



**NEWS RELEASE**

**Wichita Symphony Orchestra**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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## **WICHITA SYMPHONY SEASON HITS FULL STRIDE IN OCTOBER**

### **Kristin Chenoweth and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* Headline Concerts**

Following a month of performances outdoors at Naftzger Park and Botanica, the Wichita Symphony returns to the downtown Century II Concert Hall in October.

Emmy and Tony award-winning actress and singer **Kristin Chenoweth** appears with the Symphony on Saturday, October 8, at 7:30 p.m. The Symphony initially scheduled this concert for May 2020 and postponed it twice, as the COVID-19 pandemic created havoc and event cancellations worldwide. The third time's the charm, and Ms. Chenoweth's appearance will highlight Wichita's fall season.

Chenoweth will perform mega-hits from her album, *For the Girls*, released in 2019, and a tribute to music's most passionate women who influenced her career. The program includes familiar pieces like *The Way We Were*, *When I Fall in Love*, and *The Man That Got Away* by beloved artists Barbra Streisand, Dolly Parton, Judy Garland, and many others. Mary-Mitchell Campbell, a frequent collaborator with Ms. Chenoweth, conducts the Wichita Symphony.

The season's **Masterworks Series** begins on Sunday, October 30, at 3 p.m. with **Symphonie Fantastique**, featuring Berlioz's renowned 19th-century masterpiece. Guest pianist Jon Nakamatsu joins Music Director Daniel Hege and the Orchestra for a performance of Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. The concert begins with *Fanfare for Rosa* by the American composer Tim Hinck.

Tickets are available at [WichitaSymphony.org](http://WichitaSymphony.org), by phone at (316) 267-7658, or at the Symphony office on the second floor of the Century II Concert Hall between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Masterworks Series tickets begin at \$25. Patrons can save money by purchasing a ticket package with three or more performances. Kristin Chenoweth is a special production with tickets starting at \$85 and not included in the Symphony's season ticket package.

**### More Information About These Performances ###**

**Kristin Chenoweth's** career spans film, television, voiceover, and stage. In 2015, Chenoweth received a coveted star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 2009, she received an Emmy Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her role in "Pushing Daisies." In 1999, she won a Tony Award for "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" and was nominated for her original Glinda the Good Witch role in "Wicked" in 2004. Chenoweth was nominated for two Emmy Awards and a People's Choice Award for

her role in “Glee.” In 2009, she wrote an upliftingly candid, comedic chronicle of her life, “A Little Bit Wicked,” which debuted on the New York Times Hardcover Non-Fiction Best Seller List. Chenoweth is also an alumna of Wichita’s own Music Theatre Wichita.

In partnership with Spirit AeroSystems and Textron Aviation, The Grumpy Old Men, a Wichita philanthropic group, sponsors *Kristin Chenoweth in Concert*. The Koch Family Foundation also provides a generous sponsorship for the concert.

The **Symphonie Fantastique concert** on October 30 features pianist Jon Nakamatsu. Daniel Hege, Music Director of the Wichita Symphony, conducts the Orchestra in this opening Masterworks Series concert.

**Jon Nakamatsu** draws praise as an aristocrat of the piano. Gold Medalist of the 1997 Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, his playing combines elegance with electrifying power. Nakamatsu’s career as a recitalist, chamber music pianist, and concerto soloist with leading orchestras has taken him worldwide.

**Conductor Daniel Hege** begins his thirteenth season as Music Director of the Wichita Symphony. Hege is the seventh music director in the Orchestra’s 77-year history. He is widely recognized as one of America’s finest conductors, earning critical acclaim for his fresh interpretations of the standard repertoire and his commitment to creative programming. A resident of New York, Maestro Hege also serves as Music Director of that State’s Binghamton Philharmonic.

The October 30 concert begins with a brief *Fanfare for Rosa* by the young American composer Tim Hinck. Uplifting chords convey the hopes and aspirations of an immigrant family’s dreams inspired by the experiences of the composer’s family on their American journey.

Pianist Jon Nakamatsu performs Rachmaninoff’s mesmerizing Paganini Rhapsody, inspired by a devilishly difficult work for violin by the 19th-century violinist Nicolo Paganini. This music contains one of classical music’s most famous and romantic melodies and a quote from one of music’s oldest tunes, the *Dies Irae*. This virtuoso *tour de force* has it all.

Hector Berlioz’s love interest haunts his dreams in *Symphonie fantastique*. The music has romance, a swirling waltz, and a picturesque stroll through the countryside where the rumble of thunder hints at ominous events. A nightmarish March to the Scaffold occurs, and the guillotine falls! Just in time for Halloween, the music takes listeners to a Witch’s Sabbath, where Berlioz’s beloved is the “star of the show.” This performance will be a wild ride through one of the 19th-century’s most famous works for orchestra. Does love drive our hero crazy? Find out at this concert!

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