

# Lyric

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LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO  
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#Lyric1617

## Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2016/17 Season

launches new *Ring* cycle with *Das Rheingold* and continues with *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Les Troyens*, *Don Quichotte*, *The Magic Flute*, *Norma*, *Carmen*, and *Eugene Onegin*, plus *My Fair Lady* and *Charlie Parker's Yardbird*, and special concert performances by Plácido Domingo, Renée Fleming, Lawrence Brownlee & Eric Owens, and Itzhak Perlman  
**Subscriptions on sale Monday, February 1**

CHICAGO – Lyric Opera of Chicago's general director **Anthony Freud** and music director **Sir Andrew Davis** announced today the repertoire and casting for the company's 2016/17 season – the second season that they have fully planned together.

"Musical glory and magnificent storytelling – that's what the operas in Lyric's 2016/17 season have in common, and it's what makes this a truly monumental season," said Freud. "Whether French, German, Italian, or Russian, the masterworks you'll enjoy were conceived by composers whose gifts for creating compelling drama through the singing voice are beyond compare. Our first production of the season, *Das Rheingold*, begins the *Ring* cycle series and serves as a starting point for a season full of really terrific music."

Lyric's 62nd season is full of stellar international artists who opera lovers will instantly recognize. "Eric Owens, Albina Shagimuratova, Piotr Beczala, Quinn Kelsey, Christine Goerke, Sophie Koch, Brandon Jovanovich, Ferruccio Furlanetto, Christiane Karg, Adam Plachetka, Sondra Radvanovsky, Joseph Calleja, Mariusz Kwiecién, Ana María Martínez, and Charles Castronovo, plus Plácido Domingo, Renée Fleming, and Lawrence Brownlee are just a few of the big names starring in our opera productions and special performances next season," Freud said.

“We also have many artists making their Lyric debuts,” the general director noted. “We are thrilled to welcome **Samuel Youn, Tanja Ariane Baumgartner, Okka von der Damerau, Wilhelm Schwinghammer, Tobias Kehrer, Adrian Sâmpetean, Nicola Alaimo, Clementine Margaine, Kathryn Lewek, Andrew Staples, Christof Fischesser, Anita Rachvelishvili, Eleonora Buratto, and Alisa Kolosova.**”

Lyric’s music director **Sir Andrew Davis** will conduct three operas next season, beginning with ***Das Rheingold***. He will return to lead ***Les Troyens*** (Lyric premiere) and ***Don Quichotte***. Conductors making their Lyric debuts include **Enrique Mazzola (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Ricardo Frizza (*Norma*), Ainars Rubikis (*Carmen*, Mar. 16 – 25), and Alejo Perez (*Eugene Onegin*)**. Returning conductors are **Rory Macdonald (*The Magic Flute*) and Harry Bicket (*Carmen*, Feb. 11 – Mar. 6)**.

The season’s operas will be staged by internationally acclaimed and award-winning directors including **David Pountney (*Das Rheingold*/new coproduction), Graham Vick (*Lucia di Lammermoor*/new-to-Chicago production), Tim Albery (*Les Troyens* /new production), Matthew Ozawa (*Don Quichotte*), Neil Armfield (*The Magic Flute*/new production), Kevin Newbury (*Norma*/new coproduction), Rob Ashford (*Carmen*/new coproduction), and Robert Carsen (*Eugene Onegin*).**

Lyric will present ***My Fair Lady*** (in the **Robert Carsen** production from Théâtre du Chatelet) as the fifth installment in Lyric’s American Musical Initiative April 28 - May 21, 2017, featuring an all-star cast, along with the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Chorus. ***South Pacific***, which was previously announced for next season, will be presented in the spring of 2018.

Lyric will celebrate the legendary **Plácido Domingo** Mar. 9 and 13, 2017, with special performances showcasing his acclaimed artistry.

Tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** and bass-baritone **Eric Owens** will perform a Subscriber Appreciation Concert on April 9, 2017. Violinist **Itzhak Perlman** will give a recital at Lyric on April 23, 2017.

