

TODAY

VOLUME I. ISSUE I. SPRING 2017



ARISTOCRAT
MOTORS



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of KANSAS CITY



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KANSAS CITY

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Greetings from Your Original Inbox.

To All of Our Auto Group Customers:

I am proud to present to you our first edition of *TODAY KANSAS CITY*. We hope within it to celebrate the great city we live in and the relationships we have built with you over the years.

You are receiving this first issue of our magazine because you are a customer of one of our three dealerships' Sales, Service, or Parts departments. It is a way of saying thank you and, at the same time, giving you – our customer – an exclusive publication in your mailbox four times a year.

The reason for doing an all-new print publication is that I got tired of getting emails. I know that sounds strange, but how many times do you get so many offers, specials, and solicitations in your inbox that a message or correspondence you were expecting from a family member, business contact, or special organization almost gets lost? *TODAY KANSAS CITY* is delivered to your original "inbox"... your mailbox.

In *TODAY* you will find automotive content, since that is our business, but you will also find original articles on design, architecture, fashion, food, and nonprofit organizations in Kansas City. *TODAY* will also cover events that we have hosted or been a part of and news from the Auto Group, along with a quarterly event calendar, to inform you of what is going on in the city and the area at a glance.

I hope you like *TODAY KANSAS CITY* as much as we enjoyed developing it. Thank you for the relationship we have shared over the years.

Sincerely,

Marion Battaglia, President

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PHOTO BY KENNY JOHNSON

Welcoming Change.

TODAY KANSAS CITY will be arriving in your home every quarter; it is a rebirth of *Today's Aristocrat* with a much broader content base. Where its predecessor was focused on cars and the Aristocrat dealership, with a little of Kansas City thrown in, *TODAY KANSAS CITY* is about Kansas City with our business as a backdrop. By doing this, we are living up to our brand, whether it be Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City, BMW & Volkswagen of Topeka, or Aristocrat Motors; the brand is community involvement and recognition of the communities of which we are a part. We hope to make the neighborhoods, the groups, and the individuals in the community the stars and our products the backdrop.

We have called on a group of writers that are part of Kansas City and the surrounding region. They come from as close as being a staff member, to writers on a national scale, to individuals in the area who are writing about their passion and their work.

To the right are our original issue's contributors.

ARCHITECTURE: **Bill Johnson**, AIA, is the design principal for HOK in Kansas City and its senior vice president. Recognized as a leader in the design of sports and entertainment facilities and districts, his approach is defined by his ability to develop integrated solutions that achieve the unique objectives of each client and contribute to the vitality of the broader community. Over the course of his career, Bill has applied his expertise and design sensitivity to numerous award-winning, mixed-use office and civic projects, including Mercedes-Benz Stadium, H&R Block Headquarters, Sunset Drive Office Building, and the Power & Light District.

AUTOMOTIVE: **Tom Strongman** has been smitten with cars since age 11 when he and his brother built a hot rod using the chassis of a Crosley Hot Shot, a Model A body, and a Ford flathead V-8. He has a degree in photojournalism from the University of Missouri and was formerly the director of photography and then the automotive editor of *The Kansas City Star*. Tom, a member of the Missouri Press Association Photojournalism Hall of Fame, has written about and photographed cars for more than three decades.

FASHION SPOTLIGHT: **Jennifer Lapka Pfeifer** has been involved in the fashion community in Kansas City from helping bring the 18th Street Fashion Show to life to now promoting and supporting the burgeoning garment industry rebirth in our city. She also serves as the executive director of Rightfully Sewn, a nonprofit that is training and supplying seamstresses to keep designers' orders local.

NONPROFIT: **Robert Hellweg**, marketing director, has been responsible in assisting and guiding the Soave Automotive Group's community involvement and charitable efforts for the last decade. "This is our marketing plan, to be part of our community; it is our 'brand,' and we are very proud of our role, and, more importantly, our communities. My focus will be to share smaller, less well-known nonprofit efforts and the successes they have achieved."

FOOD: **Jesse Little** is the Master Certified Product Concierge at Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City and the Vice Conseiller Gastronomique for the Kansas City Chapter of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. With a previous background as a sous chef for a major bank and as the general manager of a fine wine import and distribution company, he follows his love of fine dining and wine while exploring the Kansas City restaurant scene.

TRENDS: **Lanie Draper**, co-owner of Rooted Kansas City, specializes in revitalizing old, forgotten homes and transforming them into one-of-a-kind treasures. Her designs aspire to preserve each home's special history, while foretelling futures through uniquely inspired designs using today's hottest trends.



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PHOTO BY KENNY JOHNSON



2017 Porsche 911 Turbo S

Anaphora: Maiko Cross Back White Dress by Third Form
Mazzarese: Vianna Brasil, 18k Yellow Gold with Murion Quartz and Diamond Ring and Earrings

The Path to a Vibrant City.

As an architect, the nature of our business brings many clients to Kansas City for the first time. I've become an ambassador of sorts for our city during my career, and I've gone from approaching downtown with hesitation with visitors in tow to beaming with pride. Our city is experiencing the revitalization of the century, with the downtown population quadrupling in the last decade and expected to grow an additional 50 percent over the next five years. More than \$380 million in investments have been made downtown in the past year alone, and more than 2,700 new jobs have been added. As a long-time Kansas Citian, it certainly feels good to see Kansas City plastered in national magazines as a great place to live, work, and play.

But Kansas City's currently ranked relevance didn't come to be overnight. Development in Kansas City's urban core has had a long and treacherous history. City leaders have fought to activate downtown and there have certainly been setbacks along the way.

In the '80s, the city experienced what felt like a mass exodus, with Kansas Citians moving to the suburbs, leaving downtown abandoned and the downtown core hurting for activity. Despite the city's notable architecture and ample space, the city became a ghost town on weekends and evenings, and there seemed to be little incentive to drive activity back downtown. In fact, many in the city were resistant to redevelopment for decades, putting the city's reputation and future at stake. However, in the early 2000s, there was an undeniable shift. Kansas City's Power & Light District was born. The district was certainly a risk, but city leaders saw an opportunity to create a catalytic development with Sprint Center as the anchor, engaging in a public-private partnership with The Cordish Companies, developer of similar districts nationwide.

Kansas City is uniquely shaped by neighborhoods and defined by districts. It's part of what makes the

city great. From Brookside to the River Market, the city is brimming with pockets and places that feel completely different. For quite some time, those charming neighborhoods were centered on areas outside the urban core. Touring visitors through the Plaza and Waldo, the charm of the city is evident, but there was never much to see downtown. The Power & Light District changed that, creating a bustling downtown neighborhood for the first time in recent history.

