

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023



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***Kauffman Center Presents***  
**Announces**  
**Gladys Knight**  
**“Empress of Soul”**  
**Nov. 19, 2023**

**TICKETS ON SALE Sept. 15, 2023**

Kansas City, MO – Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is pleased to announce a new addition to the fall 2023 shows, Gladys Knight, Sunday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. Gladys Knight is known as the ‘Empress of Soul’ for very good reason. From the time she won *The Original Amateur Hour* TV show at age 8 through today, Knight has been a signature voice in American music.

Her long list of hit songs with her group, The Pips, includes “I Heard It Through the Grapevine,” “If I Were Your Woman,” “Help Me Make It Through the Night,” “Neither One of Us (Wants to Be the First to Say Goodbye),” “Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me” and “Midnight Train to Georgia.” She was also part of the quartet of stars, along with Dionne Warwick, Stevie Wonder and Elton John, that delivered the mega hit “That’s What Friends Are For.”

*Kauffman Center Presents* promises 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 understands the significance of her performing at the Kauffman Center. “We are honored to welcome this American musical legend to Kansas City. Her list of accomplishments is remarkable: seven Grammy Awards, a Kennedy Center Honoree, induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and tireless dedication to her humanitarian work, just to name a few. This legendary songstress is known for bringing her high-energy with hits we all know and love.”

### ***Gladys Knight***

**Nov. 19, 2023, at 7 p.m. in Muriel Kauffman Theatre**

*Single Ticket On-Sale Date: Sept. 15 at 10 a.m.*

### **ABOUT GLADYS KNIGHT**

The great ones endure, and Gladys Knight has long been one of the greatest. Very few singers over the last 50 years have matched her unassailable artistry. This seven-time Grammy Award winner has enjoyed #1 hits in pop, gospel, R&B and adult contemporary, and has triumphed in film, television and live performance. In her first effort since 2013’s *Another Journey*, this summer marked the release of *Where My Heart Belongs*, a new inspiration gospel album. Knight is a two-time Grammy winner in the gospel category, and *Where My Heart Belongs* dropped on Sept. 9 from Deseret Book, and recently won an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Gospel Album.

Georgia-born, Knight began performing gospel music at age four in the Mount Moriah Baptist Church and sang as a guest soloist with the Morris Brown College Choir. Three years later, she won the grand prize on television’s *Ted Mack’s Amateur Hour*, and the following year, her mother Elizabeth Knight created the group consisting of Gladys, her brother Bubba, her sister Brenda and her cousins William and Elenor Guest. They called themselves The Pips in honor of their cousin/manager, James Pip Woods.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets go on sale to the public Sept. 15, 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](https://tickets.kauffmancenter.org).

### **PARKING & DOWNTOWN MAPS**

Find information and maps for Kauffman Center parking and street closure updates at [kauffmancenter.org/parking](https://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 it often will sell out. The garage is \$13 per car in advance or \$16 upon arrival or valet is \$22 in advance or \$24 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](https://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](https://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](https://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. 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](https://kauffmancenter.org).

## **KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SERIES SCHEDULE\***

The *Kauffman Center Presents* series features extraordinary and diverse artists from a variety of musical genres and performance styles. Upcoming events include:

### **2023-2024 Kauffman Center Presents**

- Thursday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m. – Herb Alpert & Lani Hall

- Monday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m. – Rainy Day Books Author Event, Walter Isaacson
- Tuesday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m. – Daniel O’Donnell
- Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. – *The Foolers*, Curated by Penn & Teller
- Thursday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. – An Evening with the Late John Cleese
- Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. – Trailblazing Talks, 2% Neanderthal: Redrawing our Family Tree, Ella Al-Shamahi, Paleoanthropologist
- Tuesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m. – Trailblazing Talks, Documenting the Red Zone, Michael Davie, Journalist
- Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. – Trailblazing Talks, From Sandlots to Stadium: Inside America’s Favorite Pastime, Jean Fruth, Sports Photographer
- Tuesday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. – Trailblazing Talks, The Blue Zones: Unlocking the Secrets of Longevity, David McLain, Photographer
- Tuesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m. – Trailblazing Talks, Saving Our Blue Planet, One Hope Spot at a Time, Sylvia Earle, Oceanographer

\* *Kauffman Center Presents* events announced to date. Additional performances will be announced throughout the 2023-2024 season.

The Kauffman Center offers more than 300 performances annually. The complete calendar of events is available at [tickets.kauffmancenter.org](https://tickets.kauffmancenter.org).