**Lyric Unlimited** will host the **Chicago Voices Gala Concert**, a musical celebration featuring **Renée Fleming** and guest artists on Sat. Feb. 4, 2017, and will also present the Chicago premiere of ***Charlie Parker’s Yardbird*** in partnership with the Harris Theater on March 24 and 26, 2017.

# Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2016/17 Season

## New Production

### ***DAS RHEINGOLD*** by Richard Wagner (1813 – 1883)

Six performances Oct. 1 - Oct. 22, 2016

In German with projected English texts

The Rhinemaidens cavort underwater instead of guarding the magical lump of Rhinegold. They tease Alberich and tell him that whoever forsakes love and makes a ring from the gold will become master of the world. Wotan, head of the gods, hears of the ring and steals it from Alberich, who curses the ring. This sets the stage for the ensuing power struggles and calamities that ensue among gods and gnomes and their progeny over the course of the four-part cycle.

#### **Wotan**

Eric Owens

#### **Alberich**

Samuel Youn\*

#### **Loge**

Stefan Margita

#### **Fricka**

Tanja Ariane Baumgartner\*

#### **Erda**

Okka von der Damerau\*

#### **Fasolt**

Wilhelm Schwinghammer\*

#### **Fafner**

Tobias Kehrer\*

#### **Mime**

Rodell Rosel°

#### **Conductor**

Sir Andrew Davis

#### **Director**

David Pountney

#### **Original Set Designer**

Johan Engels

#### **Set Designer**

Robert Innes Hopkins

#### **Costume Designer**

Marie-Jeanne Lecca

#### **Lighting Designer**

Fabrice Kebour

#### **Choreographer**

Denni Sayers

\*Lyric Debut °Ryan Opera Center Alumnus

**Anthony Freud:** “From every point of view, a new *Ring* is the most massive challenge that any opera company can undertake. We’re lucky to have an ideal team to lead it – Sir Andrew Davis on the podium and David Pountney as director. In 2014, we were all deeply saddened by the death of set designer Johan Engels, but his work on the production was well-advanced and (as we know he would have wished) we are going forward with his original designs realized by Robert Innes Hopkins. *Das Rheingold*, technically the most formidable of all four *Ring* operas, will bring together a cast made up of familiar and unfamiliar singers, all of whom will bring extraordinary artistry to Lyric’s *Ring*.”

**Sir Andrew Davis:** “As the opera that introduces us to several of the *Ring*’s central characters and to many crucial elements of Wagner’s style, *Das Rheingold* is an exhilarating entrance into the cycle. I’m looking forward to returning to this music, which I haven’t conducted since Lyric’s previous *Ring* cycle. As with all the greatest works of art, the *Ring* will always offer us food for thought. Its insights into virtually every aspect of human existence never cease to fascinate me, and I’m thrilled by the beauty and eloquence Wagner gives us on every page of these extraordinary operas.”

New Lyric Opera production of the *Ring* cycle generously made possible by Lead Sponsor an **Anonymous Donor**, and cosponsors **Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross**, the **Gramma Fisher Foundation of Marshalltown, Iowa**, and **Ada and Whitney Addington**, with additional support from **Robin Angly**.

New Lyric Opera production of *Das Rheingold* generously made possible by the **Abbott Fund, Marlys A. Beider**, and **Bulley & Andrews**. Coproduction with Teatro Real Madrid.

### New-to-Chicago Production

#### **LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR** by Gaetano Donizetti (1797 – 1848)

Seven performances Oct. 15 – Nov. 6, 2016

In Italian with projected English texts

In this Scottish Romeo and Juliet story, Lucia and her family's enemy, Edgardo, are in love. When Lucia's brother Enrico offers her false evidence of Edgardo's infidelity, she submits to a politically advantageous marriage. Edgardo bursts in on the wedding and curses Lucia, causing her to go mad and kill her husband. In despair, Edgardo stabs himself.

