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Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal

2010 – Ranching on the Tallgrass Prairie (Marty White, Editor)

Table of Contents and Introduction

Kathy Miller

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SYMPHONY IN THE
FLINT  HILLS



FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT 2010

South Clements Pasture - Bluestem Cattle Company
Bazaar, Kansas

*It gives me great pride to welcome you to the extraordinary event
that is Symphony in the Flint Hills. There's not much better
than being surrounded by good friends, family, and music amidst
the magnificent Kansas landscape. Let us continue to honor
the arts and our beautiful state for years to come.*

Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson
Honorary Chair

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the Field Journal is made possible in part by a generous grant from
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Major Presenting Sponsor



J. MARINER KEMPER
Chairman and CEO,
UMB Financial Corporation

Welcome to the 5th Anniversary Symphony in the Flint Hills concert on the native tallgrass prairie of Chase County, Kansas.

UMB, in partnership with Enid & Crosby Kemper Foundation, is proud to return as the Major Presenting Sponsor for this remarkable event that is known throughout the Midwest for its wonderful performance, educational outreach, and beautiful atmosphere.

The Symphony in the Flint Hills does so much to celebrate ranching, the arts, and to reinforce the beauty of Kansas. As many UMB associates live and work in Kansas, this partnership with Symphony in the Flint Hills is very special to us.

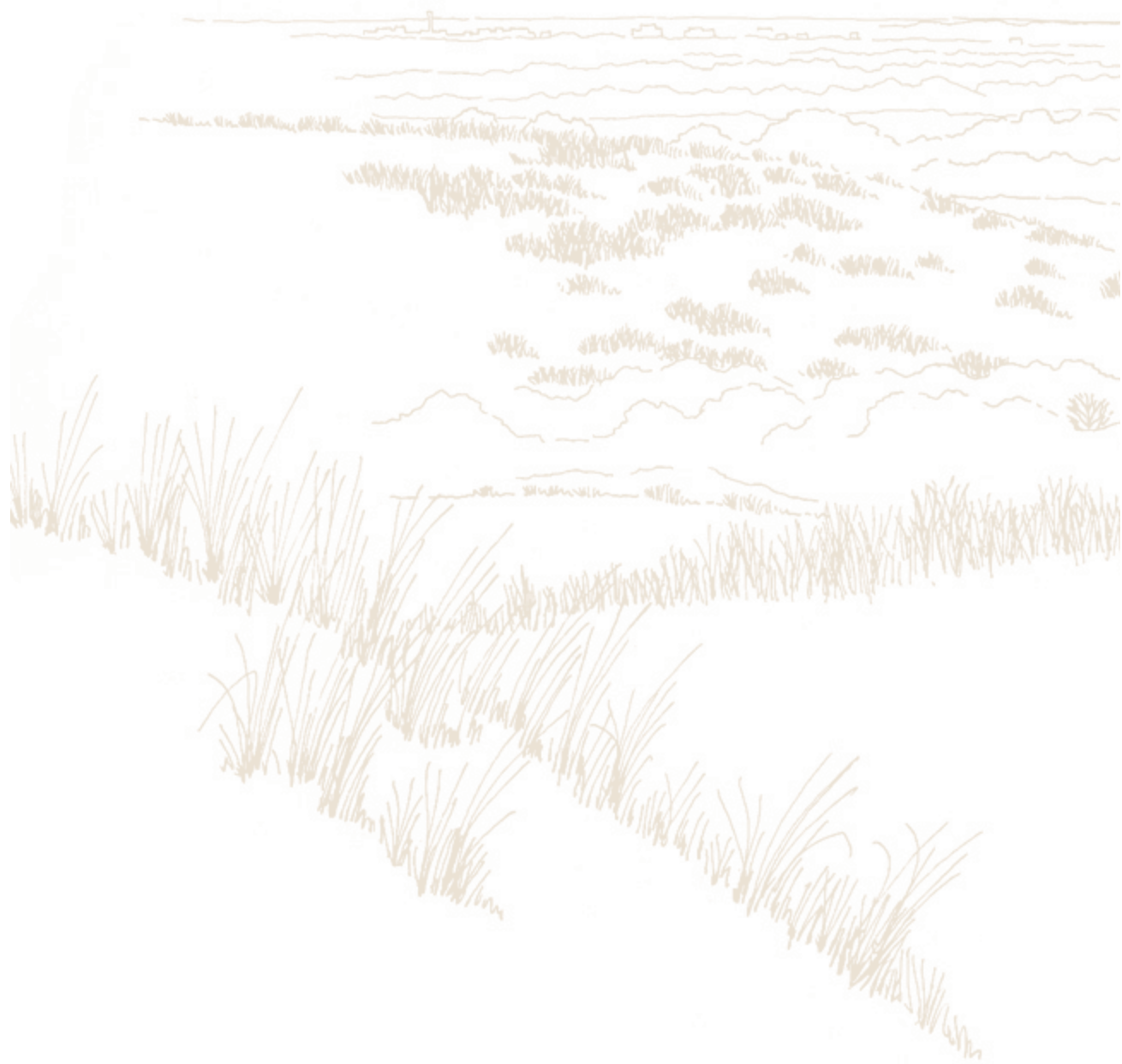
UMB knows the undeniable importance of community involvement, and we're proud of a legacy of philanthropy that is grounded in agriculture and the arts, a fine example being the Symphony in the Flint Hills. And, like ranchers, the dedicated people at UMB work hard every day with a spirited determination. As a 2009 BCA 10 company, a national distinction reserved for the top ten companies supporting the arts in the entire nation, we're thrilled to be recognized for our unwavering commitment to the arts by Business Committee for the Arts.