But what makes a district — whether carefully planned or organically grown — work? Is there a checklist that leads to growth and success?

While it hasn't been without its own set of challenges, Power & Light serves as an example of how sound urban planning can work. The project has transformed the south loop and our once-blighted downtown core, bringing business, entertainment, restaurants, retail, residential, hospitality space, and, now, even public transit to the district.

This innovative "live-work-play" district carefully integrates these components over seven city blocks and more than 3 million square feet. It was carefully designed with pedestrian-friendly proportions, multiple entry points, sidewalks with narrow streets, open storefronts, public art, and extensive green space. But the design is notably highlighted by a public celebration space, which drove many design decisions. That space, KC Live, has since become one of the most recognizable spaces in the country to watch a game or event, helping put Kansas City on the map and becoming the city's living room!

These elements, when strategically planned and executed, generate activity at the pedestrian level, giving the district a distinct urban feel that was desperately needed in Kansas City. To provide an authentic Kansas City experience, materials and textures are rooted in our historic downtown architecture. The Power & Light District and districts





like it at all scales bring density that help to brand the city and bring people together around commerce, entertainment, or sports. And there is more to come! As we see and experience the revitalization of downtown, plans have emerged for future development in other corners of the city.

While there have been ongoing conversations about the district's success, as is always the case with mixed-use developments, as an architect, I believe vision and a desire to evolve come with an element of risk essential to revitalization. Development is about both the tangible and the intangible. The things you see and the things you feel. We saw a district come up in a previously ignored part of Kansas City's downtown, and we felt, for the first time in a long time, a level of energy and momentum in downtown. There was a feeling of emphatically turning the page and starting a new chapter in Kansas City's history. What often is forgotten in the long road to redeveloping a city is the time it takes. While a district can be deemed complete, the organic growth that takes place over time is what embeds a development. There is always more to come.

So what's the next step? We must keep the momentum going! Let's continue to build density through development. Let's commit to connect the city's neighborhoods with careful, people-centered planning.

Kansas City has been the benefactor of some beautifully designed spaces. The city is home to some of the most notable examples of art deco architecture in the Kansas City Power & Light Building and Municipal Auditorium. We have architectural landmarks in the Country Club Plaza, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Liberty Memorial, and, most recently, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. We even boast the often forgotten about Community Christian Church, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. And the city is also home to a bustling architecture and arts community. Some of the region's — and nation's — most beautiful design work is coming from our city. And our lives are shaped by these designs, whether we recognize it or not. We spend nearly every moment of every day interacting with architecture and the built environment. It's synonymous with being. Yet we forget to look around and take stock. We forget to appreciate how the nooks and crannies of our city and districts have been designed and developed with us in mind.

The reality is that the Power & Light District is just the beginning. Over the coming months, we'll give you a look at the districts and developments that are transforming what it means to live in Kansas City. ♦



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The AMG C43 Sports Sedan is a Complete Package.

The Mercedes-Benz AMG C43 blends the soul of a sports car with the utility of a sedan, thanks in large measure to its 3.0-liter AMG-enhanced biturbo V-6 that cranks out an impressive 362 horsepower and 384 pound-feet of torque. Get frisky with the throttle; it zips to 60 mph in 4.6 seconds, and the top speed is electronically limited to 130 mph, which is moot for most drivers unless you have a racetrack handy.

The C43 is more than snappy acceleration. It's a complete package of performance, comfort, and technology. The taut suspension delivers a firm ride that enhances agility without punishing roughness, and the optional 19-inch wheels with summer performance tires let it carve through turns with precision. The steering is light but direct and the big brakes scrub off speed with ease. The 4Matic all-wheel drive not only enhances dry-road handling but also adds security when roads are wet, icy, or snow-covered.

The C-Class is the top-selling Mercedes-Benz model series, and it was extensively redesigned for the 2015 model year. The new model is 200 pounds lighter than the previous models due to extensive use of aluminum. The 111.8-inch wheelbase has grown by 3 inches, and that results in greater legroom for rear-seat passengers.

The C-Class is available in coupe, convertible, and sedan configurations. The sedan is offered in five variations, starting with the C300 at \$39,500; the C300 4Matic at \$41,500; the AMG C43 sedan at \$52,000; the AMG C63 at \$65,200; and the AMG C63S at \$72,800. The test car was an AMG C43 with the sticker price of \$63,070.

The C43 bridges the gap between the basic model and the full-tilt AMG C63 whose handcrafted V-8 engine is available with 469 horsepower or 503 horsepower in the C63S. In many ways, the C43 offers the best of both worlds: stirring performance and crisp handling at a price that is several thousand dollars less than the C63.

Given the C43's multipurpose role, there are five selectable drive modes — Eco, Comfort, Sport, Sport Plus, and Individual — each chosen by a small knurled knob on the console. Each is pretty much as its name implies. Eco gives the best fuel economy, although at a slight drop in performance. Comfort is the default setting, and it is a good everyday setting. Sport livens things up a bit, with sharper throttle response and tighter suspension settings; however, Sport Plus is the one you want for that Sunday morning charge through some winding country roads. The exhaust takes on a throatier growl, the engine responds with sweet urgency, and the automatic transmission snaps through its nine speeds with



2017 Mercedes-Benz AMG C43

Engine: 3.0-liter, 362-horsepower biturbo V-6

Transmission: 9-speed automatic 4Matic all-wheel drive

Wheelbase: 111.8 inches

Curb weight: 3,759 pounds

Base price: \$52,000

As driven: \$63,070

MPG rating: 20 in the city, 28 on the highway





AMG Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary.

AMG. These three letters signify uncompromising performance to enthusiasts the world over. Based in Affalterbach, Germany, AMG began when Hans-Werner Aufrecht and Erhard Melcher set up their first workshop in an old mill as “an engineering office and design and testing center for the development of racing engines,” according to Mercedes-Benz history. Their focus on performance was so successful that the company is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Daimler AG, and it continues to embody a passion for cutting-edge technology and dynamic performance. AMG stands for expertise in engine development. To that end, it employs a “one man, one engine” philosophy, with each AMG engine being handcrafted by one engine builder.

The AMG-enhanced C43 has a powerful six-cylinder engine, a transmission tuned to have shorter shift times, and tighter suspension tuning. It also gets more powerful brakes and interior tweaks that emphasize driving performance.



the precision of a manual. The Individual mode lets the driver mix and match settings according to personal taste, such as choosing the comfort suspension with the Sport Plus engine tuning.

