

**DATE:** Monday, Feb. 20, 2023  
**EMBARGOED UNTIL FEB. 22, 6 A.M. CST**

**Contact:**

Ellen McDonald, Publicist  
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
816.213.4355 | [publicity@kauffmancenter.org](mailto:publicity@kauffmancenter.org)

Karen Badgett, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement  
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
816.994.7229 | [kbadgett@kauffmancenter.org](mailto:kbadgett@kauffmancenter.org)

- Kauffman Center -  
**PRESENTS**

***Kauffman Center Presents***  
**Announces Additional Summer 2023 Shows**

**Line-up Includes Béla Fleck & the Flecktones,  
Dave Koz & Friends: Summer Horns and  
Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons  
TICKETS ON SALE FEB. 27**

Kansas City, MO – Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is pleased to announce three additional performances for the *Kauffman Center Presents* summer 2023 line-up. These events promise to deliver extraordinary and diverse experiences featuring internationally recognized artists and performers for Kansas City audiences. High-resolution photos with IDs can be found [here](#).

President and CEO Paul Schofer is proud to offer this variety of shows. “Whether you enjoy Béla Fleck’s mastery of the banjo, Dave Koz’s exploration of the saxophone or the top-charting hits of Frankie Valli, this set of *Kauffman Center Presents* shows will impress. These feel-good performances are just what our patrons need to cut loose this summer.”

## **Béla Fleck & the Flecktones**

**June 12, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre**

*Single Ticket On-Sale Date: Feb. 27*

Groundbreaking banjoist, composer and bandleader, Béla Fleck has reconvened the original line-up of the Grammy-winning quartet, Béla Fleck & The Flecktones, with pianist/harmonica player Howard Levy back in the fold alongside Fleck, bassist Victor Wooten and percussionist/Drumitarist Roy “Futureman” Wooten. While all manner of genres comes into play—from classical and jazz to bluegrass and African music to electric blues and Eastern European folk dances—the result is an impossible to pigeonhole sound all their own, a meeting of musical minds that remains, as ever, utterly indescribable. Simply put, it is The Flecktones, the music made only when these four individuals come together.

“What I needed,” replied banjo innovator Fleck when asked about the inception of Béla Fleck & The Flecktones, “were people that were kind of freaks. Each person had to be an equal or more, and that’s what made it work when I ran into these guys, and we started playing together.”

In 1988, Fleck formed the group for a single performance on PBS’ *Lonesome Pine Special* and began touring in 1989. “The band is a creative idealistic project, one that somehow connects with people in a profound way,” says Fleck. “Nothing about any of that has changed in over 30 years. The Flecktones are touring for the sheer love of playing and celebrating our friendship. That’s why we get together these days.”

## **Dave Koz & Friends: Summer Horns**

**July 15, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre**

*Single Ticket On-Sale Date: Feb. 27*

Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, Dave Koz initially saw the saxophone as a way to gain entry into his big brother’s band. What began as a ploy became a lifelong obsession. In 2007, Koz released two chart-topping collections of standards. *At the Movies*, his lush, romantic celebration of timeless melodies from cinema, spent 12 weeks atop *Billboard*’s Top Contemporary Jazz chart. Produced by the legendary Phil Ramone, it was nominated for a GRAMMY® in the Best Pop Instrumental Album category. Koz’s numerous television appearances led to stints as band member on “The Arsenio Hall Show,” as band leader on “Emeril Live” and as host of PBS’s “Frequency.”

Koz and his friends Gerald Albright, Richard Elliot and Mindi Abair turned to producer Paul Brown (Al Jarreau, George Benson, Boney James) to help them realize the vision for 2013's first outing of *Summer Horns* (Concord Records), which paid tribute to the high-octane, richly arranged horn sections that fueled so many hits in the '60s and '70s. The album also features trumpeter/flugelhornist Rick Braun, trombonist Brian Culbertson, vocalists Michael McDonald, Jeffrey Osborne and Jonathan Butler, plus arrangements by Greg Adams (Tower of Power) and Tom Scott (Michael Jackson, Steely Dan). Topping it off is a sax-only rendition of *Take Five* with Gordon Goodwin offering his arrangement to the quartet and a new original composition, "*Summer Horns*." The album was honored with a GRAMMY® nomination for Best Pop Instrumental Album and an NAACP Image Awards nomination for Outstanding Jazz Album.

Koz has collaborated with many artists over the years, including Burt Bacharach, Ray Charles, Natalie Cole, Celine Dion, Stevie Wonder, Barry Manilow, Valerie Simpson, Gloria Estefan, Luther Vandross, Shelby Lynne, Kenny Loggins, U2, Michael McDonald, Rod Stewart and The Foo Fighters. "Music has been such a blessing to me, and we need it more than ever today," Koz says about his remarkable career.