Again, we are glad you are here to join us for this unique display of music in the natural setting of the Flint Hills.



Count on more.®








In the Beginning ...

Jane Koger invited friends to her ranch in the Flint Hills near Matfield Green in 1994 to share in her dream of a “Symphony on the Prairie.” For years after that magical night, people - many of whom were not even present that evening - kept asking the question: “Will there ever be another symphony on the prairie?”



A small group of prairie and music enthusiasts from four Flint Hills counties met in March 2004 to ponder that question. The event you are enjoying today is the latest manifestation of the resounding “YES!” from those committed individuals who were inspired by Jane’s dream.

Symphony in the Flint Hills, Inc. was organized to produce the first concert at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in 2006. It didn’t take long for the group to realize exactly why it had taken so many years for another magical musical

evening to take place in the beauty of the Flint Hills ... it takes hundreds of committed people, lots of hard work and money! Fortunately, the vision of pairing beautiful symphonic music with the vast beauty of the Flint Hills landscape has attracted all of that.

From the beginning, it has been part of the mission of Symphony in the Flint Hills to heighten appreciation and knowledge of the tallgrass prairie. Over the past five years, thousands of Kansans and people from many other states and foreign countries have participated in

a wide variety of educational programs offered during the afternoon before each concert. It is the belief of the organizers that when people learn to love and appreciate the unique ecosystem of the Flint Hills, as well as the culture and history of its people and land, they will continue to care for and protect it.

Organizers knew from the beginning that the backbone of this venture would have to be volunteers contributing thousands of hours in a labor of love. One of the joys over the past five years has been witnessing the enthusiastic response from hundreds of willing volunteers not only from Kansas, but from around the country. This event is a shining example of “accomplishing together what none could do alone” – a vision expressed at the first gathering of organizers in 2004 and now a glorious reality.

Another important part of the Symphony’s mission has been to give an economic boost to our rural prairie communities. Each year the economy

of the Flint Hills counties swells from the impact this event makes on a wide range of businesses ~ from lodging to restaurants to printers to food vendors, as well as salaries for the small and dedicated Symphony staff.

The original decision to move the concert to a different site within the Flint Hills each year has proven to be an inspired one. Concert-goers have the privilege and thrill of experiencing prairie vistas not otherwise available to the general public. Collaboration with the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and The Nature Conservancy for the inaugural concert in 2006 paved the way for partnerships with private land owners for the next four concerts. A debt of gratitude is owed to all of them for this privilege.

When the organizers went looking for a symphony orchestra that was up for an outdoor musical adventure, the Kansas City Symphony jumped at the chance. Widely known for its musical excellence, the Kansas City Symphony has been a

trusted and enthusiastic partner from the beginning. They have faced with grace (and a few cans of bug spray) the challenges of partnering with Nature.

Hundreds of individuals, corporations and foundations have given generously each year to underwrite the Symphony in the Flint Hills event. Each contribution has been gratefully received. Two foundations deserve special recognition, not only for their generous gifts, but for believing in the dream in the beginning. The trustees of the Trusler Foundation in Emporia and the K.T.Wiedemann Foundation in Wichita caught the vision early on and have continued to offer their encouragement and significant financial support.

Symphony in the Flint Hills has also enjoyed the encouragement of the office of the Governor of the State of Kansas. Former Governor Kathleen Sebelius willingly agreed to be the Honorary Chair of the inaugural concert. Her initiative to protect the heart of the

Flint Hills dovetailed beautifully with the mission of Symphony in the Flint Hills. Her support was invaluable to a newly established arts organization. Governor Mark Parkinson now lends his enthusiastic support as the Honorary Chair.

With sell-out crowds each year (some within a few hours of tickets going on sale), Symphony in the Flint Hills concerts have generated more excitement than the original dreamers dared hope. Now those dreamers are joined every June by several thousand fellow prairie and music enthusiasts who soak up the splendor of the national treasure that is the Flint Hills, appreciate its history, culture and ecosystem, and then settle into that landscape for an unforgettable evening of symphonic music with a glorious Kansas sunset for the finale.

Thank you for being part of this fifth anniversary celebration of our home on the range.

Kathy Miller was the first chair of Symphony in the Flint Hills, Inc.

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