



## **Wichita Symphony to present encore performances of *Old Cowtown Suite* at two area high schools**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

**Wichita Symphony Orchestra**

September 16, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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(Wichita, KS –) The Wichita Symphony is extending the run of its season opener concert *Old Cowtown Suite: A World Premiere Event* at two area high schools. Wichita Heights High School in Wichita and Eisenhower High School in Goddard will host the WSO for encore performances of the concert as part of *Old Cowtown Suite's* world premiere weekend.

"As Wichita's suburbs have continued to sprawl outward, fewer people are making the trip to Century II to hear the Symphony," says Wichita Symphony CEO Don Reinhold. "This experimental pilot program to take the Symphony to local high school auditoriums may be a way to discover new potential audiences."

To engage the schools as collaborative partners in this venture, the Symphony will split net proceeds from all ticket sales with the host schools' music programs. From his viewpoint, Reinhold indicates that flourishing school music programs are vital to developing future Symphony audiences, and more immediately, are critical to student recruitment for the Symphony's esteemed Youth Orchestras Program.

"We wanted to come up with a way to bring one of our Masterworks concerts into some of these surrounding communities, and extend our reach beyond the downtown area," continues Reinhold. Over the summer, Reinhold began talks with USD 259 administrator Shawn Chastain about the idea. After consulting school schedules, Chastain recommended Wichita Heights High School.



The Wichita Symphony Orchestra performs in Century II Concert Hall under the direction of Maestro Daniel Hege.

When it came to picking which concert could pack up and move out to a local high school, the solution was simple: "Our first concert this season was the ideal candidate for a project like this one," says WSO Music Director and Conductor Daniel Hege, "The programming is lively and broadly appealing and the number of musicians required for this concert is not so large we couldn't fit them all on the stage of a high school auditorium. Additionally, we are more than happy to extend the celebration of the world premiere performance of *Old Cowtown Suite*, especially as composer George S. Clinton will be in town for the performance, and in attendance for the concerts at Century II, Wichita Heights, and Eisenhower."



*Old Cowtown Suite* composer George S. Clinton with Wichita Symphony concertmaster Holly Mulcahy.

Principal Eric Filippi at Wichita Heights High School was enthusiastic about the idea, especially as the concert at Heights on Sunday, October 10 at 2:00pm could become an additional event for Heights's Alumni Weekend, also occurring that weekend. "I am extremely excited to host the Wichita Symphony Orchestra at Heights High School in order to bring their art to the families that would not have the opportunity to go downtown for a concert," says Filippi. "To have the concert brought to our community is an amazing gift that will surely entertain us, but more importantly, inspire young musicians."



The Wichita Symphony will perform at Wichita Heights High School Auditorium on Sunday, October 10 at 2:00pm. Tickets at [WichitaSymphony.org](http://WichitaSymphony.org)

In order to extend the Symphony's reach even further West, Goddard School District's Eisenhower High School on 167th street just North of Kellogg will be the second location for a Symphony collaboration. Eisenhower band teacher Jordan Brown says of the upcoming event, "The Goddard School District is honored to be a part of this unprecedented outreach by the Wichita Symphony. We believe that public school music programs are the future of professional ensembles. In addition, we believe in the implicit value that music adds to our communities and are excited to see this extraordinary group on our stage."

For this project, the WSO is providing outreach to communities which may otherwise come up against barriers, both geographic and financial, that prohibit them from regularly attending the Symphony at Century II. Additionally, the Wichita Symphony will also be splitting the net ticket sales for each concert with the schools' respective fine arts programs. "Not only will students benefit from hearing the concert and meeting Maestro Hege and the WSO musicians," says Eisenhower Vocal Music teacher Gretchen Bixler, "but we will also receive part of the proceeds from ticket sales. We are honored to share our auditorium with the Wichita Symphony Orchestra and grateful that our community will be allowed to experience the Symphony concert in our own 'backyard.'"



The Wichita Symphony will perform at Eisenhower High School Auditorium in Goddard on Monday, October 11 at 7:30pm. Tickets at [WichitaSymphony.org](http://WichitaSymphony.org).

The Wichita Symphony is committed to investing in the next generation of musical artists, as performers, audience members, and engaged community members. This project, while experimental, is an opportunity to welcome the students and families in these areas to the Symphony in a way that is inviting, exciting, and accessible. And for audience members, it is an opportunity both to see the Symphony in their own community, and give back to the public school music programs of their local areas.

“It’s a win-win,” concludes Reinhold.

Tickets for both concerts can be purchased at [WichitaSymphony.org](http://WichitaSymphony.org) or by calling the Wichita Symphony Box Office at 316.267.7658. Concert Details below.

## CONCERT DETAILS

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### **Old Cowtown Suite at Heights High School**

Sunday, October 10 at 2:00 PM

Heights High School Auditorium

5301 N Hillside St

Wichita, KS 67219

Tickets from \$5

Online | [WichitaSymphony.org](http://WichitaSymphony.org)

Phone | 316.267.7658

### **BOX OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday | 10am - 4pm

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### **Old Cowtown Suite at Eisenhower High School**

Monday, October 11 at 7:30 PM

Eisenhower High School Auditorium

1230 S 167th St W

Goddard, KS 67052

Tickets from \$5

Online | [WichitaSymphony.org](http://WichitaSymphony.org)

Phone | 316.267.7658

### **BOX OFFICE HOURS**

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#### Concert Program at Both Schools

**QUINN MASON** Petite Symphonie de Chambre Contemporaine (après Milhaud)

**AARON COPLAND** Clarinet Concerto

**GEORGE S. CLINTON** Old Cowtown Suite

#### Health and Safety Protocol

*In order to keep students, parents, and teachers as well as Symphony staff and musicians safe, the Wichita Symphony requires all concertgoers to mask while indoors for these concerts. Full details of the Wichita Symphony's COVID-19 health and safety protocols can be found at [WichitaSymphony.org/public-updates](http://WichitaSymphony.org/public-updates).*

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