*Danny Zelisko Presents and One Eleven Productions Presents*  
**Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons**  
**July 27, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre**  
*Single Ticket On-Sale Date: Feb. 27*

Frankie Valli, who came to fame in 1962 as the lead singer of the Four Seasons, is hotter than ever in the 21st century. Thanks to the volcanic success of the Tony-winning musical *Jersey Boys*, which chronicles the life and times of Valli and his legendary group, classic songs as "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man," "Rag Doll" and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" are all the rage yet again. As the play enters its third sold-out year on Broadway and two *Jersey Boys* touring companies travel around the U.S., the real Frankie Valli is packing concert halls coast to coast, from the Rose Theater, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City, to L.A.'s Kodak Theater, home of the Academy Awards.

In *Romancing The '60s*, Valli salutes the decade that made him a star. With his first new studio album in 15 years, he puts his own stamp on some of his favorite '60s songs, the ones he always wanted to record but somehow got away. Produced by Bob Gaudio, an original member of the Four Seasons and Frankie's long-time partner, the album includes unforgettable new versions of such gems as "Spanish Harlem," "Call Me" and "Take Good Care of My Baby."

For as far into the future as anyone can see, *Jersey Boys* will introduce the music of Frankie Valli to new generations. *Romancing The '60s* is a most welcome and long-awaited addition to that legacy. The man himself shows no signs of slowing down. As his character says at the end of *Jersey Boys*: “Like that bunny on TV with the battery, I just keep going and going and going.” For as long as he wants to sing, people will want to listen.

## **ABOUT DANNY ZELISKO PRESENTS**

Danny Zelisko has been bringing shows to the Southwest since 1974. He founded the legendary Evening Star Productions starting in 1976, helping make the Southwest a viable stop on most contemporary tours and producing thousands of shows over the years. After years of practice, DZP promotes about 150 shows annually around the nation. For more information: [dannyzeliskopresents.com](http://dannyzeliskopresents.com).

## **ABOUT ONE ELEVEN PRODUCTIONS**

Scott Gelman, President of One Eleven Productions, has produced and promoted events, both public and corporate as the VP of Talent at two of the largest Live Entertainment companies in the country. Scott has produced and promoted such notable talents as The Rolling Stones, U2, Billy Joel, Elton John, Dave Matthews, Jerry Seinfeld, Madonna, Jimmy Buffett and many others. For more information: [oneelevenprod.com](http://oneelevenprod.com).

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets go on sale to the public Feb. 27, 2023, at 10 a.m. Tickets will be available through the Kauffman Center Ticket Office at 816.994.7222 or online at [tickets.kauffmancenter.org](http://tickets.kauffmancenter.org)

## **PARKING & DOWNTOWN MAPS**

Find information and maps for Kauffman Center parking and street closure updates at [kauffmancenter.org/parking](http://kauffmancenter.org/parking). The Arts District Garage is the primary parking garage for patrons. The garage is directly attached to the Kauffman Center just south of the building with multiple access points to surrounding streets. Purchasing event parking in advance is highly recommended as the garage can sell out. The garage is \$10 per car. Valet is \$18 in advance or \$20 upon arrival.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

The Kauffman Center's promise to bring artists and audiences together is reflected in many ways, including removing barriers and providing access to our performing arts experiences for all patrons. You can learn more by visiting [kauffmancenter.org/accessibility](http://kauffmancenter.org/accessibility). To request services or receive additional information that would make your visit more enjoyable, please contact our ticket office at 816.994.7222 or [contact@kauffmancenter.org](mailto:contact@kauffmancenter.org).

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Receive updates by following our Facebook page at [facebook.com/kauffmancenter](https://facebook.com/kauffmancenter), Instagram page at [instagram.com/kauffmancenter](https://instagram.com/kauffmancenter), and Twitter page at [twitter.com/kauffmancenter](https://twitter.com/kauffmancenter). Watch videos at [youtube.com/kauffmancenter](https://youtube.com/kauffmancenter) and follow our blog at [kauffmancenter.org/news](http://kauffmancenter.org/news).

## **MEDIA**

Visit the Kauffman Center's online press room for media resources, multimedia library, press release archive and more: [kauffmancenter.org/about/press-room](http://kauffmancenter.org/about/press-room)

## **SPONSORS**

The *Kauffman Center Presents* series is made possible by the John N. and Marilyn P. McConnell Foundation, Premier Partner Saint Luke's Health System and Building Sponsor Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City.

## **ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts – a major not-for-profit center for music, opera, theater, and dance designed by Moshe Safdie – opened in 2011. Serving as a cultural cornerstone for Kansas City and the region, the Kauffman Center delivers extraordinary and diverse performing arts experiences for everyone. Honored as one of the World's 15 Most Beautiful Concert Halls, the Kauffman Center attracts some of the world's most renowned performers and entertainers.

Through educational outreach programs and community enrichment, the Kauffman Center supports Kansas City as a cultural destination. More information on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is available at [kauffmancenter.org](http://kauffmancenter.org).