



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas City Jazz Orchestra Announces Cancellation of Remainder of 2020-2021 Season Performances

Includes Performances of

Bright Star: The Music of Mary Lou Williams and

Boss Tom's Kansas City: The Roaring 20s

**Announcement of Revised Innovative 2021 Spring and Summer Programming
and 2021-2022 Season Coming Shortly**

KANSAS CITY, MO (Feb. 18, 2021) — Kansas City Jazz Orchestra Executive Director Lea Petrie today announced that due to the pandemic, the remaining performances of the 2020-2021 season, which had also included the performances of *Bright Star: The Music of Mary Lou Williams* and *Boss Tom's Kansas City: The Roaring 20s* have been cancelled. High-res photos, audio and video can be found at <https://www.kcjo.org/media-resources>.

Petrie stated, " While we hoped that we would be sharing live music with our audiences starting in March, this situation has inspired us to rethink how we operate and create music and engage with our community. We miss our people dearly, but we will continue to find ways to share our creativity, while eagerly awaiting the moment when we are able to perform in person again."

Ticket Information

Ticket holders to any performance or series of performances will receive specific information regarding the variety of options for ticket exchanges, donations, or refunds via email by February 24. For questions, ticket holders may contact the Box Office by email at contact@kauffmancenter.org or by phone at 816-994-7222.

The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra sincerely appreciates the patience and support of its patrons and will very gratefully accept the donation of the value of unused tickets as a tax-deductible contribution. The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra is exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Today's announcement includes the following performances that were to take place at the Kauffman Center (in date order) including those previously postponed in fall 2020. More information about new programming for the spring and summer of 2021 as well as the 2021-2022 season will be shared as soon as possible and can be found online at www.kcjo.org.

Kansas City Jazz Orchestra Cancelled Remainder of 2020-2021 Season Performances

- March 5, 2021 – *Bright Star: The Music of Mary Lou Williams*, Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center
- May 14, 2021 – *Boss Tom's Kansas City: The Roaring 20s*, Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center
- All postponed performances from fall 2020

Connecting to our Community

Even through these difficult and unprecedented times, KCJO is committed to the Kansas City community and its audiences the world over. To learn more about how to connect with KCJO, please visit [KCJO Media](#) which has links to content and resources that are sure to uplift, educate and inspire.

For the latest news and updates, be sure to follow us on all of our social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) pages, as well as our blog, [Clef Notes](#).

About Kansas City Jazz Orchestra

MISSION: Through performances and education programs, The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra preserves the rich heritage of jazz, nurtures its growth, and encourages its appreciation as an art form for all ages.

VISION: The Kansas City Jazz Orchestra is an internationally acclaimed, premier performing arts icon providing jazz entertainment and education.

Founded in 2003, the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra is one of the nation's preeminent big bands, performing classic and original repertoire in a variety of settings. With the beautiful Kauffman Center For The Performing Arts as a home base, KCJO's concert season puts forth engaging themed shows ranging from Duke Ellington's early works to brand-new reimaginings of pop music, "celebrating the past, and embracing the future." In addition to the season, the orchestra plays a variety of concerts, dances, and festivals, engaging audiences from Kansas City, Missouri to Hannover, Germany, and beyond.

The orchestra is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization governed by a board of directors and two co-equal directors – Artistic Director Clint Ashlock and Executive Director Lea Petrie. The Musicians are contracted with the organization but have been considered resident artists since the formation of the Orchestra.

KCJO engages with the community through its educational programs which work to train the next generation of talented Kansas City musicians through Master classes with visiting guest artists, in-school programs and outreach events for all ages such as Listening Parties and Jazz Chats.

For more information, please visit kcjo.org.

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