The C43's cabin is cozy and plush. The Iridium Silver test car had a black interior with Cranberry Red seats and the optional carbon fiber trim panels on the instrument panel and console, a most handsome combination. The 8.4-inch color LCD screen sits in the center of the dash like a tablet computer. It is not a touch-screen because Mercedes-Benz feels operating a touch-screen can be distracting. The console has a mouse-like touch pad and a rotary knob for operating audio and navigation, but the system can also be managed with voice commands. The steering wheel has fingertip controls, as well. The navigation system has five years of traffic and weather services provided by SiriusXM.

The front sports seats have proper support in all the right places. The adjustable thigh support extends forward so the driver can tailor the seat to his or her liking.

Advances in semi-autonomous technology continue to play an increasingly important role in automotive design, and the C43 is up to date with several features that make driving safer.

Attention Assist learns a driver's habits and then sends an alert if it feels the driver is getting drowsy or not paying attention.

Collision Prevention Assist Plus sends an audible warning if it senses the driver is closing on a vehicle too quickly. This system will apply the brakes at speeds up to 124 mph. At speeds up to 31 mph, the vehicle will apply the brakes to avoid a stationary object.

Pre-Safe tightens seatbelts, closes windows, and closes the sunroof if it senses a collision is imminent. Pre-Safe Plus adds the ability to sense a rear impact and activates the rear hazard lights at increasing frequency and initiates preventive braking.

Brake Assist applies maximum braking force in an emergency.

DISTRONIC Plus is the adaptive cruise control that adjusts the car's speed when approaching a slower vehicle.

Enhanced Lane Keeping Assist prevents the vehicle from drifting out of the lane by gently applying the brakes on one side.

Optional assistance features include a 360-degree camera view and Active Parking Assist for parallel and pull-in parking.

The beauty of the C43 lies in the fact that it can carry four passengers when required but has an overall size that lets it slip through traffic with greater ease than a larger car. The biturbo V-6 flexes its ample muscle at the slightest prod, yet it is perfectly happy running mundane errands. ♦

Tom Strongman's email is tstrongman@gmail.com.



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LEVI

A Beckoning for Bags.

Amid the strong wave of local leather artisans I have seen emerge of the past five years, Ami Beck of Dolyn Bags has developed a fiercely loyal customer base for her fine leather handbags for women. She is poised to take her brand to a national level this year by adding men's and travel lines and introducing all three at MAGIC Las Vegas, an industry marketplace showcasing the latest in apparel, footwear, and accessories.

Passing by Beck's well-appointed, large-windowed studio in the Stockyards District, one might catch a glimpse of the statuesque craftswomen stitching together one of her

products at a sewing machine. With the help of a part-time, in-house seamstress, she has been fulfilling her orders, but her production capability is about to expand. Over the past year, Beck carefully vetted American factories to take on the production of her new products, landing a relationship with a New Jersey-based partner. Finding a factory that communicates in a timely manner and delivers quality to expectation and deadline is an enormous achievement for an emerging designer as it is a process requiring an investment of time and money to travel to and tour each prospect.







In addition to pinpointing a domestic production partner, the fact Beck is now working on her business full-time is another notable milestone most designers only dream about. The status of her business — the growth she has created through hard work and dedication after launching just three years ago from a workspace in her grandmother's basement — is admirable. Why has she achieved what so few of her peers have? She is the perfect example of an entrepreneur: she possesses a magnetic personality; she listens to her customers; she delivers consistency of quality; she is not afraid to delegate; and she never loses sight of the long-range goal she has set for her business, which is to “to be a strong competitor in the global luxury market.”

Her long-range goal is grand to be sure; to spur herself on, she loves deferring to a source of inspiration a friend once shared with her. It is a quote by the late Scottish

mountaineer and writer, W. H. Murray:

Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, the providence moves too. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamt would have come his way. I learned a deep respect for one of Goethe's couplets:

Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it.

Boldness has genius, power and magic in it!

I am immensely proud of this Kansas City native and look forward to watching her continue to navigate the industry, gain more market share, and, eventually, create more jobs in Our City. ♦



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2. HAND & LAND
3. GENO'S MEN'S CLOTHIERS
4. BARE MED SPA
5. ROMANELLI SUN GALLERIA
6. TOM TIVOL JEWELS
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2017 Porsche 911 Turbo S

Anaphora: Maiko Cross Back White Dress by Third Form

Mazzarese: Vianna Brasil, 18k Yellow Gold with
Murion Quartz and Diamond Ring and Earrings



Geno's:

David Donahue
Purple/Fuschia Tie;
Andrew-J White
Collared Shirt;
David Donahue
Grey Suit

Mazzarese:

Chopard G.P.M.H.
Steel/Titanium Watch;
Todd Reed
Silver and Black
Diamond Pave Band



2017 Mercedes-Benz S550 Cabriolet

2017 Mercedes-Benz S550 Cabriolet

Bella Bridesmaid:

Joanna August, "Ceremony"
Rolling Stone Chiffon Ruffle Dress

Mazzarese:

