

# ONE WORLD

## *Infinite Stories*

2025-26 SEASON



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2025-26 season of the UMKC Conservatory!

This year's theme, One World, Infinite Stories, celebrates the richness of the voices, cultures, and creative traditions that shape our global community. As Kansas City prepares to welcome the world to soccer's biggest stage in the summer of 2026, we at the Conservatory are embracing this historic moment with performances of the artistic connections that bring us together.

Our students and faculty have curated a season of music, dance, theatre, and integrated arts that honors our classical traditions while pushing the boundaries of contemporary performance. From reimagined masterpieces to brand-new interdisciplinary works, you'll witness the creative brilliance that emerges when young artists are empowered to experiment, collaborate and tell stories with authenticity.

This is also a time of renewal for our campus. With bold plans underway to expand and renovate the Olson Performing Arts Center, we are shaping a future in which artistry and innovation go hand in hand, both for our students and for the communities we serve.

Thank you for joining us this season. Whether you're a first-time guest or a long-time supporter, your presence helps sustain and drive our mission. We look forward to sharing the world's stories with you.

Warm regards,



Courtney Crappell  
Dean, UMKC Conservatory





# A VISION FOR THE FUTURE



As we open the 2025-26 season, the UMKC Conservatory is on the verge of a bold and inspiring new chapter. Our vision for a modernized space begins with a major campaign to expand and renovate the Olson Performing Arts Center, the longstanding heart of the Conservatory.

This project will ensure the Conservatory is able to maintain critical accreditations and position itself for future growth. More than brick and mortar, this project seeks to provide our students with spaces worthy of their talents and our world-class faculty with the tools they need to teach and inspire.

Together, we can increase enrollment and expand community engagement with more programs open to members of our beloved Kansas City community, providing greater access to the arts, not just for students, but for everyone.



To learn how you can contribute to the expansion of the Olson Performing Arts Center, including naming opportunities, ways to give and options to pay over time, contact Mark Mattison, senior director of development, at **816-235-1247** or **[markmattison@umkc.edu](mailto:markmattison@umkc.edu)**.

# PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Soccer's biggest event meets world-changing creativity for the Conservatory's 2025-26 performance season.\* Experience a season filled with global stories in music, dance and theatre as the Conservatory joins Kansas City's cultural celebration of this historic event.

**Our Conservatory Artist Series of exceptional must-see performances is highlighted on this calendar in BLUE.**



Crescendo 2024, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art



Jazz Night at the Folly Theater

## SEPTEMBER 2025

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- 17 Conservatory Symphony Orchestra Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Conservatory Choirs and Conservatory Wind Ensemble Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 23-24 Jazz Small Ensembles, Grant Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 24 **Conservatory Wind Symphony Concert, Helzberg Hall, 7 p.m.**
- 25 Jazz Faculty Concert, Grant Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 30 **Conservatory Jazz Orchestra Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.**

## OCTOBER 2025

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- 6 Campus Band Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Conservatory Wind Ensemble and Conservatory Wind Symphony Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 15-18 **Conservatory Musical – Pippin, Spencer Theatre**  
In search of meaning and significance, Pippin — the prince son of King Charlemagne — joins his father's army, only to become disillusioned by the horrors of war. Retreating to the countryside in pursuit of a simple, pleasurable life, he soon grows restless once again and becomes convinced that leading a revolution against his father's tyrannical rule will bring him fulfillment.
- 22 **Conservatory Symphony Orchestra Concert, Folly Theater, 7:30 p.m.**
- 24-26 **Fall Dance Performance, Spencer Theatre**
- 26 Conservatory Combined Choirs, White Hall, 2:30 p.m.
- 28-29 Jazz Small Ensembles, Grant Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 31 NEXUS Performance, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.

\*Performance dates, times and venues are subject to change. Please visit [go.umkc.edu/conservatory-tickets](https://go.umkc.edu/conservatory-tickets) for the latest calendar of events. Tickets range from free to \$25.



# NOVEMBER 2025

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- 1-2 NEXUS Performance, White Hall
- 6 Conservatory Wind Symphony Chamber Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Crescendo Gala, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art  
The Conservatory's premiere performance, Crescendo, will return to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art for a second year. Open exclusively to Crescendo sponsors, this event includes a cocktail reception, seated dinner and intimate, immersive performances by Conservatory students and faculty in dance, music and theatre.
- 17 Conservatory Jazz Orchestra Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Conservatory Symphony Orchestra and UMKC Philharmonic Orchestra, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.

