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## **KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES THREE NEW PERFORMANCES**

*Lampedusa: Concert for Refugees (Oct 8)*

*George Winston (Oct 16)*

*Branford Marsalis Quartet with special guest Kurt Elling (May 11, 2017)*

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts announced an intimate evening of acoustic performances by renowned singer-songwriters Emmylou Harris, Patty Griffin, Buddy Miller and special guests on October 8th in Helzberg Hall. Proceeds support Jesuit Refugee Service’s Global Education Initiative, designed to provide educational opportunities for refugees living in camps and in urban settings worldwide. Ticket prices range from \$49 to \$89 and will go on sale Friday, August 19th.

GRAMMY Award-winning pianist George Winston will perform October 16th in Helzberg Hall. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$49 and will go on sale Friday, August 19th.

Helzberg Hall will host a special collaboration between acclaimed jazz band Branford Marsalis Quartet and one of jazz’s foremost singers Kurt Elling on May 11th, 2017. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$69 and will go on sale Friday, August 19th.

Tickets will be available through the Kauffman Center Box Office at (816) 994-7222, via the Kauffman Center mobile app or online at [www.kauffmancenter.org](http://www.kauffmancenter.org).

### **ABOUT LAMPEDUSA: CONCERT FOR REFUGEES FEATURING EMMYLOU HARRIS, PATTY GRIFFIN, BUDDY MILLER AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

Enjoy an intimate evening of acoustic performances by renowned singer-songwriters Emmylou Harris, Patty Griffin, Buddy Miller and special guests, all appearing together as part of a special 11-city tour. The recipients of multiple awards, Harris, Griffin and Miller are pillars of the Americana music scene, celebrated as much for their individual work as for their collaborations together and with other distinguished artists. The winner of twelve GRAMMY Awards, Harris’ candid songwriting and expressive singing share with the world her personal experiences that are heartbreaking and hopeful and intimately human. Griffin is a GRAMMY Award-winning artist, renowned for rich character-driven songs rooted in folk, blues, rock and jazz. Miller is a legendary singer, songwriter and musician whose illustrious career has seen him collaborate and tour with many pre-eminent names in the Americana music world. Proceeds from this concert support Jesuit Refugee Service’s Global Education Initiative, designed to provide educational opportunities for refugees living in camps and in urban settings.

### **ABOUT GEORGE WINSTON**

GRAMMY Award-winning pianist with over 15 albums to his name, George Winston brings his stunning brand of solo piano to the Kauffman Center. Inspired by the seasons and topographies, George Winston’s concerts feature a variety of styles including melodic folk piano, New Orleans R&B piano and stride piano. He performs songs from his seasonal

favorites *Autumn*, *December*, *Winter Into Spring* and *Summer*, as well as Peanuts pieces from his Vince Guaraldi tribute albums *Linus & Lucy - The Music of Vince Guaraldi* and *Love Will Come - The Music of Vince Guaraldi, Vol. 2* and more. This show will offer the audience a journey through Winston's most celebrated works, serving both as a perfect introduction for the newcomer to his talent or as a wonderful reminder for those well-versed in his repertoire.

#### **ABOUT BRANFORD MARSALIS QUARTET WITH SPECIAL GUEST KURT ELLING**

Energetic jazz group Branford Marsalis Quartet unites with Kurt Elling, one of jazz's foremost singers, for a lively night of innovative, spirited and provocative music. Branford Marsalis is a multiple award-winning musician and composer celebrated for his achievements in classical music and jazz, as well as serving as the Musical Director of *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. Pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis and drummer Justin Faulkner make up the Branford Marsalis Quartet, whose 2012 release *Four MFS Playin' Tunes* was named Best Instrumental Jazz Album by iTunes. Technically versatile and a true jazz musician, Kurt Elling has been honored with awards and accolades from across the world, including winning the GRAMMY Award for Best Vocal Jazz Album for *Dedicated to You*. This performance will showcase *Upward Spiral*, a collection blending songbook staples, jazz standards and original material that exploded from this meeting of great musical minds. The result is an accessible kind of jazz which, in the words of Marsalis, "should expand our base to include people who would like jazz if it were friendlier."

#### **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](http://kauffmancenter.org).

Follow the Kauffman Center on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get details about upcoming performances and behind-the-scenes access.



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