Casato, 18k White Diamond Cuff



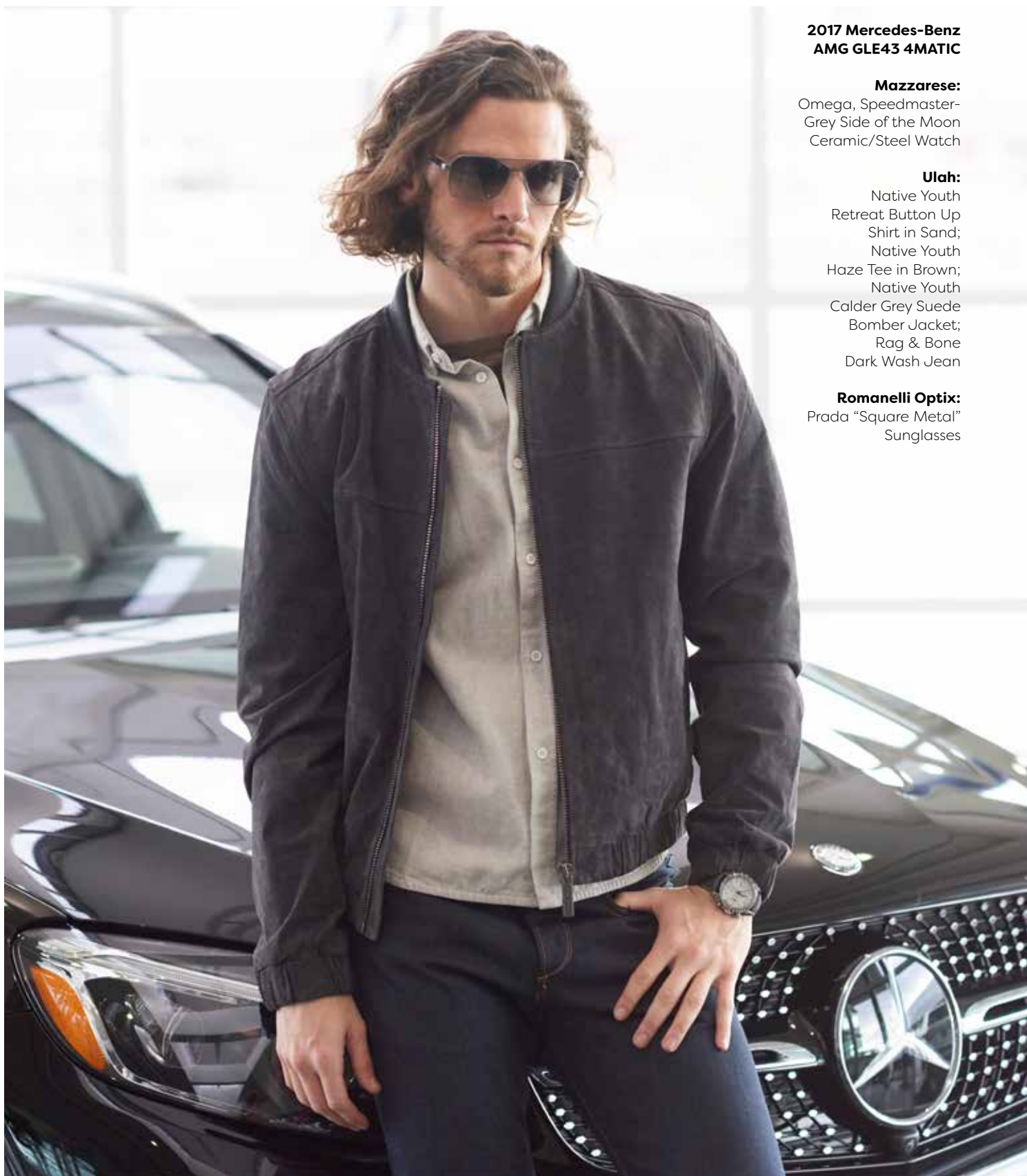


Pinstripes:

Samuelsohn Blue Suit;
Robert Talbott Green/Navy Striped Tie;
Stenstroms Blue Checkered Oxford Shirt

Mazzarese:

Omega, Planet Ocean Watch 18k Rose Gold
and Steel, Blue Dial with Blue Strap



**2017 Mercedes-Benz
AMG GLE43 4MATIC**

Mazzarese:

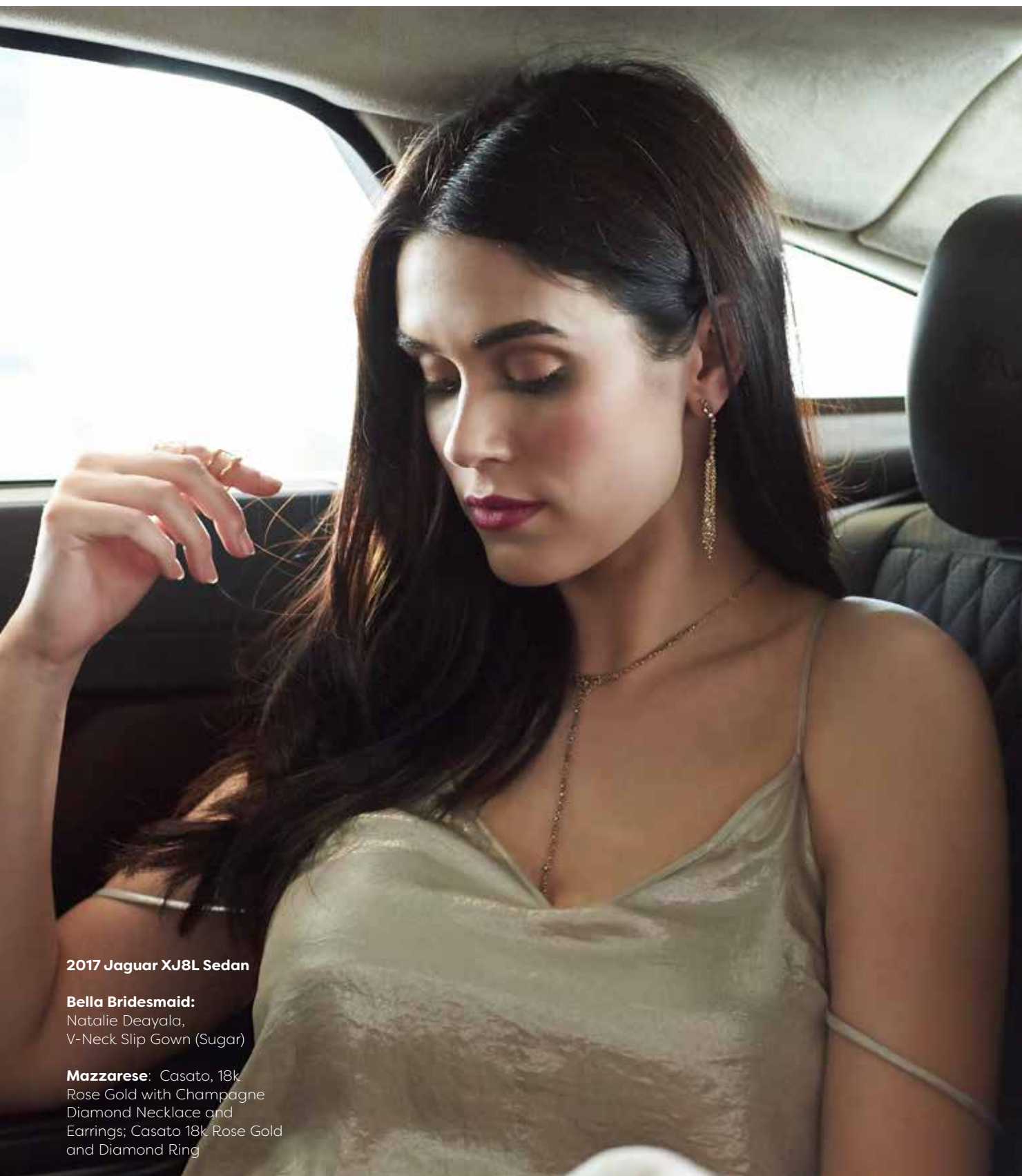
Omega, Speedmaster-
Grey Side of the Moon
Ceramic/Steel Watch

