

Wednesday
SEP 30
7:30 pm

KU Symphony Orchestra

with special guest
Joshua Brown, violin

Conducted by Creston Herron



PROGRAM

The Power of Three: Bach, Beethoven and Brahms
Creston Herron, music director

Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80.....Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)
Violin Concerto in E Major, BWV 1042 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Joshua Brown, guest soloist

20-Minute Intermission

Symphony No. 4 in B-flat Major, Op. 60. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Program is subject to change.
Please see your pre- and post-performance emails for program notes.

Joshua Brown

Violinist Joshua Brown has been praised by audiences and critics worldwide for his “richness of sound, elegance of reading... commitment of every moment at the service of the work...” (*La Libre*). Brown was awarded a 2025 Avery Fisher Career Grant and gained international attention after winning the 2nd Prize and both Audience Awards at the 2024 Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels. As the recipient of a 2025 CAG Louis and Susan Meisel Prize, he is currently represented by Concert Artists Guild.

Brown was first recognized for his debut performance with the Cleveland Orchestra and has gone on to perform regularly with orchestras around the world, including the Munich Radio Orchestra, MDR Sinfonieorchester, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Civic Orchestra, East Coast Chamber Orchestra, Belgian National Orchestra and Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liege, among others, continually garnering praise from critics. A passionate recitalist and chamber musician, Brown also regularly appears in recital performances and takes part in chamber music festivals.

He is currently pursuing his artist diploma at the New England Conservatory of Music under Donald Weilerstein after also earning his Bachelor and Master of Music there. Before his time at NEC, Brown studied with Almita and Roland Vamos at the Music Institute of Chicago. He is grateful to be playing an outstanding Nicolo Amati violin from Cremona, circa 1635–1640, on extended loan through the generosity of the Mary B. Galvin Foundation and the efforts of the Stradivari Society, a division of Bein & Fushi, Inc.

Creston Herron

Creston Herron is an internationally recognized conductor, educator and artistic leader, who currently serves as the Cordelia Brown Murphy Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of Kansas and as a member of the distinguished faculty at the Interlochen Arts Camp. With a growing reputation for artistic excellence and innovative leadership, Herron has emerged as one of the most sought-after conductors and music educators in the United States.

He previously served as Director of Fine Arts for the Klein Independent School District in Texas and as conductor of the Campanile Orchestra at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. In addition, he has served as a cover conductor for the Kansas City Symphony.

A versatile collaborator, Herron has recently worked with internationally acclaimed artists such as violinist Blake Pouliot, trombonist Vincent Gardner and double-bassist Xavier Foley, to name a few. He has conducted all-state and honor orchestras in over 25 states, bringing musical inspiration to thousands of young artists across the country.

Under his leadership, the KU orchestral program has experienced unprecedented growth, expanding to three orchestras. The program recently completed a major international tour and is releasing its first professional album featuring newly commissioned works for string orchestra on the internationally recognized Post Haus label.

In high demand as an adjudicator and guest lecturer, Herron has presented at many of the country's most prestigious institutions and conferences, including The Midwest Clinic, the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, the Moore School of Music at the University of Houston, 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 is a past president of the Texas Orchestra Directors Association and currently serves on the advisory board for The Midwest Clinic, the artistic team of Perform America TX, LLC, and the board of directors of the Mid-America Performing Arts Alliance.

Herron's contributions to music education have earned him numerous awards, including the Marjorie Keller Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award from the Texas Chapter of ASTA, the Spec's Charitable Award for Excellence in Music Education from the Houston Symphony, the 2025 Outstanding Faculty Member Award for Teaching Excellence from the KU School of Music and designation as a KU Docking Scholar by the University of Kansas.

KU Symphony Orchestra

The University of Kansas Symphony Orchestra (KUSO) provides 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 Xavier Foley, 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 2,000-seat Lied Center of Kansas, and the orchestra also regularly performs at the nationally renowned Kauffman Center in Kansas City.