

NEWS RELEASE

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Kansas City Youth Symphony and TV Anchor Phil Witt To Headline University of Saint Mary Lincoln Concert

7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— The University of Saint Mary puts a musical spin on the 10th annual Lincoln Event at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 18, 2008. This year's event will be a concert of Lincoln era music performed by the Academy Orchestra of the Youth Symphony of Kansas City. The highlight of the evening is Aaron Copland's stirring "*Lincoln Portrait*" narrated by Fox-4 News anchor Phil Witt. This free concert will be held in McGilley Field House on the main campus at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan.

The Academy Orchestra of the Youth Symphony of Kansas City features musicians (8th through 12th grades) from many school districts in the Kansas City metropolitan region, including Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Topeka. The orchestra, conducted by Russ Berlin, will also play "*Ceremony of Allegiance*," the "*National Anthem*," Copland's "*Simple Gifts*," "*American Frontier*" – Dvorak, and the "*Battle Hymn of the Republic*." MidAmerican Bank and Trust Company of Leavenworth and Lansing, Kan is the benefactor of the event.

The "*Lincoln Portrait*" features excerpts from Abraham Lincoln's most famous speeches and writings including the Gettysburg Address. Narrator Phil Witt has been reporting news at FOX 4 for more than 25 years. Witt was inducted into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame for his work promoting education and youth excellence.

The University of Saint Mary Annual Lincoln Event was created in 1999 to acknowledge the university's Bernard H. Hall Lincoln Collection, which contains thousands of rare and unique Lincoln artifacts, including an original copy of the 13th Amendment, the document that abolished slavery, signed by President Lincoln. Lincoln also had a connection to Leavenworth. He delivered his very first presidential campaign speech in Leavenworth in 1859 at the site of MidAmerican Bank's Delaware Branch (Fourth Street and Delaware).

For more information about the Feb. 18 Lincoln Concert with the Youth Symphony of Kansas City and Phil Witt call (913) 758-6165 or visit www.stmary.edu.

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