Ulah:

Native Youth
Retreat Button Up
Shirt in Sand;
Native Youth
Haze Tee in Brown;
Native Youth
Calder Grey Suede
Bomber Jacket;
Rag & Bone
Dark Wash Jean

Romanelli Optix:

Prada "Square Metal"
Sunglasses



2017 Jaguar XJ8L Sedan

Bella Bridesmaid:

Natalie Deayala,
V-Neck Slip Gown (Sugar)

Mazzarese: Casato, 18k
Rose Gold with Champagne
Diamond Necklace and
Earrings; Casato 18k Rose Gold
and Diamond Ring

**2017 Maserati
GranTurismo Cabriolet**

Alysa Rene:
Billionaire Black
Bodycon Dress

Mazzarese:
Todd Reed 18k Yellow Gold
Cuff with Diamonds;
Todd Reed 18k Yellow Gold and
Silver Necklace and Earrings



PHOTO GREG GORMAN



Kansas City's Italian Traditions.

It's white tablecloth, classic Italian; and it's an Italian grocery, delicatessen, and pizzeria, but most of all, it's a part of the Kansas City restaurant culture, Jasper's. Jasper's restaurant has been a mainstay in the food community for over 63 years, through three generations of Mirabiles, and who knows how many pans of lasagna.

Now located at 103rd and State Line, Jasper Mirabile Jr. is now keeping the tradition of fine dining at Jasper's. His experience and his training are cornerstones of the restaurant's continued success. From studying at the University of Nevada's Hotel and Restaurant

School and Kansas State University, he traveled to Europe to hone his skills in the cooking schools of France and Italy. At that point, he was ready to join the "family business."

Joining his father in the namesake restaurant that had built a reputation recognized with the coveted Mobil Four Stars and the AAA Four Diamond awards for fine dining, Jasper continued to gain recognition and acclaim.

The Mirabiles' Sicilian heritage has been combined with Jasper Jr.'s travels to the Tuscany and Piedmont regions of Italy to provide today's menu. That said, many of the original menu's dishes are still best sellers,





THE STRAWBERRY CHANTILLY CREAM has been a favorite on the dessert cart at Jasper's Restaurant for decades — a traditional custard with a sweet whipped cream, toasted coconut and strawberries.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JASPER'S RESTAURANT

PHOTO BY ANDREW FALLS



JASPER'S CAPELLINI D'ANGELO ALLA NANNI is a lovely variation on a dish Jasper Mirabile Sr. experienced in a famous New York City restaurant in the 1960s. Angel hair pasta is combined with prosciutto, mushrooms, and peas in a heavy cream sauce — a memorable favorite that patrons never tire of ordering.

from the Shrimp Livornese appetizer to the Strawberry Borghese cake.

Jasper Jr. was the first Kansas City chef to appear at the James Beard House in New York three times. The James Beard House, the home of the legendary American Master Chef, serves as the performance space for the James Beard Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to "celebrate, nurture, and honor chefs and other leaders making America's food culture more delicious, diverse, and sustainable for everyone." It is one of the pinnacles of achievement in America's culinary culture.

Following along the path of James Beard, Jasper Jr. has also authored two cookbooks: *The Jasper's Cookbook* and *Jasper's Kitchen Cookbook*. The titles represent the simple goodness of the recipes found inside. A third cookbook is in the works, and it, obviously, will again center on classic Italian cuisine, *On the Cannoli Trail*. Many of these recipes are also offered on his weekly radio show, "LIVE! From Jasper's Kitchen" (KCMO 103.7 FM and 710 AM).

Jasper's has always seemed to be a step ahead of the changing dining preferences, as his brother showed when he opened Marco Polo's Groceria in 1984. The public was looking for more casual and faster-paced dining, and the delicatessen and pizzeria offered just that, but with the signature quality of Jasper's. Later in the '90s, the move

was made to the Watts Mill Shopping Center, their current home, from the original location in Waldo. This was, again, a realization of a more casual, suburban culture that still demanded great Italian cuisine.

Jasper Jr.'s knowledge of food and of the marketplace are once again being demonstrated with his new monthly "1954 Supper Club KC," where he shares authentic recipes and cooking demonstrations that feature farm-to-table fresh produce. He sees these local food artisans as a return to a time before modern transportation delivered food to a chef's kitchen. It only takes a short demonstration course in the Mozzarella Theater 2.0 or a 1954 Supper Club cooking lesson to understand the chef's passion and desire to share what he has learned.

Awards have continued to come to Jasper Jr. as Jasper's has been named one of America's Top 25 Italian Restaurants and one of the Top 10 Italian Restaurants by *USA Today*; one of *Travel and Leisure's* Top Italian Restaurants; and, for 27 consecutive years, a winner of the North American Achievement of Dining Distinction by DiRoNA, Distinguished Restaurants of North America.

Jasper's remains one of Kansas City's most popular dining attractions, and Jasper Jr. honors his father's counsel, "Travel often and come back inspired and influenced by what you see — but more, by what you eat." ♦

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Kansas City's Focus on Helping Others.

When the Board of Directors of the Rose Brooks Center assembled a committee to help care for its aging facility, little did it know that it had created a committee that would not only take on the cleaning, painting, redecorating, and repairing of the facility but one that would spearhead the successful effort to construct a new facility. When that new facility opened in 2001, this group of dedicated and very closely knit women just kept on giving – time, resources, and energy – to charitable endeavors with the formation of the State Line Service League.

The State Line Service League, or SL squared (SL²), is made up of women professionals from around the city: bankers, lawyers,

doctors, CEOs, teachers, and artists. It became incorporated in 2005 as a 501(c)(3) organization with the original purpose of “doing short-term community service projects, with the goal to give back to the community and have fun doing it.”

SL² members have few requirements placed on them, which helps make this a fun and free-spirited group, and this attitude carries over to its fundraising and the way it selects new and ongoing community service projects. There is no financial commitment to membership, and fundraising is by donations and from a biannual art auction that has taken place at the Belger Crane Yard, the Blue Bird Bistro, and the Red Star Gallery.

Offering both “pre-owned” art from SL² members and friends, plus a featured local artist, SL² is able to raise most of its yearly financial requirements from this art auction.

The work selected is done by a vote of the membership, and the selection process itself generates enthusiasm for the projects selected. Favorite themes are food, creativity, education, and investing time to help other organizations.

