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**MIDWEST TRUST CENTER**  
JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## **Johnson County Community College's Midwest Trust Center Announces 2022-2023 Season**

### **Performances Include**

**Piff the Magic Dragon & Puddles Pity Party, *Legally Blonde the Musical*, Chris Botti, Soweto Gospel Choir, Mesner Puppet Theater, Nigella Lawson, the Bobby Watson Quartet, L.A. Theatre Works' *Lucy Loves Desi*, the Emerson Quartet and John McCutcheon**

**Overland Park, KS** (April 25, 2022) Emily Behrmann, Executive Director *Midwest Trust Center Series*, today announced the 2022-2023 season featuring a wide variety of accomplished artists from around the world and around the corner. High-res photos with IDs can be found [here](#).

Behrmann, who will retire June 30<sup>th</sup>, reflected "I could not be prouder of the performances we've presented during my tenure, and their impact on our community. It has been gift to put together this group of extraordinary performers and some significant partnerships for the upcoming season."

**The Opus 76 Quartet** returns as MTC's artists-in-residence, performing a series of concerts featuring works by Philip Glass, Beethoven and Mendelssohn (Sept. 25), Mozart (Jan. 29), an intimate performance of Haydn and Schubert with guests seated on the stage of Yardley Hall (Feb. 26) and Tchaikovsky and Schumann, featuring pianist Ramona Pansegrau (Mar. 12).

On Aug. 24, **Chris Botti** will kick off the season in Yardley Hall. Botti is the complete package: a dazzling trumpeter at home in everything from jazz to pop to rock, a brilliant bandleader who lets his players shine, and a born showman whose joy at being onstage is infectious. See him live and you'll understand why musical stars from Sting to Paul Simon to Joni Mitchell have been eager to share his stage.

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16 and 17, **New Dance Partners** celebrates the ninth festival of contemporary and modern dance. The Midwest Trust Center brings four choreographers to create original works for four local dance companies to perform at the world premieres. Each new work will then be owned by the dance company for two years for use in their own programs. This year's collaborative partners are Stephanie Martinez working with the Kansas City Ballet, Bryan Arias with Owen/Cox Dance Group, Victoria Marks with Störling Dance Theatre, and Charissa Barton with Wyllyams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company.

**The Midwest Trust Center will also partner with the Friends of Chamber Music-Kansas City**, presenting two acclaimed quartets. **The Verona Quartet**, winner of the Chamber Music America's 2020 Cleveland Quartet Award, will perform Friday, September 30. On Saturday, February 18, the **Emerson Quartet with guest David Finckel, cello**, come to Yardley Hall as part of their farewell tour. They have maintained their

status as one of the world's premier chamber music ensembles for more than four decades collaborating with some of today's most esteemed composers and soloists.

The acclaimed, record-breaking run of *Disney's Winnie the Pooh: The New Musical Stage Adaptation*, created and directed by Jonathan Rockefeller, will perform October 15 in Yardley Hall. The celebrated show for families of all ages, will feature Pooh, Christopher Robin, and their best friends Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga, Roo, Rabbit and Owl (and Tigger too!) in a new story from the Hundred Acre Wood. This fresh stage adaptation is told with impressive life-size puppetry, telling exciting new stories featuring characters that have played iconic roles in the lives of children for generations.

Saturday, Oct. 22, the wait is over! Enjoy An Evening with Jon, Jon and Efen as they screen the film *Napoleon Dynamite* followed by a conversation moderated by film critic Lonita Cook. The evening promises to be a hilarious celebration of the amazing comedy classic that made Napoleon Dynamite, LaFawnduh and Pedro household names. Jon Heder (Napoleon), Efen Ramirez (Pedro) and Jon Gries (Uncle Rico) have plenty of behind-the-scenes scoop on the film we all love.

On Sunday, Oct. 30, **Piff the Magic Dragon and Puddles Pity Party** will bring their *Misery Loves Company* tour to Yardley Hall. These satin-adorned down-and-outers have been pals since meeting ages ago at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Now, they're world-famous and traveling the world. Not bad for two "losers" from "America's Got Talent."

On Saturday, Nov. 19, take in **An Evening with Nigella Lawson** where the internationally renowned food writer and television cook discusses her latest book, *Cook, Eat, Repeat*. Moderated by food critic Jenny Vergara, Lawson will recount the people, food and recipes that have shaped her unique career and life. The evening will include a Q&A with the audience.