# DECEMBER 2025

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- 1 Conservatory Chamber Singers Concert, Grant Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Conservatory Wind Ensemble and New Horizons Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 8 UMKC Campus Band Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Conservatory Wind Symphony Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 10-13 Conservatory Theatre — *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, PAC, Room 116  
Grappling with the paradox of modern technology's ability to both unite and separate us, Sarah Ruhl's 2007 play offers a poignant examination of our interactions with technology. Just as Kansas City prepares to host tens of thousands of international visitors, we share this story of a woman forced to confront her presumptions about morality, redemption and isolation in a technology-driven world.
- 13 Conservatory Combined Choirs Concert, Visitation Catholic Church, 7:30 p.m.



Orchestra



Le nozze di Figaro, Fall 2024



Choir

# PERFORMANCE CALENDAR CONTINUED...

## JANUARY 2026

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27     Conservatory Choir MMEA Preview Performance, Grant Hall, 7:30 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 2026

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3     Conservatory Jazz Faculty Concert, Grant Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**11-14     Conservatory Opera – *Carmen*, White Hall**

Set in Seville in the south of Spain, Georges Bizet's famed opera *Carmen* follows a fiery Romani woman who, while working at a cigarette factory, entices a naïve soldier into a doomed obsession that leads to his ruin.

16     Conservatory Wind Ensemble and Conservatory Wind Symphony Concert, Helzberg Hall, 7 p.m.

18     Dance Capstone Performance, Spencer Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

21     Dance Capstone Performance, Spencer Theatre, 2:30 p.m.

21     Conservatory Combined Choirs Concert, Off Campus TBA, 7:30 p.m.

23     Conservatory Jazz Orchestra Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.

24-25     Jazz Small Ensembles, Grant Hall, 7:30 p.m.



Into the Woods, Spring 2025



Pit Ensemble



Crescendo 2024, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art



# MARCH 2026

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- 1     **Conservatory Combined Choirs Concert, White Hall, 2:30 p.m.**
- 2     Campus Band and Philharmonic Orchestra Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 13-15     NEXUS Performances, White Hall
- 16     Conservatory Symphony Orchestra Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 18-21     **Conservatory Theatre – *The Arsonists*, Spencer Theatre**  
This powerful post-war satire's new translation offers a stark reminder to remain steadfast in the face of deception. As the frequency of misinformation and misdirection increases, Max Frisch's play encourages us to listen when people tell us who they really are.

# APRIL 2026

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- 3, 4, 6     **Spring Dance Performance, Spencer Theatre**
- 7     Conservatory Wind Symphony Chamber Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 8-9     Jazz Small Ensembles, Grant Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 9     Conservatory Combined Choirs Concert, Off Campus TBA, 7:30 p.m.
- 15     Conservatory Wind Ensemble Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 17     Conservatory Choir Concert, Grant Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 22     **Jazz Night at the Folly Theater, 7:30 p.m.**
- 26     Conservatory Choir Concert, Off Campus TBA, 2:30 p.m.
- 27     Campus Band and Philharmonic Orchestra Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 28     Conservatory Wind Ensemble and Conservatory Wind Symphony Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 29     Conservatory Symphony Orchestra Concert, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.

# MAY 2026

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- 5     **Crescendo in Concert, Helzberg Hall, 7 p.m.**  
The culmination of our combined efforts in dance, music and theatre, Crescendo in Concert consists of a one-hour, no-pause no-applause performance showcasing our talented students and faculty.
- 6-9     **Conservatory Theatre – *Birthday Candles*, PAC, Room 116**  
First debuted in 2022, Noah Haidle's unique story spans 80+ years of the protagonist Ernestine Ashworth's life. Tackling such poignant topics as family, tradition, loss and memory, *Birthday Candles* coalesces with our desire to embrace the cultures and traditions of those around us. Through this work, Ashworth's journey invites the audience to reflect upon the simplicity of their own unique customs, while exploring the beauty in customs that might be unfamiliar to us.

# PERFORMANCE VENUES

UMKC Conservatory students can be found performing across the region. From pop-up performances on the street to sports arenas, historic theatres, storied jazz clubs and more — our students help fuel the performing arts scene so many in our region know and love.



## KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY

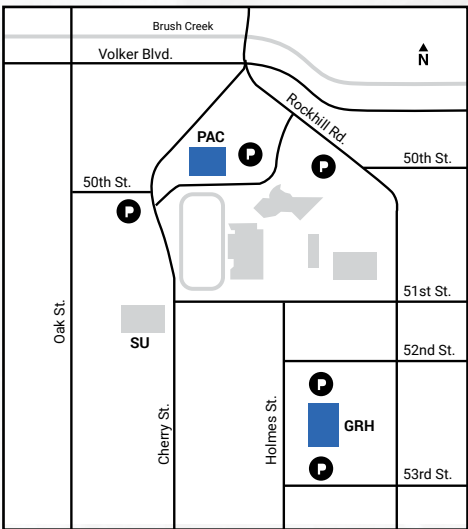
**Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts**  
1601 Broadway Blvd.  
Kansas City, MO 64108

**Folly Theater**  
300 W. 12th St.  
Kansas City, MO 64105

**The Blue Room**  
6100 E. 18th St.  
Kansas City, MO 64108

**Englewood Arts**  
10901 E. Winner Rd.  
Independence, MO 64052

**Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**  
4525 Oak St.  
Kansas City, MO 64111



## UMKC CAMPUS

**James C. Olson Performing Arts Center (PAC)**  
Home of White Recital Hall and Spencer Theatre  
4949 Cherry St.  
Kansas City, MO 64110

**Grant Recital Hall (GRH)**  
5200 Charlotte St.  
Kansas City, MO 64110



# NEXUS

The UMKC Conservatory is a destination of choice for students seeking collaboration, creativity and research in the integrated performing arts. In 2024, the Conservatory introduced NEXUS, an integrated performing arts initiative designed to empower students to create innovative programming in the performing arts.

NEXUS is an outlet for students to invent shows, recitals, concerts or installations and happenings that engage all Conservatory disciplines as well as others in the arts and sciences. This program provides institutional support to engage students in their big ideas, unleashing their imaginations and providing the community with access to cutting-edge artistic creativity.

You're invited to join and witness our students' unbridled creativity through multiple NEXUS performance dates throughout the upcoming school year. We hope to see you there!





## SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATORY STUDENTS

The Friends of the Conservatory was founded in 1916, and ever since, it has worked to support the UMKC Conservatory by providing student scholarships, expanding awareness of faculty and student achievements, strengthening community partnerships and giving members access to Conservatory performances, programming and educational opportunities.

Being a Friends of the Conservatory member not only provides critical financial support for our students but also offers fabulous benefits including invitations to members-only social events with others who share a passion for the performing arts and arts education.

**Learn more and join today!**





# OUR VISION

**Our Vision:** As a conservatory of international stature, we aim to be the destination of choice for students seeking artistic and pedagogical excellence, training that is enhanced through community-centered learning, and research and creativity in the integrated performing arts. Situated within an urban research university in Kansas City, we collaborate with our local and campus partners to engage in work unique to this region as we pursue a global understanding of how the arts improve lives.

**Our Mission:** On the University of Missouri's designated performing arts campus, the UMKC Conservatory is an educational community that advances creativity, performance, scholarship and learning in the arts. We are a vital partner in Kansas City's rich cultural environment, providing the highest level of professional instruction and an extensive array of performances. As a community, we collaborate to balance tradition, innovation, diversity and unity as we seek to serve art and humanity.

## UMKC CONSERVATORY



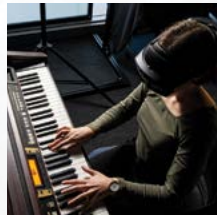
Band



Choir



Dance



Integrated  
Arts



Jazz



Opera

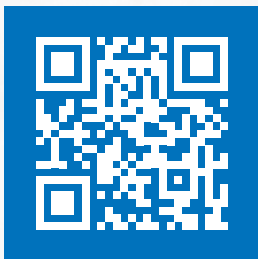


Orchestra



Theatre

## GET TICKETS



[go.umkc.edu/tickets](https://go.umkc.edu/tickets)

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5000 Holmes St.  
Kansas City, MO 64110

**Conservatory**

## **OUR 2025-26 PERFORMANCE CALENDAR IS HERE!**

View our exciting list of upcoming performances and see what's new with the UMKC Conservatory.