**Lucia**

Albina Shagimuratova

**Edgardo**

Piotr Beczala

**Enrico**

Quinn Kelsey<sup>o</sup>

**Raimondo**

Adrian Sâmpetean\*

**Conductor**

Enrique Mazzola\*

**Director**

Graham Vick

**Designer**

Paul Brown

**Chorus Master**

Michael Black

\*Lyric Debut <sup>o</sup>Ryan Opera Center Alumnus

**Anthony Freud:** “With singers of the caliber of Albina Shagimuratova, Piotr Beczala, and Quinn Kelsey on hand, *Lucia di Lammermoor* becomes one of the most thrilling operatic experiences. All three have triumphed at Lyric before, and it’s very exciting to be able to unite them for an opera in which they can shine both individually and together. With the debuts of two other important artists – bass Adrian Sâmpetean and conductor Enrique Mazzola – the stage is set for a *Lucia* that will cause audiences to fall in love with this opera all over again.”

**Sir Andrew Davis:** “There’s a reason why *Lucia di Lammermoor* is the most popular of all the great romantic operas of the *bel canto* era – the music is fabulous! With great arias for the major characters, the world-famous sextet, and of course, the stupendous Mad Scene, no audience can resist *Lucia!*”

Lyric Opera presentation of *Lucia di Lammermoor* generously made possible by the **NIB Foundation, Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson**, and **Sylvia Neil and Daniel Fischel**. Production owned by the Foundation of the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and Grand Théâtre de Genève.

## New Production & Lyric Premiere

### ***LES TROYENS (THE TROJANS)* by Hector Berlioz (1803 – 1869)**

Five performances Nov. 13 – Dec. 3, 2016

In French with projected English texts

The Trojan princess and clairvoyant Cassandra accurately predicts the fall of Troy at the hands of the Greeks. She chooses to commit suicide to avoid capture, but not before predicting that the hero Aeneas will one day found a new Troy in Italy. Aeneas arrives in Carthage, where he falls in love with Queen Dido, and she with him. He enjoys glorious days with her until the ghosts of Cassandra, Troy's King Priam, the hero Hector, and Cassandra's lover Cherebus appear to him, urging him to leave Carthage at once and head for Italy. He does so, enraging Dido, who in despair kills herself on a funeral pyre, uttering as her last words "Rome! Rome, eternal!"

#### **Cassandre**

Christine Goerke

#### **Didon**

Sophie Koch

#### **Enée**

Brandon Jovanovich

#### **Anna**

Okka von der Damerau

#### **Chorébe**

Lucas Meachem

#### **Narbal**

Christian Van Horn°

#### **Conductor**

Sir Andrew Davis

#### **Director**

Tim Albery

#### **Designer**

Tobias Hoheisel

#### **Lighting Designer**

David Finn

#### **Chorus Master**

Michael Black

#### **Choreographer**

Helen Pickett\*

\*Lyric Debut °Ryan Opera Center Alumnus

**Anthony Freud:** "This is a Lyric premiere that our audience has long awaited, because they know there's nothing else in the repertoire like *Les Troyens*. Certainly its scenic requirements and its demands on principals, chorus, and orchestra make it one of the greatest challenges an opera company can face. With a spectacular trio of principal artists – Christine Goerke, Sophie Koch, and Brandon Jovanovich – leading our cast, conducted by Sir Andrew Davis and directed by the brilliant Tim Albery, we can expect *Les Troyens* to be a truly momentous occasion and one of the major highlights of the musical season in Chicago. I am thrilled that at last, we can present this towering masterpiece!"

**Sir Andrew Davis:** "I'm a huge admirer of Berlioz's music, and ever since I began conducting opera more than 40 years ago, it's been a dream of mine to conduct *Les Troyens*. For me, this is truly one of the greatest works in the history of opera, with a beauty, grandeur, and dramatic power that put it in a category all its own. I know our orchestra and chorus will rise to great heights in this music, and I feel certain that these performances of *Les Troyens* will be deeply satisfying for all of us, both performers and audience."

**Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust, The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, The Nelson Cornelius Production Endowment Fund, the Lloyd E. Rigler-Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation, the Donna Van Eekeren Foundation, and Sidley Austin LLP** are the generous sponsors of Lyric's new production of *Les Troyens*. Additional support provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

## New-to-Chicago Production

### ***DON QUICHOTTE* by Jules Massenet (1842 – 1912)**

Six performances Nov. 19 – Dec. 7, 2016

In French with projected English texts

Don Quixote is heroic and charmingly eccentric, an idealist and self-proclaimed knight errant who is kind to the poor, jousts with windmills thinking they're giants, fights for the honor of the lady Dulcinea with his faithful sidekick Sancho Panza, and keeps the faith despite insurmountable odds.

#### **Don Quichotte**

Ferruccio Furlanetto

#### **Dulcinée**

Clementine Margaine\*

#### **Sancho Panza**

Nicola Alaimo\*

#### **Conductor**

Sir Andrew Davis

#### **Director**

Matthew Ozawa

#### **Set Designer**

Ralph Funicello\*

#### **Costume Designer**

Missy West\*

#### **Lighting Designer**

TBA

#### **Chorus Master**

Michael Black

\*Lyric Debut

**Anthony Freud:** "There aren't many star basses in the world, and fewer still have the voice, style, and sheer charisma for the title role of *Don Quichotte*. Having been thrilled by Ferruccio Furlanetto's previous performances at Lyric, and knowing of his devotion to this particular opera, we were eager to present his towering portrayal, which does honor to both the composer and to the great writer Cervantes. Ferruccio will be renewing his collaboration with Sir Andrew Davis, so memorable in our productions of *Boris Godunov* and *Simon Boccanegra*. We're also delighted to welcome two marvelous new artists to Lyric, Clementine Margaine and Nicola Alaimo."

**Sir Andrew Davis:** "I love great literature and I love French opera, so *Don Quichotte* – based on Cervantes's immortal novel – is going to be a great pleasure. I'm hugely looking forward to returning to another Massenet masterpiece, having previously done *Thaïs* and *Werther* here. This is an elusive style, but one that can mesmerize an audience with its beauty and elegance. Massenet was also a true man of the theater, and there's a theatricality to *Don Quichotte* – along with an enchanting *faux*-Spanish flavor – that will be a joy to experience in performance."

Lyric Opera presentation of *Don Quichotte* generously made possible by **Howard Gottlieb and Barbara Greis**. Production owned by San Diego Opera.

## New Production

### ***THE MAGIC FLUTE (DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE)* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)**

Eleven performances Dec. 10, 2016 – Jan. 27, 2017

In German with projected English texts

Pamina, daughter of the Queen of the Night, has been abducted by Sarastro, head of the priestly brotherhood. Prince Tamino falls in love with a portrait of Pamina and is sent by the queen to rescue her, with the promise that if he finds her, she will be his. He is accompanied by Papageno, the queen's birdcatcher. The two endure various trials, with Papageno finally giving up. The brotherhood takes pity on Papageno and awards him Papagena, the girl of his dreams. Tamino is joined by Pamina and guided by his magic flute, successfully endures the trials of fire and water. The two are united by Sarastro, as the queen's forces of evil yield to the forces of good.

#### **Tamino**

Andrew Staples\* (Dec. 10 – Jan. 8)

Matthew Polenzani° (Jan. 12 – Jan. 27)

#### **Pamina**

Christiane Karg

#### **Queen of the Night**

Kathryn Lewek\*

#### **Papageno**

Adam Plachetka

#### **Sarastro**

Christof Fischesser\*

#### **Monostatos**

Rodell Rosel°

#### **Speaker**

David Govertsen°

#### **Conductor**

Rory Macdonald

#### **Director**

Neil Armfield

#### **Designer**

Dale Ferguson

#### **Lighting Designer**

Damien Cooper

#### **Chorus Master**

Michael Black

#### **Choreographer**

Denni Sayers

\*Lyric Debut °Ryan Opera Center Alumni

**Anthony Freud:** “Three decades after the premiere of our last new production of *The Magic Flute*, Lyric is bringing this masterpiece to our stage in the highly imaginative vision of director Neil Armfield. I know our audience will be entranced by Neil’s concept, and they’ll be delighted by our wonderful cast. *The Magic Flute* will be a joy and the ideal choice for families at holiday time.”