SL² cooks and shares the culinary results with those in need. You can ask the eager group of diners hosted by Cherith Brook, a homeless outreach facility in the East 12th Street corridor. Rose Brooks remains a special place for SL²’s cooking, where members have prepared and served dinner for Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day, and other special events for the families of the center. Journey to New Life, a local parolee-outreach female-resident facility, has been the recipient of dessert and game nights. At-risk youth at Ozanam are treated to an annual Beach Towels, Barbecue, and Bingo Night. Meals are prepared and shared with Associated Youth Services’ Home Ties teenage boys in residence. SL²ers gather to prepare and share hearty sack lunches for Kansas City’s Urban Rangers, birthday cakes for AYS children in foster care, welcome meals for new residents at Hillcrest Transitional Housing, and snack bags for the children who attend Harmony Project KC, an outreach music education program founded by Laura Shultz, an original SL² member.

SL² members also jump at the chance to be creative. Some of their favorite projects have included painting and redecorating Cherith Brook’s community guest rooms, Samuel U. Rodgers Free Health Clinic’s pediatric waiting room, reStart’s family suites, an apartment at Hillcrest Transitional Housing, and the Victims Waiting Room at KCMO Municipal Court. The group helped to create the mosaic outside the Ronald McDonald House and with landscaping gardening and cleaning Sheffield Place, Swope Park Duchesne Clinic, the Whatsoever Community Center, and the Main Street Mile downtown.

Education is a major focus, and SL² believes that education is the key to a better life. In that effort, it has provided dictionaries to third-graders in local schools through the Dictionary Project, stocked a Little Free Library at Faxon Elementary School, and donated books to Scuola Vita Nuova’s library. The group has also reached out to international causes, such as providing support to a school in Kenya with supplies, soccer balls, and a clean water source, as well as packed care bags for Heart to Heart International’s Haitian tsunami relief project.

Since leading a healthy lifestyle is part of a rounded education, one of the “long-running” projects is sponsoring and helping coach a “Girls on the Run” team at Faxon

Elementary School in KCMO. This program involves a curriculum of life lessons, self-esteem, and healthy living, which culminates in a 5K event celebrating the accomplishments of several thousand enthusiastic girls in KC each semester. SL² believes that Faxon girls have learned valuable lessons of self-worth and perseverance through Girls on the Run, and those lessons have also been provided to participating members of SL²!

Although SL² does not donate funds to other organizations, you can see that working with and providing service to other organizations are part of SL²’s “infrastructure.” This is also true in helping other organizations with their fundraisers. Examples of this support are the Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry’s Christmas Store and Spring Fling, Johnson County Christmas Bureau’s store, Harvesters’ Empty Bowls, Southwest Boulevard Family Health Clinic’s Tacos and Beer on the Boulevard, Bridging the Gap’s Earth Walk, and Rose



Brooks Center’s Cabaret. SL² was also there with a team for the American Cancer Society’s all night Relay For Life.

The holiday season always includes SL²’s longest-running project to benefit Rose Brooks Center. Members gather at a member’s home for fun and camaraderie as they assemble gift bags for each resident. The evening concludes with a potluck supper and raucous carols around the piano. ♦

GET INVOLVED.

State Line Service League is always seeking new, engaging, and fulfilling opportunities to positively influence the Kansas City community. If you know of one, please reach out to Judy Joss at judymjoss@gmail.com; SL² is waiting for your opportunity.



Sweet Music of Success.

In the last issue of *Aristocrat Today*, we did an article on a new children's music program in Northeast Kansas City, Harmony Project KC. Located in one of the most challenged, low-income neighborhoods in Kansas City, it has begun to transform lives through music, one child at a time, surrounded by the safe, idyllic campus of the Northeast Community Center, just east of the River Market area.

Since we wrote the article two years ago, HPKC has built an orchestra with more than 100 diverse children who are making beautiful music, year-round. "They have gone from playing 'Twinkle Twinkle' to playing Bach and Dvorak alongside members of the Kansas City Symphony, and the best is yet to come," executive director Laura Shultz said.

Harmony Project KC has a strong base; it's an affiliate of the nationally renowned Harmony Project Los Angeles, which began in the gang-victimized neighborhoods of LA and recently won two Presidential Awards. Last year 100 percent of its students went to college, including two Fulbright Scholars. Not to be outdone, the sidebar right demonstrates some of HPKC's recent milestones since its inception. ♦

HPKC'S RECENT MILESTONES

- Tripled enrollment to over 100 students from 23 schools in Northeast Kansas City.
- There is a waiting list of children who want to become the next Yo-Yo Ma!
- Asked to perform the National Anthem at a KC Royals game.
- Honored at the Harriman-Jewell Gala.
- Kicked off Kansas City Museum's summer concert series on the lawn.
- Invited to play with the full KC Symphony at Helzberg Hall in the Kauffman Center.
- Partnering with local universities to create an affordable pathway to college.
- Students have shown a vast improvement in academics and behavioral skills.

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Fit for a King.

If the old saying is “diamonds are a girl’s best friend,” then this year, the new saying is “jewel tones are your home’s best friend!” Fiery rubies, Mediterranean blue sapphires, and emeralds as green as the majestic mountains of Ireland are finding their way into homes everywhere.

Designers are having fun getting creative with this royal palette in virtually all living spaces. With jewel tones, the possibilities are endless, and, like that of a diamond, no two are the same. Cue the cheers from trendsetters everywhere — this is your time to shine!

HOW TO USE JEWEL TONES

Go all out: If you’ve been waiting for vibrant colors to make their comeback, then now’s your chance to dive

right in. Whether your walls are light or dark in color, jewel-toned furniture will have you living like royalty in no time. Major retailers are ready for this trend and have several couches, ottomans, headboards, and rugs ready for you to choose from. These pieces are perfect for sparking conversation and show you are confident of your style!

Ease into it: If you’re more of a neutral person but are still intrigued by this trend, start slowly with throw pillows or dramatic curtains that pop next to your not-so-loud sofa. Imagine this look — a perfectly aged leathered sofa is draped with your favorite throw. And at arm’s length, your rustic coffee table made from what’s left of a nearby barn is layered with old books and modern succulents. Just behind it, you are hugged by the warmth and drama of velvet royal blue curtains. Yes! ♦

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Hang with Me.

It's fair to say that Joanna Gaines, of HGTV's "Fixer Upper" fame, has kindled the curiosity of many wanting to plant and observe their own seeds transforming into colorful and fragrant plants. But what about those who don't have the space, time, or, dare I say, green thumb to take on such a project? Well, not only are hanging planters your answer, but they are on trend.