**Bobby Watson**, the celebrated saxophonist, composer and educator, will perform Sunday, Jan. 15, as part of the Winterlude jazz series. For more than three decades, Watson has contributed consistently intelligent, sensitive and well-thought-out music to the modern-day jazz lexicon. He will be joined by poet, activist and educator, Glenn North.

Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12, **L.A. Theatre Works'** production of *Lucy Loves Desi: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Sitcom* comes to Polsky Theatre. Playwright Gregg Oppenheimer—son of *I Love Lucy* creator Jess Oppenheimer—spins this witty, fast-paced tale of Lucy and Desi's battles with CBS over the pioneering ideas that changed the face of television forever. This show has as much heart and humor as an episode of *I Love Lucy* itself.

**DakhaBrakha** returns to the Midwest Trust Center Friday, Feb. 24. Accompanied by Indian, Arabic, African, Russian and Australian traditional instrumentation, the quartet's astonishingly powerful and uncompromising vocal range creates a trans-national sound rooted in Ukrainian culture. Reflecting fundamental elements of sound and soul, this "ethno chaos" band creates a world of unexpected new music.

Featuring a sonic experience of the highest order, *Masters of Percussion* will perform Saturday, Apr. 1, in Yardley Hall. Led by Zakir Hussain, Kala Ramnath and Jayanthi Kumaresh come together for the first time for the 2022 TRIVENI tour. Each is renowned as virtuoso collaborator, groundbreaker and educator, advancing the art of their instruments – table, violin and Saraswati veena - to remarkable levels.

Closing out the season, **Cirque Kalabante** will perform *Afrique en Cirque* May 19 in Yardley Hall. This highly colorful creation features amazing acrobats performing authentic choreography to the frantic rhythms of native instruments of Guinea. Artistic director and company founder, Yamoussa Bangoura, radiates the diversity of traditional African arts with the virtuosity of the North American modern circus performance.

For more information about the Midwest Trust Center Series at Johnson County Community College, visit [Midwest Trust Center 2022-2023 Season](#).

### Midwest Trust Center Series 2022-2023 Season

Aug. 24	Chris Botti
Sept. 16-17	New Dance Partners <i>The Ultimate Collaboration</i>
Sept. 25	The Opus 76 Quartet <i>Glass, Beethoven and Mendelssohn*</i>
Sept. 29	<b>DEAFinitely Dope</b> with Mathew Maxey*
Sept. 30	Verona Quartet
Oct. 1	MTC Kids Jam – Yogapalooza with Bari Koral*
Oct. 2	Winterlude – Vine Street Rumble
Oct. 15	<i>Disney's Winnie the Pooh: The New Musical Stage Adaptation</i>
Oct. 16	Soweto Gospel Choir <i>Hope</i>
Oct. 21	Kansas City Jazz Orchestra and the Hanover Big Band (Germany)
Oct. 22	An Evening with Jon, Jon and Efren – <i>Napoleon Dynamite</i> Film Screening and Conversation
Oct. 28	The Four Freshman
Oct. 30	Piff the Magic Dragon & Puddles Pity Party <i>Misery Loves Company</i>
Nov. 12	<i>Legally Blonde the Musical</i>
Nov. 19	An Evening with Nigella Lawson
Dec. 2	tenThing Brass Ensemble
Dec. 4	Winterlude – Doug Talley Quartet*
Dec. 9-10	Mesner Puppet Theatre <i>Cirque de Wiener Dog*</i>
Jan. 15	Winterlude – Bobby Watson Quartet
Jan. 21	MTC Kids Jam – Oran Etkin <i>Finding Friends Far from Home*</i>
Jan. 22	Oran Etkin <i>Open Arms*</i>
Jan. 29	Opus 76 Quartet <i>Amadeus</i> (recital + film)*
Feb. 4	<i>Cenicienta: A Bilingual Cinderella Story</i>
Feb. 5	The Small Glories*
Feb. 11-12	L.A. Theatre Works – <i>Lucy Loves Desi: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Sitcom*</i>
Feb. 11	<i>Voices of Mississippi</i>
Feb. 18	Emerson Quartet: Farewell Tour
Feb. 19	Winterlude – Trent Austin Quartet*
Feb. 24	DakhaBrakha*
Feb. 26	Opus 76 Quartet <i>Haydn and Schubert</i>
Mar. 2	<i>It's OK to be Different</i>
Mar. 3	Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Orchestra
Mar. 5	Brooklyn Rider <i>Variations on a Theme*</i>
Mar. 10	Danú <i>St. Patrick's Celebration</i>
Mar. 11	John McCutcheon*
Mar. 12	Opus 76 Quartet with Ramona Pansegrau, piano*
Mar. 19	Winterlude – KC Jazz Disciples*
Mar. 25	MTC Kids Jam – Billy Jonas <i>Who's Gonna Make Our Music?!*</i>
Mar. 26	<i>Curtis on Tour</i> The Nina von Maltzahn Global Touring Initiative of the Curtis Institute of Music Featuring David Shifrin, clarinet; John de Lancie, narrator; Soovin Kim, violin*
Mar. 31	<i>A Moving Sound*</i>
Apr. 1	<i>Masters of Percussion</i> featuring Zakir Hussain
Apr. 15	Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain
May 6	MTC Kids Jam – KC Spotlight*
May 19	Cirque Kalabanté <i>Afrique en Cirque</i>