**Sir Andrew Davis:** “Mozart is one of my gods, and I’m very happy whenever his music returns to Lyric. *The Magic Flute* is, of course, one of the most life-enhancing works ever composed, but it’s also loaded with great humor and delightful romance. It’s a piece you can experience over and over again, because it invariably renews your spirits and gives you hope for humanity.”

New Lyric Opera production of *The Magic Flute* generously made possible by **The Monument Trust (UK), The Negaunee Foundation, Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin, and Roberta L. and Robert J. Washlow.**

## New-to-Chicago Production

### ***NORMA*** by Vincenzo Bellini (1801 – 1835)

Seven performances Jan. 28 – Feb. 25, 2017

In Italian with projected English texts

Norma, the Druids' high priestess, has broken her vows, having had two children in secret. The children's father is the Druids' enemy, Pollione, the Roman proconsul, who rejects Norma in favor of another priestess, young Adalgisa. When Norma discovers her lover's betrayal, she is enraged. Pollione is eventually captured by the Druids and Norma is about to kill him herself, but she cannot. She admits her own guilt to her father, Oroveso, and his fellow priests, and dies on the pyre, joined by Pollione, who, too late, realizes his true feelings for Norma.

#### **Norma**

Sondra Radvanovsky

#### **Adalgisa**

Elizabeth DeShong<sup>o</sup>

#### **Pollione**

Russell Thomas\*

#### **Oroveso**

Andrea Silvestrelli

#### **Conductor**

Riccardo Frizza\*

#### **Director**

Kevin Newbury

#### **Set Designer**

David Korins

#### **Costume Designer**

Jessica Jahn

#### **Lighting Designer**

TBA

#### **Chorus Master**

Michael Black

\*Lyric Debut <sup>o</sup>Ryan Opera Center Alumna

**Anthony Freud:** “The virtuosic writing in ***Norma*** gives us a magnificent vocal feast. At the same time, this is an extraordinarily affecting story, in which a Druid priestess’s love for her Roman enemy leads to catastrophe. The role of Norma presents staggering difficulties, but Sondra Radvanovsky – our magnificent Anna Bolena in 2014/15 – has triumphed as Norma at the Met and elsewhere will do so again at Lyric. Ryan Opera Center alumna Elizabeth DeShong and our debuting tenor, the remarkable Russell Thomas, will add luster to this production.”

**Sir Andrew Davis:** “After 21 years, we’re thrilled that ***Norma*** is returning to Lyric. This really is the pinnacle of *bel canto* – I don’t think you can find more beautiful melodies in all of Italian opera. When Bellini’s music is sung eloquently and with true affinity for *bel canto* style (as it will be in our production), ***Norma*** is an incomparable experience for any operagoer.”

New Lyric Opera coproduction of ***Norma*** generously made possible by **Julie and Roger Baskes** and the **Earl and Brenda Shapiro Foundation**. Coproduction with Canadian Opera Company, Gran Teatre del Liceu, and San Francisco Opera.



## New-to-Chicago Production

### **CARMEN** by Georges Bizet (1838 – 1875)

Eleven performances Feb. 11 – Mar. 25, 2017

In French with projected English texts

Don José, a soldier sent to break up a fight at a cigarette factory, is seduced by the alluring gypsy Carmen after he arrests her. José abandons his childhood sweetheart Michaela and deserts his post to follow Carmen, but loses her love to the toreador Escamillo. Unable to win her back, José kills Carmen outside the bullring.

