

**KCPT PRODUCES PERFORMANCE/DOCUMENTARY FEATURING GRAMMY-AWARD WINNER JOYCE DiDONATO AND THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY AS PART OF THE NATIONAL PBS ARTS SUMMER FESTIVAL JULY 20**

*Features Backstage Access and Interviews with DiDonato and Acclaimed Conductor Michael Stern*



*Credit: Parker Eshelman*

*KANSAS CITY, MO, July 3, 2012* -- Grammy-Award winning opera star Joyce DiDonato, acclaimed conductor Michael Stern and the talented musicians of the Kansas City Symphony perform together at the new Kansas City Kauffman Center for Performing Arts for the first time in a performance documentary produced by KCPT.

**HOMEcomings: THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY PRESENTS JOYCE DiDONATO** premieres Friday, July 20, 2012, 9:00-10:00 p.m. on PBS stations across the nation. The program airs as part of the **PBS ARTS SUMMER FESTIVAL**, a multi-platform event anchored by seven films that highlight artists and performances from around the world.

The film captures candid backstage moments and personal interviews with Stern, members of the symphony and DiDonato as she returns home for her debut performance at the Kauffman Center. Viewers also get a front-row seat to the remarkable performance in the center's grand Helzberg Hall. The interviews and music intertwine in a remarkable celebration of the lives and careers of these musicians.

The production was produced by KCPT producer Angee Simmons and Executive Producer Randy Mason in association with veteran PBS music producers James Arntz and John Paulson.

President and CEO of KCPT Kliff Kuehl remarked, "This is an incredible opportunity for Kansas City and its booming arts scene. To be featured on the national PBS schedule is a real testament to the talent here locally. We couldn't be more proud and honored to produce a national documentary about the Kansas City Symphony and, in turn, shine a light on the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. This is a big part of KCPT's commitment to share local stories about the arts in our region."

**HOMEcomings: THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY PRESENTS JOYCE DiDONATO** is part of the **PBS ARTS SUMMER FESTIVAL**, a seven-part event anchored by films that highlight art, artists and performances from around the world. Summer Festival takes viewers on an exploration of nearly 20 cities around the globe, offering an in-depth look at music, theater, art, architecture and cultural history from some of the world's unique locations.

The full **PBS ARTS SUMMER FESTIVAL** schedule follows.

- MARIACHI HIGH, June 29, 2012, at 9 p.m.

- ISLAMIC ART: MIRROR OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD, July 6, 2012, at 9 p.m.
- JOHN LEGUIZAMO’S TALES FROM A GHETTO KLOWN, July 13, 2012, at 9 p.m.
- HOMECOMING: THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY PRESENTS JOYCE DiDONATO, July 20, 2012, at 9 p.m.
- HAVANA, HAVANA!, July 27, 2012, at 9 p.m.
- THE BARNES COLLECTION, August 3, 2012, at 9 p.m.
- GREAT PERFORMANCES “Tanglewood 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration,” August 10, 2012, at 9 p.m.

## **CREDITS**

**HOMECOMING: THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY PRESENTS JOYCE DiDONATO** is a co-production of Kansas City Public Television (KCPT) and the Kansas City Symphony.

Production funding was provided by The David T. Beals III Charitable Trust, Bank of America, Trustee; Hall Family Foundation; Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, Commerce Bank, Trustee; Mr. and Mrs. Barnett C. Helzberg, Jr.; Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation; and Merrill Lynch

## **ABOUT KCPT**

KCPT is a nonprofit, community-owned television station serving the greater Kansas City area that provides programming and services—on air and off—that entertain, educate and enrich the community. For more information about KCPT’s programs and services, or to become a member and support public television in Kansas City, please go to [KCPT.org](http://KCPT.org)

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For additional information, photos, interviews or to request a screening DVD, contact KCPT:

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