

MOST RECENT TSO PERFORMANCE:

March 27, 2021

RAFFAELE CIPRIANO, *Assistant Conductor*

Raffaele Cipriano is an Italian conductor, vocal coach, composer, and computer scientist. He studied at the Conservatories of Padua and Venice with international mentors, focusing on orchestral conducting, collaborative piano, opera repertoire, and composition. In 2015 he moved to Kansas to pursue the doctorate in orchestral conducting at KU, under the supervision of Maestro David Neely. He graduated in 2018 with honors, gaining overwhelming feedback from his continuous artistic collaborations in the area (Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence Opera Theater, Landlocked Opera, community orchestras). For the 2018-2019 season, Cipriano was the assistant/cover conductor of Maestro De Renzi at Sarasota Opera (Barber of Seville, Turandot, Nabucodonosor).

Recently, he was the music director for the opera Romeo and Juliet with Lawrence Opera Theater and the orchestra conductor for the musical A Chorus Line at TPAC. He is based in the Kansas City metropolitan area, where he conducts two community orchestras (Philharmonia of Greater Kansas City and Overland Park Orchestra) and serves as music director at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Shawnee. At TSO, he is the assistant and cover conductor of Maestro Pickett, and he also oversees the streamed production of the TSO concerts.



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TREVOR STEWART serves as Principal Clarinet of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra and Symphony of Northwest Arkansas, with whom he was featured as a soloist in 2013 and 2021. He was the Principal Clarinet of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra for five years, also performing as concerto soloist. He teaches a private studio of clarinetists, acts as a clinician, and was the Instructor of Clarinet at Missouri Western State University until 2022. He has performed with the Kansas City Symphony, the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, the Missouri Symphony, the Fort Smith Symphony, and the Conway Symphony Orchestra. Trevor recently worked as book editor and recording artist for Dr. Kristen Denny-Chambers, a clarinetist and composer who writes new clarinet method books, solo pieces, and chamber works for Clarinet Playground.



GUEST ARTIST

As an Early Music specialist, Trevor serves as a recorder and chalumeau player for the Kansas City Baroque Consortium, presenting concerts throughout the Kansas City metro. His solo recorder playing has been featured in collaborations with the Collegium Vocale of St. Louis, Te Deum Choral Ensemble, the Taneycomo Festival Orchestra, KC MOlière Festival, Chamber Music on the Mountain Festival, and the Amherst Baroque Orchestra.

Trevor earned a Master of Music degree in Clarinet Performance and an Artist's Certificate from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

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Each year, the Topeka Symphony provides scholarship funds for music students at Washburn University. With current funds and a bequest from Carmie Wolfe, scholarship money is granted to deserving students from other schools as well.

THE CHARLES MARLING AWARD

The Charles Marling Award of Distinction was introduced in 1982 to recognize past or current Symphony or League Board Members for "exceptionally meritorious endeavors and long and devoted service" to the Topeka Symphony. This award has been bestowed only ten times since its inception, including the unveiling of the award and presentation to Charles Marling.

RECIPIENTS OF THE CHARLES MARLING AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Charles Marling, 1982	Floyd Hedberg, 1992
Edith Lessenden Chandler, 1984	Virginia Wade, 1996
Margaret Fletcher, 1987	Kathy Maag, 2002
Norma Pettijohn, 1989	Diana Osterhout, 2006
Julie Reeves, 1990	Trella Anderson, 2017

THE BRAVO AWARD

The Bravo Award was established by the Topeka Symphony Society Board of Directors in 2005. The purpose of the award is to honor an individual who has demonstrated devotion to the Topeka Symphony Society through a unique contribution or impact.

RECIPIENTS OF THE BRAVO AWARD

Molly Wisman, 2005	Betty Dicus, 2008	Michael Lennen, 2017
Paul Kindling, 2006	Betty Sisk, 2009	Gordon McQuere, 2017
Cynthia Enstrom, 2007	Betty Cleland, 2011	

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

70th Annual Young Artist Competition Sponsored by Capitol Federal®

The Topeka Symphony offers a wonderful opportunity for talented young musicians to audition for the chance to play with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra in concert. The auditions for the 2023-24 season's Young Artist Competition were held on September 10th, 2023. The overall winner Fritz Volini, a senior at Pembroke Hill, will play Edward MacDowell's Piano Concerto No. 2, Movement 1, with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra on November 4th, 2023.

For more information on the audition process or past winners, please visit topekasympphony.org/young-artist-competition/.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS



THE TOPEKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS



THE TOPEKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS (TYO) are sponsored by the Topeka Symphony Society. The TYO have been enriching the lives of young musicians in our community since 1957. This season, we are back to proudly offering three orchestral ensembles for students in grades 4-12. We are also excited to welcome a new Interim Youth Symphony conductor to our team, Nicolas Carr. The Symphonette is a beginning level string orchestra and a wonderful training ground for younger string players as they will learn to play more challenging music throughout the season. The Chamber Orchestra is an intermediate/advanced string orchestra where students learn to play music above their average grade level. The Youth Symphony is a full symphonic orchestra that welcomes players of all traditional band and orchestral instruments. Students in the Youth Symphony will have the opportunity to perform traditional orchestral repertoire as they continue to strengthen their musical knowledge and abilities. Students in the TYO perform two major concerts each season as well as other opportunities to perform in the community. Rehearsals for the TYO take place on Tuesday evenings in White Concert Hall and the Garvey Fine Arts Center on the campus of Washburn University. Auditions take place in the spring, end of summer, and November each year.

For more information on the TYO and how to audition, visit www.topekasympphony.org/youth-orchestras/ or email tso@topekasympphony.org.

THE TOPEKA SYMPHONY ENDOWMENT

TOPEKA SYMPHONY LEGACY SOCIETY PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

The Topeka Symphony Orchestra has provided inspirational music and cherished memories for nearly three quarters of a century. Our planned giving program establishes a foundation of financial support to ensure a century and beyond of beautiful music. We encourage you to name the Topeka Symphony Orchestra in your will or trust. Make a difference... join us today! For further information contact the TSO office at 785-232-2032.

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Capitol Federal® Back Cover

Central National Bank. 12

Clayton Wealth Partners 4

CoreFirst Bank & Trust Inside Front Cover

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Morris Laing 4

The Robb Company 10

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