#### **Carmen**

Ekaterina Gubanova (Feb. 11 – Mar. 6)

Anita Rachvelishvili\* (Mar. 16 - 25)

#### **Don José**

Joseph Calleja (Feb. 11 – Mar. 6)

Brandon Jovanovich (Mar. 16 – Mar. 25)

#### **Micaela**

Eleanora Buratto\*

#### **Escamillo**

Christian Van Horn°

#### **Conductor**

Harry Bicket (Feb. 11 – Mar. 6)

Ainars Rubikis\* (Mar. 16 – Mar. 25)

#### **Director & Choreographer**

Rob Ashford

#### **Set Designer**

David Rockwell\*

#### **Costume Designer**

TBA

#### **Lighting Designer**

Donald Holder\*

#### **Chorus Master**

Michael Black

\*Lyric Debut °Ryan Opera Center Alumnus

**Anthony Freud:** “As one of the most popular of all operas, it is always thrilling to create a new production of this evergreen masterpiece. Our casts include several major artists making their Lyric debuts.”

**Sir Andrew Davis:** “Who doesn’t love *Carmen*? I never fail to be captivated by this music – with its mix of French elegance and Spanish fire – and by the powerful emotions of the gypsy heroine and her violently jealous lover. It’s always a pleasure to bring the excitement of *Carmen* to Lyric, especially with artists as terrific as those we’re presenting this season!”

New Lyric Opera coproduction of *Carmen* generously made possible by **Exelon, ITW, the Harris Family Foundation, the Mazza Foundation, and the Seymour H. Persky Charitable Trust.** Coproduction with Houston Grand Opera.

## **EUGENE ONEGIN** by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)

9 performances Feb. 26 – Mar. 17, 2017

In Russian with projected English texts

The impressionable young country girl Tatiana Larina falls in love with the sophisticated Eugene Onegin. She confesses her love to him in a letter, but he rejects her feelings, indicating that he can offer her only brotherly friendship. When he flirts with her sister Olga at a party, Onegin is challenged to a duel by Olga's fiancé, Lensky, whom he kills. Full of remorse, Onegin travels aimlessly for several years and, upon returning to St. Petersburg, sees Tatiana, who is now a dignified young woman married to a prince. Onegin realizes that he loves Tatiana, but when he confesses to her, she rejects him and chooses to stay with her husband, leaving Onegin in despair.

### **Onegin**

Mariusz Kwiecién

### **Tatiana**

Ana María Martínez

### **Lensky**

Charles Castronovo

### **Olga**

Alisa Kolosova\*

### **Larina**

Katharine Goeldner

### **Filipyevna**

Jill Grove

### **Gremin**

Dmitry Belosselskiy

### **Triquet**

Keith Jameson

### **Conductor**

Alejo Perez\*

### **Director**

Robert Carsen

### **Revival Director**

Paula Suozzi

### **Designer**

Michael Levine

### **Lighting Designer**

TBA

### **Chorus Master**

Michael Black

### **Choreographer**

Serge Bennathan

\*Lyric Debut

**Anthony Freud:** "*Eugene Onegin* is the most beloved of all Russian operas, and I'm excited to bring it to Lyric with a cast of true singing actors. As the central couple, we have two great Lyric favorites – Mariusz Kwiecién, internationally celebrated for his portrayal of Onegin, and Ana María Martínez, singing her first Tatiana. With two other renowned artists, Charles Castronovo and Dmitriy Belosselskiy, in key roles, we can count on a top-flight *Eugene Onegin* in the sublime production by Robert Carsen that riveted Lyric audiences eight years ago."

**Sir Andrew Davis:** "I've always adored the Russian repertoire. I actually began my tenure as Lyric's music director with Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*, and his *Eugene Onegin* is another huge favorite of mine. The matchlessly beautiful melodies of this opera, combined with the devastatingly moving story, give it an eternal appeal and audiences never fail to lose their hearts to it."

Lyric Opera presentation of *Eugene Onegin* generously made possible by **Margot and Josef Lakonishok, Henry M. and Gilda R. Buchbinder, and Marion A. Cameron.** Production owned by Canadian Opera Company. Originally created for the Metropolitan Opera.

