

Strings Attached At USD



The legendary band KANSAS, whose hits include "Dust in the Wind" and "Carry On Wayward Son," is performing in concert with the University of South Dakota Orchestra April 20 in Vermillion. (Courtesy Photo)

Legendary Rock Band KANSAS Performs With USD Orchestra April 20

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KANSAS is coming to South Dakota. Not the entire state, but rather the Topeka-based rock band that released its debut album in 1974 and has performed hits such as "Carry On Wayward Son," "Dust In The Wind" and "Point of Know Return." And now, after four

decades of a legendary career, KANSAS has gone to college. The band will join forces later this month with the University of South Dakota Symphony Orchestra as part of the 2012 KANSAS Collegiate Symphony Tour. The one-night only performance will be held at 8 p.m. April 20 at Aalfs Auditorium inside Slagle Hall on the USD campus. In addition to playing with the five-member rock band on stage, the USD Symphony Orchestra, directed by Richard Rognstad, will also receive a \$4,000 in-kind product donation and a \$1,000 scholarship donation from D'Addario & Co. The local concert presents the student musicians with a unique educational and professional experience, said Tim Farrell, chair of the USD music department. That's particularly true given the USD students weren't born when KANSAS launched its career, he said. "It will be great not only for the students to play with this band but to learn from it," he said. "Having the chance to play with a rock band like KANSAS is the experience of a lifetime." USD doesn't put out money for the concert, as KANSAS receives the ticket sales, Farrell said.

"How I view it, it's a win-win for the students, and the community gets to have a famous group in town," he said. KANSAS has released 23 studio albums, including the Platinum-selling "Leftoverture" (1976), "Point of No Return" (1977), "Monolith" (1979), and "The Best of KANSAS" (1984). The 2010 tour, which was inspired by their DVD "There's Know Place Like Home," saw KANSAS joined by conductor Larry Baird. They performed concerts with symphonies from the University of Alabama; University of Texas, San Antonio; Wichita State University; Oklahoma State University; Hardin-Simmons University; and Truman State University. The 2011 Tour saw KANSAS collaborate with 10 different schools throughout the Southern, Northeastern, Mid-Atlantic, and Midwestern regions of the country. 2012 will see the tour head farther west. KANSAS is not only continuing, but expanding the tour for the spring of 2012. The 2012 KANSAS Collegiate Symphony Tour will again help raise funds and awareness for college and university music programs. The 2011 tour included last fall's appearance with Augustana College at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls. This year's Midwest tour includes USD, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Northern State University of Aberdeen and Bismarck State College of North Dakota. Planning for the USD concert actually started before Farrell arrived on the Vermillion campus. His predecessor, Larry Schou, had received promotional materials about the KANSAS tour and began inquiries on whether a local concert was feasible. "Nothing was done (for a commitment). It was a matter of whether we wanted to do something," Farrell said. "Then I showed up and took over from there." Rognstad is preparing the USD orchestra for KANSAS' arrival. The university has received a play list of 13 songs for the concert.

"There will be some sections of a song where just the band plays, but our orchestra will play with the band on every number," he said. Baird, a professional conductor, travels with the tour and appears on stage with both KANSAS and the orchestras during the concerts, Rognstad said. Baird also arranges and conducts for the Moody Blues, and his work appears on YouTube. "On that Friday (of the USD concert), at 3 p.m., Larry Baird will come in with the band for a rehearsal with the orchestra that will last about an hour," Rognstad said. "That will also be their sound check. Larry knows what they are doing. They just want to make sure everything is in place. The band will also sell albums and hold an autograph session after the concert." KANSAS will perform at the front of the stage, with the USD orchestra behind them and Baird in the mid-

dle to communicate with both groups. With two weeks remaining before the concert, the USD orchestra has kicked its preparations into high gear, according to USD graduate student Andrew Paa of Sioux Falls. Paa, who specializes in the violin, works with the orchestra as a conductor. After completing its classical concert, the orchestra has focused on the KANSAS concert with three hours of rehearsal a week. Paa admitted a generation gap had to be overcome in playing the music. "Some of the people in the orchestra have never heard of (KANSAS) and don't know some of these songs," he said. "All of the (KANSAS) pieces are on YouTube, which is what I recommend for the students

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THE PASSING OF THE PASQUE



The mild winter and early spring seems to have nature's calendar a little off, which means one of the annual attractions of this time of year in South Dakota has, for the most part, already passed: the blooming of pasque flowers. The pasque, South Dakota's state flower, usually makes its appearance in early April, then melts away as the weather warms. But this year, the flowers emerged in March, and Jean Stull of Yankton was able to capture this image on her camera. It's a nice, colorful look at a flower few people see or realize the significance of in the springtime. For this month's Plant Exchange column, see page 6B.

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The following babies were born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in March 2012:

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ARCHER	HAILEY	KAYOTA	SAMUEL
ASHLYNN	HARPER	KYMANI	SEPHORA
AYDEN	HAZLEY	LAYTON	THERIOUS
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