Whether you prefer your planters be suspended from the ceiling or staggered on a wall, it is undeniable that you will be adding a major touch of organic elegance to your home. From sweet and calming lavender-filled nurseries to your favorite herbs planted in boxes near the kitchen sink, this trend will literally be sprouting up in every room of the house.

Design styles are limitless; meaning this is definitely an

easy and inexpensive trend that you should try. If your style swings bohemian, consider suspending a macramé plant holder filled with English ivy. This plant is not only pretty, but it's air purifying. If modern is more your style, use slate or geometric pottery and fill with colorful succulents.

Don't have a green thumb? Splurge on pretty faux plants that match your style. Because these plants will be hung higher than eye level, no one will ever know.

Want to give this a shot? Take this list to your local nursery to get started. Happy planting!

- English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- String of hearts (*Ceropegia linearis woodii*)
- String of pearls (*Senecio rowleyanus*) ♦

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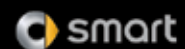
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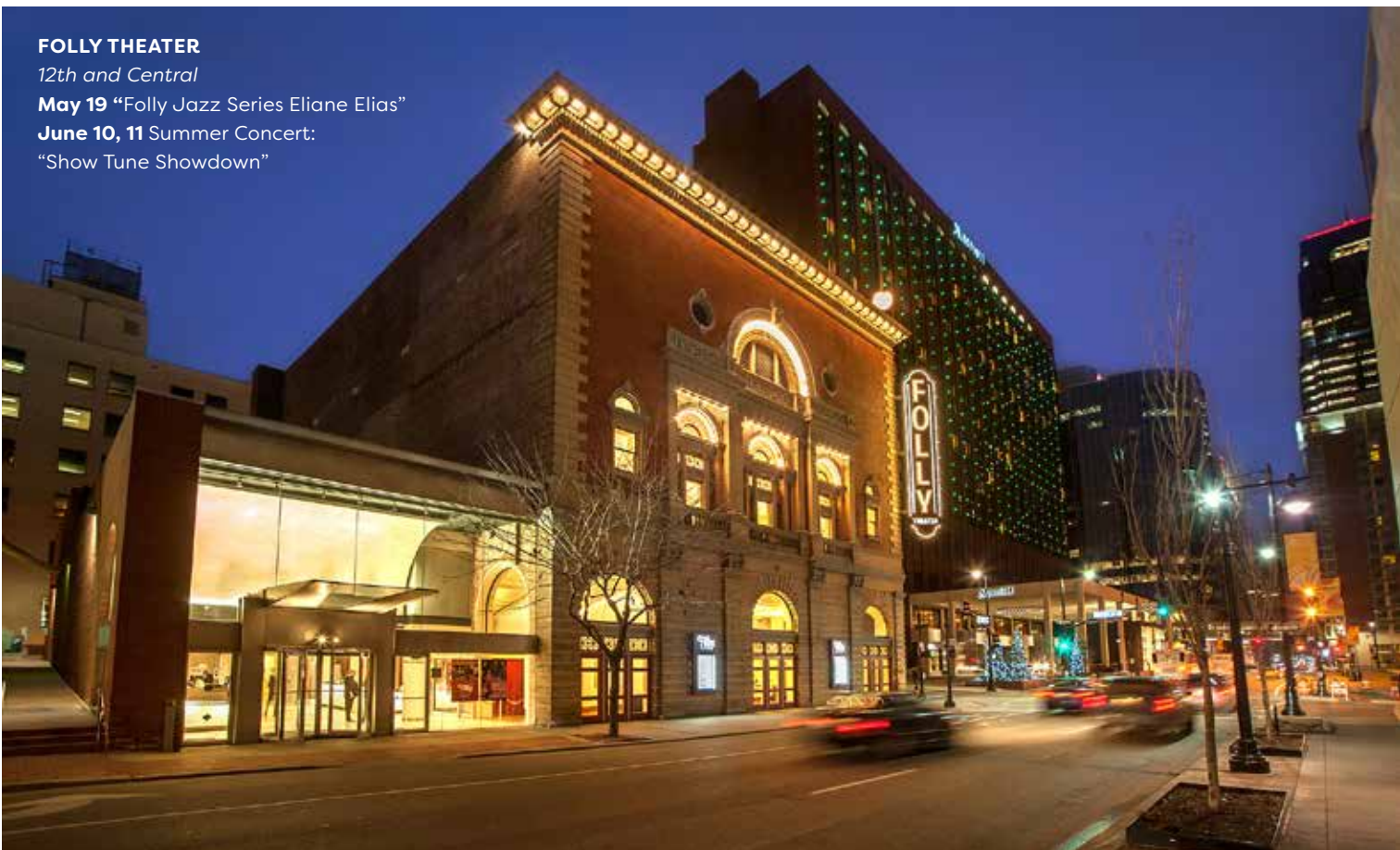
FOLLY THEATER

12th and Central

May 19 "Folly Jazz Series Eliane Elias"

June 10, 11 Summer Concert:

"Show Tune Showdown"



GEM THEATER

18th and Vine, KCMO

Jazz at the Gem

April 22

"Jack DeJohnette Trio"

May 25

"Dianne Reeves"

NFL DRAFT

April 27-29

Philadelphia, PA

FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

Various Venues

April 21

"Vox Luminis Grace and Holy"

Trinity Cathedral

May 5

"Kirill Gerstein, Piano"

Folly Theater

HARRIMAN-JEWELL SERIES

Various Venues

April 22

"The Great Flood: Bill Frisell"

w/ Ensemble Film by Bill Morrison

Nelson-Atkins Museum,

Atkins Auditorium

April 27

"Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, and Chris Thile"

Kauffman Center

April 28

"Joyce DiDonato, The English Concert"

Kauffman Center

KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

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18th and Broadway, KCMO

April 13-15

"Bond: 50 Years and Beyond"

Michael Krajewski, Conductor
Debbie Gravitte, Vocalist

May 5-7

"War and Remembrance"

with Britten

Britten War Requiem

Michael Stern, Conductor

Kansas City Symphony Chorus,

Charles Bruffy, Chorus Director

Christine Brewer, Soprano

Anthony Dean Griffey, Tenor

Stephen Powell, Baritone

June 2-4

"Ax Plays Mozart and Strauss"

Michael Stern, Conductor

Emanuel Ax, Pianist

June 7

"Classics Uncorked: The

Architecture of Music

Jason Seber" Conductor

Justine Lamb-Budge, Violin

June 8

"Doc Severinsen with the

Kansas City Symphony"

Doc Severinsen, Guest

Conductor/Trumpet

June 16-18

"Rachmaninoff's Second and

Barber's Violin Concerto"

