

## Press Release

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### **KSO TO PERFORM YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS FOR 8,000 STUDENTS IN TWO WEEKS**

*“Uncle Sam’s Symphony” compares orchestral structure to branches of government to enhance student learning experience, engagement*

**Knoxville, TN – October 13, 2017** – The **Knoxville Symphony Orchestra** will perform for approximately 8,000 elementary students during the **Sheena McCall Young People’s Concerts** at the **Knoxville Civic Auditorium on October 24, 25 and 26**. There are a total of four performances: Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 9:30 a.m.; Thursday, Oct. 26: 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. The 9:30 a.m. shows on Oct. 24 & 25 are SOLD OUT (as the KSO hosts more than 2,300 students at each) **The 9:30 a.m. shows offer an excellent photo & video opportunity.**

The Sheena McCall Young People’s Concerts’ theme this year is **“Uncle Sam’s Symphony.”** **KSO Music Director Aram Demirjian** conducts the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra in an educational and engaging program designed for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades, using visual elements such as video projections, props, lights, and costumes to stimulate the students’ interest and plant the seeds for further musical involvement.

The theme of **“Uncle Sam’s Symphony”** compares the ways that the United States government is structured to that of an orchestra (Executive Branch/President = Conductor; Vice President = Concertmaster; Legislative Branch = Families of Instruments). The Judicial Branch will be comprised of the audience and students have a lesson plan to complete in their music classrooms which will then allow them to vote online for one of three musical selections. The KSO will perform the winning selection for each concert. The curriculum provided in advance of the concert also invites students to create a new law and submit these to the KSO. One submission will be featured on each of the four concerts.

Dancers from **Go Contemporary Dance Works** will join the program as the “Symphony Secret Service” and will join the KSO on stage for Tchaikovsky’s “Polonaise” from *Eugene Onegin*, Mozart’s Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, “Dance of the Reed Pipes” from *The Nutcracker*, and on the audience’s choice of Brahms’ Hungarian Dance No. 5, Strauss’ Thunder and Lightning Polka, or Shostakovich’s Waltz # 2 from *Suite for Variety Orchestra*.

These concerts are attended by school and home schooled groups from eight East Tennessee counties. Performances are open to the general public for \$6.25 per person. For more information about the KSO’s education programs, please visit [www.knoxvillesymphony.com](http://www.knoxvillesymphony.com).

The YPCs are sponsored by Sheena M. McCall, the Rotary Club of Knoxville, Akima Club, Turkey Creek Land Partners, Coldwell Banker, Wallace & Wallace, Connor Concepts, Enrichment Federal Credit Union, Investors Management Services, Parker Business Consulting, Royal Brass and Hose, and StatCare.

### **About the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra**

Established in 1935, and now under the leadership of Music Director **Aram Demirjian**, the KSO has contributed to the cultural life in East Tennessee continuously for 81 years, providing excellence in musical and educational programs. The Orchestra consists of 80 professional musicians and performs 300 programs throughout the region each season, reaching audiences of more than 200,000 people. The KSO performs in traditional venues such as the Tennessee Theatre, Bijou Theatre and the Civic Auditorium as well as non-traditional places like hospitals, schools, city parks and churches. For more information regarding the KSO, please visit [www.knoxvillesymphony.com](http://www.knoxvillesymphony.com) or call 865-291-3310.

### **Social Media:**

The KSO will perform FOUR Young People’s Concerts for 8,000+ children grades 3rd-5th on October 24, 25 & 26 at the Civic Auditorium. [Follow @knoxsymphony on Twitter](#) and [Like KSO on Facebook](#).