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## Kansas City Wind Symphony to play Carnegie Hall

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**By ANDY NELSON**

When he was a student at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., Phillip Posey played at Carnegie Hall as a member of the school's renowned Wind Ensemble.

When the group he now leads, the Kansas City Wind Symphony, was invited to perform at the hallowed New York venue, he knew it was a chance his players could not miss.

"You walk on that stage, it's indescribable—the vibes you get," he said. "Anybody who's anybody has played there. They won't ever forget it."

The Carnegie performance, set for April 6, will highlight the 10th season of the symphony, which has called Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village home since its founding.

Wagner, Stravinsky, Bernstein and Vitorio Giannini are on tap for the 47-member ensemble's Big Apple debut. To audition, Posey mailed CDs of symphony performances to MidAmerica Productions Inc., a New York firm that books concerts at Carnegie Hall.

Robert Coleman, the symphony's business manager and a member of its clarinet section, hopes the performance will help spread the word about the Kansas City region's cultural offerings.

"A lot of people in New York have probably never heard of a musical group from Kansas City," he said. "We're thought of as flyover country."

Closer to home, Posey and Village music director Mark Ball will conduct Dimitri Kabalevsky, Gordon Jacob,

Basil Kalinnikov and others Nov. 18 at Village Church. A Feb. 17 concert highlighted by selections from Holst's "The Planets" will round out the season.

All of the symphony's Village performances are free. Free also are the services of the group's players, professional and accomplished amateur musicians who come from as far away as Leavenworth. Posey, who taught music at William Jewell College in Liberty for nearly four decades and, in 1969, founded the Liberty Symphony Orchestra, also volunteers his time.

Village provides the space for the symphony to rehearse and to hold its four annual performances. The group often warms up by playing at area high schools — student musicians are invited to sit in — the day before its Village performances.

The symphony is notable among area community ensembles for its adventurous repertoire. In addition to programming works by such 20th century and contemporary giants as Ives, Hindemith and John Adams, Posey has premiered several works by Kansas City area composers. One such work, by William Jewell professor Ian Coleman, will debut at the Nov. 18 concert.

"We're very proud of what we do and who we are," Posey said. "We give people the opportunity to play a very fine repertoire and to have fun."