

KANSAS CITY  
**STRING QUARTET**

P R O G R A M

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**Kansas City program celebrates 16 years of nurturing young musical talent**

Mission, Kan., June 15 2009 --Sixteen years ago, there were no chamber music festivals in Kansas City. While the arts have grown in the past decade, the only string quartet festival in the area continues to be provided each summer by the Kansas City String Quartet Program.

"We cultivate all of our students toward distinction through string quartet playing and performance," said Elizabeth Suh-Lane, the program's artistic director. "We teach them to listen, to watch and to play in a way that most of them have probably never done before."

Each summer the program offers two, one-week camps to almost 60 students. The musical and social instruction is comprised of six daily sessions lasting three-and-a-half hours each. A faculty concert is held on Fridays and a student concert and reception are held on Saturdays; both are free and open to the public.

The program has announced its 2009 schedule:

Week 1 Camp: July 27- August 1, 2009

Faculty Concert: July 31, 2009 at 6:00 PM

Kauffman Foundation  
4801 Rockhill Rd  
Kansas City, MO

Student Concert: August 1, 2009 at 2:30 PM

Pembroke Hill School  
Centennial Hall  
5121 State Line Rd

Week 2 Camp: August 3 – August 8, 2009

Faculty Concert: August 7, 2009 at 6:00 PM

Church of the Nativity

3800 W 119<sup>th</sup> St

Leawood, KS

Student Concert: August 8, 2009 at 2:30 PM

Pembroke Hill School

The Kansas City String Quartet Program is taught by world-class faculty from across the country, all of whom have taught at the college level or higher. The individual artists that comprise the faculty are leading chamber musicians in New York, Chicago, Lawrence and Kansas City.

The program's instruction is focused on improving students' musical abilities with chamber music sensibilities in a noncompetitive environment. It allows students the unique opportunity to interact and develop with musicians their own age, discovering life skills that extend beyond music.

Through rehearsing, and coaching of the great repertoire of string quartets, students practice flexibility, leadership, cooperation and diplomacy. They are also taught peripheral skills such as instrument maintenance, public speaking, and stretching to counteract the physicality of performance.

Each summer, Lane said she sees the students grow both musically and personally in the short time they are together.

"The students are less sure when they come into the program," she said. "And from day one, through the week's succession, then to the concert, it's like there is a huge mountain they have been able to climb."

The Kansas City String Quartet Program is a unique undertaking and fills a void in the region. Few area schools offer advanced chamber music programs, as camps of this quality are typically found on the east and west coasts, often costing students more than double the tuition.

The cost of the program is covered in part by student fees, with the remainder coming from contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations. Scholarships are provided each year to students upon request.

The Kansas City String Quartet Program's success is realized by the increasing interest from students and teachers in the region. A large number of students return to take part in the program and almost a quarter of the students typically participate in both weeks of instruction. Lane continues to be in demand in metropolitan area high schools to conduct orchestra and chamber music clinics throughout the greater Kansas City area.

For additional information on the Kansas City String Quartet Program, or to learn how to contribute to this successful musical endeavor, please visit [www.kcstringquartet.org](http://www.kcstringquartet.org)

**About the Kansas City String Quartet Program**

The Kansas City String Quartet Program is a nonprofit organization founded in 1994 by Elizabeth A. Manna, a cellist and music educator dedicated to the art and experience of chamber music. Elizabeth Suh-Lane currently serves as artistic director of the program, which has served more than 850 students since its inception. A majority of the students involved in the program come from high schools and middle schools throughout the Kansas City area, but students from as far away as Nebraska and Wisconsin have attended in previous years.