Philippe Quint, Violin

June 21-14

"Harry Potter and the

Sorcerer's Stone" in Concert

Film and John Williams' score

Please note this is not a complete list of all Symphony Concerts and Events

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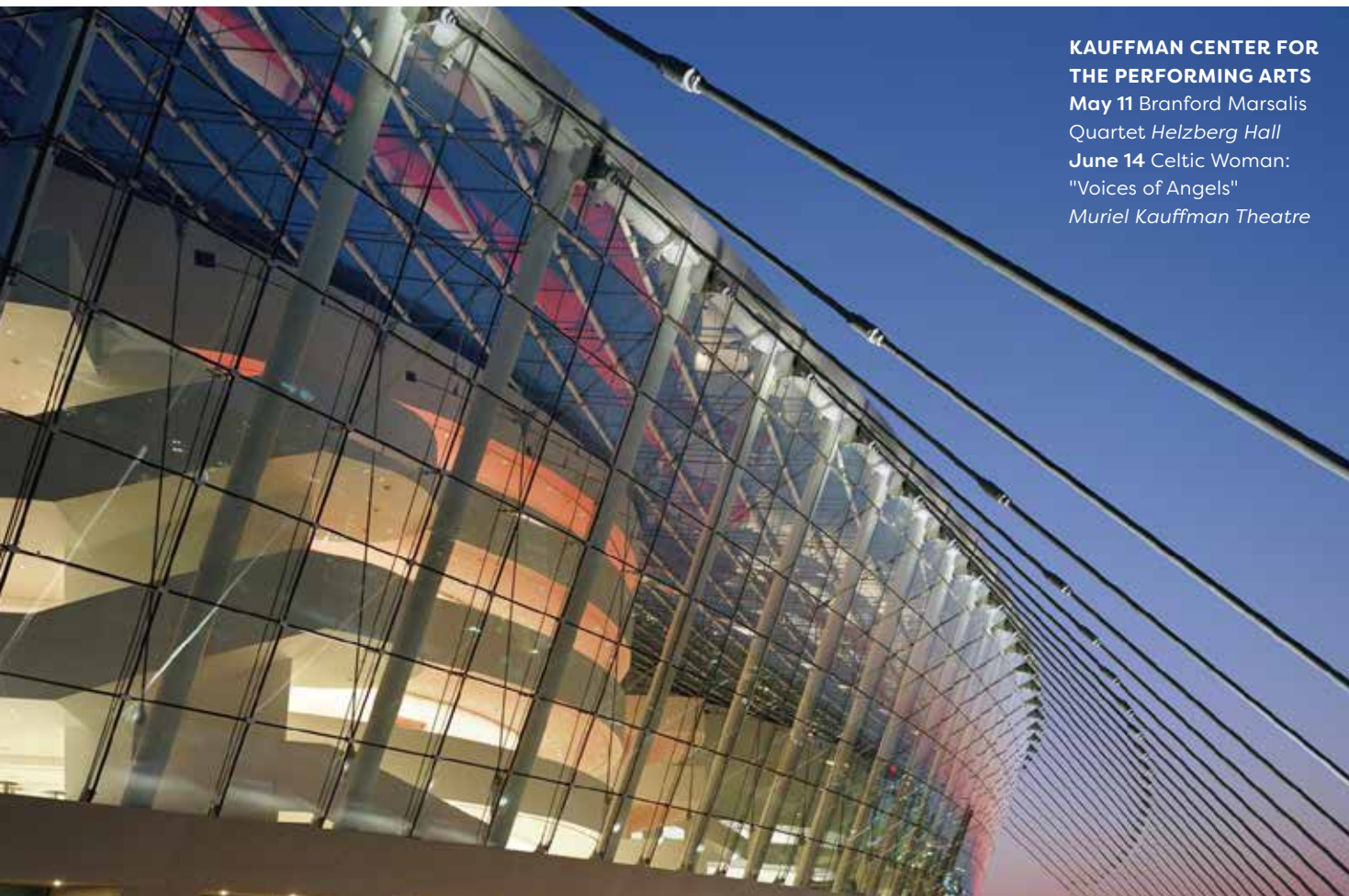
Campus and Copaken Stage

in H&R Block Bldg.

Now-April 16

"A Raisin in the Sun"

Spencer Theatre



**KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS**

May 11 Branford Marsalis
Quartet *Helzberg Hall*

June 14 Celtic Woman:
"Voices of Angels"
Muriel Kauffman Theatre

THE REP CONT.

April 28–May 28

"What Would Crazy Horse Do?"
Copaken Stage

April 29–May 28

"Man in Love"
Copaken Stage

May 5–May 14

"Antony and Cleopatra"
Spencer Theatre

UNICORN THEATRE

3828 Main Street, KCMO

April 19–May 14

"I'm Gonna Pray for You
So Hard"
Halley Feiffer

May 31–June 25

"Priscilla Queen of the Desert"
The Musical Book by Stephan
Elliott and Allan Scott

**NATIONAL
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May 16

"It's What I Do: A
Photographer's Life of
Love and War"
Lynsey Addario,
Photojournalist
Kauffman Center

June 6

"In Search of River Giants"
Zeb Hogan, Ecologist and
Photographer
Kauffman Center

LYRIC OPERA

April 22–30

"The Pirates of Penzance"
Muriel Kauffman Theatre

THEATER LEAGUE

May 2–7

"42nd Street"
Kauffman Center

May 30–June 4

"Fun Home"
Kauffman Center

May 12–21

"Director's Choice"
Muriel Kauffman Theatre

**NELSON-ATKINS
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now until June 11

"Richard Learoyd:
In the Studio"
Gallery L11

now until December 31

"The Bloch Galleries"
Nelson-Atkins Building

**NELSON-ATKINS
MUSEUM OF ART CONT.**
now until Sept 10

"Rivals: John Smart and
Richard Cosway"
Gallery P24

**KEMPER MUSEUM OF
CONTEMPORARY ART**
now until May 21

"Rashid Johnson:
Hail We Now Sing Joy"
Kemper Museum
now until July 19
"Multiverse: Stories of
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The event was a sell-out again this year for the fifth straight year and is one of Kansas City's most successful charitable events. It supports the life-changing work of Children's Mercy. ♦





PHOTO BY LUKE LATOURNEAU

Folly Frolic.

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PHOTOS BY MARY WATKINS

Brian Williams, Gale Tallis, Laurie Ingram, Chip Ingram



Barbara Nelson, Graham Nelson, Margot Nelson



Sheryl Turner, Meghan Pence



Dennis Rilinger, Palle Rilinger, Pete Browne



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