

Wednesday
SEP 25
7:30 pm

KU Symphony Orchestra

with special guests

Vincent Gardner & Michael Davidson, trombones

Directed by **Creston Herron**



KU
SCHOOL
OF MUSIC
The University of Kansas

This event is made possible through the generous support of Richard L. and Jeanette Sias.

PROGRAM *Converging Cultures*

Danzas fantásticas, Op. 22, mvt. III (*Orgia*)..... Joaquín Turina
 (1882–1949)
 “The Slide Shows”.....Vincent Gardner
 Double Trombone Concerto for Classical and Jazz Trombone (b. 1972)
 Special guests Michael Davidson and Vincent Gardner

20-Minute Intermission

Symphony No. 5 in D Major/D Minor, Op. 107 (“Reformation”)
 Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
 (1809–1847)

Program is subject to change.

Vincent Gardner

Vincent Gardner, musician and composer, has released four albums as band leader under the SteepleChase record label. He performs with his own groups frequently, in addition to being the lead trombonist for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis. Gardner also performs often with his brother, trumpeter Derrick Gardner and his ensemble, The Jazz Prophets. He was the winner of the 2014 *Downbeat* Rising Star Critic’s Poll for Trombone and, in the same year, was a nominee for the Rising Star Critic’s Poll for Male Vocalist. He is the founding artistic and education director of Jazz Houston.

Being born into a musical family, Gardner was surrounded by music at an early age. His father, Burgess Gardner, was a trumpeter who has played with many groups, including Ray Charles, Count Basie and Horace Silver, and his mother was a pianist and choir director—both music educators. After attending Florida A&M University and the University of North Florida, obtaining a degree in jazz trombone performance, he moved to Brooklyn, NY, to pursue his musical career, subsequently performing with several notable ensembles and musicians—The Count Basie Orchestra, Lauryn Hill, The Duke Ellington Orchestra, Illinois Jacquet, the Saturday Night Live Band, Matchbox 20, Clark Terry, Jimmy Heath and Frank Foster. Since joining the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, he has contributed many arrangements and commissioned works for various performances for the ensemble. In 2013, Gardner was appointed director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Youth Orchestra, and he actively engages in working with young musicians internationally as part of that initiative.

Michael Davidson

Michael Davidson, professor of trombone at the University of Kansas, is also principal trombonist of the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra and a trombonist with the Kansas Brass Quintet, Kansas City Brass Works, I-49 Brass and the Drei Bones Trombone Trio. He has also performed with the Kansas City Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra, Spoleto Festival Orchestra USA, South Arkansas Symphony, Sunflower Music Festival and the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, as well as in local performances with the Four Tops, Ray Charles, The Temptations, Johnny Mathis, Kathy Mattea, Emmylou Harris, Mel Tormé, Sandi Patty, Kenny G, Don McLean, the Indigo Girls, John Tesh, Byron Stripling, Tower of Power and many others. Davidson was solo trombonist of Kansas City's own Fountain City Brass Band when they won the 2007 North American Brass Band Association and United States Open Championships, and he can be heard on their debut CD, *Celebration*. His debut solo CD, *Blue Wolf*, produced by Emeritus Recordings, was released in fall 2010 to good reviews. ("Davidson's playing is at all times clean and strong" – *International Trombone Association Journal*; "Davidson's clear tone and precise articulations, combined with his expressive playing of the lyrical lines and detail to pitch, make the entire CD a joy to hear. ... The quality of the performance and the wonderful selection of literature make this a recording that needs to be in the library of all trombonists!" – *National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors Journal*).

Prior to his appointment to the KU music faculty in 2007, Davidson taught at Benedictine College, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Centenary College of Louisiana and in the Louisiana public schools, where he was the band director at Bossier City's Airline High School. He was twice selected for inclusion in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, he was named the 1991 Caddo Association of Educators Music Teacher of the Year and elected to membership in the American School Band Directors Association in 1996. He is an artist/endorser of M&W Trombones.

Creston Herron

Creston Herron is the director of orchestral activities for the University of Kansas and serves on the faculty of the Interlochen Arts Camp. Herron previously served as the director of fine arts for the Klein Independent School District, conductor of the Shepherd School of Music Campanile Orchestra at Rice University, director of orchestras at Klein High School and the director of orchestras for the Yes Prep Public Schools.

Herron's recent engagements as a guest conductor include work with regional and all-state ensembles in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, New Mexico, South Carolina, Tennessee and throughout Texas. He has also served on the summer faculty of the AFA Summer Music Festival, Stephen F. Austin University Summer Music Camp and the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music Summer Music Clinic.

As a dedicated pedagogue, Herron enjoys working with current and future educators and young performers. He has presented masterclasses and guest lectures at The Midwest Clinic, Rice University, Shepherd School of Music, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, University of Houston, Moores School of Music, Sam Houston State University, Texas Tech University, The American String Teachers Association, The League of American Orchestras and the NAMM Believe in Music Webinar Series. He also gives professional development workshops to educators locally and nationally and is involved in judging UIL competitions both in solo and ensemble contests.

He has enjoyed national recognition both as an educator and musician, with orchestras earning multiple national titles under his direction, including being named national winner of The American Prize, Grand Champions of the ASTA National Orchestra Festival, Texas Music Educators Association State Honor Orchestra and Grand Champions of the New York Orchestra Cup. Individually, he has gained recognition for his work in music education as the Teacher of the Year at Klein High School, and he was awarded the Marjorie Keller Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award by the state board of the Texas Chapter of ASTA and the Spec's Charitable Award for Excellence in Music Education by the Houston Symphony.

Alongside his work as an educator, Herron continues to hone his performing skills as a violinist, having collaborated with artists such as Renee Fleming, Mark O'Connor and Rachel Barton-Pine. He has performed with Da Camera of Houston, CCM Spoleto Festival in Italy, Galveston Symphony, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Pasadena Philharmonic, Eutiner Festspiele Opera in Eutin, Germany and the Houston Latin Philharmonic.

Herron is a graduate of KU—where he received his B.M. in music performance—Rice University, Shepherd School of Music in Houston, TX—where he received his M.M. on scholarship as a Provost Fellow and a Brown Scholar—and he recently received a Master of Education degree in school leadership from Sam Houston State University.

KU Symphony Orchestra

The University of Kansas Symphony Orchestra (KUSO) provides performance majors with the highest quality preparation for a professional career in orchestral playing. KUSO offers a comprehensive course of orchestral studies and performs repertoire spanning from the Baroque to the 21st century, including premieres of new works. In addition to large-scale symphonic programming, each season includes performances of major solo works featuring faculty, student and leading international guest artists, who have included PROJECT Trio, Tiempo Libre, Juan-Miguel Hernandez, Blake Pouliot, Joshua Roman and Simone Porter.

KUSO also regularly collaborates with KU Theatre and KU Opera as the resident ensemble for the productions. The orchestra combines with KU Choirs for the immensely popular Holiday Vespers annual concert as well as other choral/orchestral literature throughout the year, and showcases the works of student composers in the KU composition studio. KUSO's concert stage is the magnificent 2,000-seat Lied Center of Kansas, and the orchestra also regularly performs at the nationally renowned Kauffman Center in Kansas City.