

## The Standard

Directed by John Stafford II  
Kansas City Kansas Community College  
Kansas City, Kansas



**About the Ensemble:** The Standard is the award-winning vocal jazz ensemble at KCKCC. Members of the ensemble have won three Downbeat Magazine Student Music Awards for Outstanding Performance, Live Engineered Recording, and Studio Engineered Recording in the Community College category. Within the last two years, The Standard has been invited perform at three national conferences, including the American Choral Directors Association in Minneapolis, MN (2017), the National Association for Music Education in Dallas, TX (2018), and the Jazz Education Network in Reno, NV (2019). They have also performed at the Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop, the New York Voices Jazz Festival, the New York City Jazz Festival at Jazz at the Lincoln Center and received a number #1 rating at the University of Northern Colorado/Greeley Jazz Festival. The group has shared the stage with such highly acclaimed artists as Take 6, The New York Voices, m-pact, Carmen Bradford, Dianne Reeves, and Marilyn Maye.

**About the Director:** John Stafford II is currently Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities, and Co-Chair of the Music Department at Kansas City Kansas Community College. Professor Stafford was a 2015 recipient of the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award for outstanding teaching and leadership at the community college level. He has also received two teaching awards from KCKCC for Recruitment and Teaching Excellence. He was previously appointed at Millikin University, Eastern Illinois University, and Danville Area Community College teaching composition, theory, orchestration, history, and vocal jazz. He holds degrees from Millikin University (music business), Bowling Green State University (composition), and has done additional doctoral studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (choral conducting). Among his professional activities, Professor Stafford serves as the Jazz Chair of the Kansas Choral Directors Association; he is also a member of National Association for Music Educators, Jazz Educators Network, and American Choral Directors Association. Also, Stafford has served as Director of Choral Music at Community Christian Church in Kansas City, MO and is a bass-baritone vocalist in the professional choral ensemble, Kantorei of Kansas City.