## **Ticket Information**

Season packages will go on sale May 2. Individual shows will go on sale June 6. Until then, please look at the full lineup on the website [Midwest Trust Center 2022-2023 Season](#). To contact the Box Office call (913) 469-4445 Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Donors to the Friends of the Midwest Trust Center (starting at \$60) receive early access. Become a Friend [here](#).

## **Covid-19 Safety Protocols at the Midwest Trust Center**

MTC and JCCC want to protect the safety of our visitors, performers and staff. Please visit us at [jccc.edu/MidwestTrustCenter](http://jccc.edu/MidwestTrustCenter) for the latest updates.

## **About Midwest Center, Johnson County Community College**

The Midwest Trust Center is Johnson County's performing arts center. Early on, the founders of Johnson County Community College (JCCC) dreamed of building a world-class performing arts venue in Johnson County, Kansas. In 1990, that dream was realized, and the center soon became a cultural hub for the rapidly growing county. The Midwest Trust Center's growth parallels that of Johnson County, expanding from 50 events the first season to around 150 annually today. Events include Midwest Trust Center Series, the annual series of around 25 events presented by JCCC that feature professional, internationally known artists in a wide variety of genres; academic branches of JCCC; and community groups who rent the space.

In 2020 Johnson County Community College accepted a \$1,000,000 donation intended to provide an ongoing endowment to support the College's Performing Arts Series. These funds will also provide scholarships for students studying creative arts at JCCC. As a feature of the donation, the center now bears the name *Midwest Trust Center*, a local company founded by Brad Bergman. The donors Brad and Libby Bergman are long-time supporters of the College, having co-chaired the JCCC Foundation's annual Some Enchanted Evening Gala – the largest single fundraising event for student scholarships. Brad has also served as Chair of the JCCC Foundation Board of Directors. The Bergmans have been consistent supporters of dozens of activities at JCCC. They have four children, each of whom has benefited from classes taught at the College.

Since 2000, with the development of the Midwest Trust Center Arts Education program, the Midwest Trust Center also addresses cultural and art-related program needs in K-12 education. The MTC Arts Education programs include school performances at the Midwest Trust Center, and engagement activities with artists performing in schools. Master classes, lecture/demonstrations, workshops and other opportunities for interaction with students happen throughout the year. MTC Arts Education also offers support materials for programs, study guides, concert previews, plus professional development - creative skills workshops and curriculum-building seminars for teachers in arts integration.

The MTC Arts Education had a leadership role in the re-establishment of the Kansas Alliance for Arts Education, and in 2014 was named a Kennedy Center Partners in Education site, teamed with the Shawnee Mission School District. An expansion of the Kennedy Center Partnership occurred in 2018 with the addition of the Liberty Schools, and again in 2019, adding Kansas City Young Audiences, making it one of two cross-state Kennedy Center Partnerships in the US. MTC Arts Ed is the only Kennedy Center Partner in the state of Kansas.

For more information, please visit [Midwest Trust Center 2022-2023 Season](#).

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