American Musical Initiative / New-to-Chicago Production & Lyric Premiere  
**MY FAIR LADY** by Alan Jay Lerner (1918 –1986) & Frederick Loewe (1901 – 1988)  
Twenty-five performances Apr. 28 - May 21, 2017

Based on George Bernard Shaw’s mythology-inspired *Pygmalion*, this beloved American musical tells the tale of erudite phonetics professor Henry Higgins, who accepts a bet from his friend, Col. Pickering, that he won't be able to transform a Cockney flower-seller, Eliza Doolittle, into a proper lady. Higgins succeeds, with pleasantly unexpected consequences for himself and Eliza. The show’s many memorable songs include “Wouldn’t It Be Lovely,” “I’ve Grown Accustomed to Her Face,” and the catchy “I Could Have Danced All Night.”

**Director:**

Robert Carsen

**Set Designer:**

Tim Hatley\*

**Costume Designer:**

Anthony Powell\*

**Lighting Designer:**

Adam Silverman\*

**Chorus Master:**

Michael Black

**Choreographer:**

Lynne Page\*

**Dramaturg:**

Ian Burton\*

\*Lyric Debut

The conductor and cast will be announced at a later date.

Lyric Opera presentation of *My Fair Lady* generously made possible by **The Negaunee Foundation**, an **Anonymous Donor**, **Mrs. Herbert A. Vance** and **Mr. and Mrs. William C. Vance**, and **Robert S. and Susan E. Morrison**. Production owned by Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris.

## 2016/17 Season Special Performances and Events

### Opening Night Gala

**Saturday, October 1, 2016, beginning at 5pm**

On a crisp autumn evening, elegantly dressed guests will make their red-carpet entrances amidst the paparazzi and onlookers at the Civic Opera House. It’s the opening night of Wagner’s *Das Rheingold*, the first of four operas in a new production of the fabled *Ring* cycle, which launches **Lyric Opera of Chicago’s** 62<sup>nd</sup> season. Doors open at 5pm and the performance begins at 6pm, concluding after 8:30pm, with the Opera Ball immediately following performance. Festivities will also continue at the opera house in the Pedersen Room and Florian Opera Bistro restaurants (reservations required).

The Opening Night Gala is sponsored by **Aon**. Opera Ball 2016 is cosponsored by **ITW** and **Northern Trust**.

## **Celebrating Plácido**

**March 9 & 13, 2017, at 7:30pm**

The legendary **Plácido Domingo** and friends will return to Lyric in 2017 for two exceptional evenings, including a fully staged presentation of Act Two of *La Traviata* that features the lavish party scene, with Domingo portraying Germont and performed by the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Chorus. Further details concerning guest artists and additional repertoire will be announced at a later date.

## **Lawrence Brownlee & Eric Owens in Recital – Subscriber Appreciation Event**

**Sunday, April 9, 2017, at 3pm**

Two of the most dynamic artists of our day come together for a single performance at Lyric, displaying their talents, artistry, and exciting range of repertoire.

Tenor **Lawrence Brownlee**, who debuted at Lyric to great acclaim in *Cinderella* in 2015, teams up with bass-baritone **Eric Owens**, who has won critical and audience praise in Lyric productions including *Rusalka* and *Porgy and Bess*, will perform wide-ranging repertoire with piano.

This event is on sale only to subscribers.

## **Itzhak Perlman in Recital**

**Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 3pm**

Internationally acclaimed violinist and conductor **Itzhak Perlman** will return to Lyric in recital with pianist Rohan de Silva. Large-screen video enhancements will make for an exceptional experience. Further details of his full repertoire (including several works not previously heard at Lyric) will be announced at a later date.

## **Lyric Unlimited**

Launched in 2012, **Lyric Unlimited** is a long-term, evolving initiative that encompasses company activities that are not part of Lyric's mainstage season. Lyric Unlimited's programming stems from the overall vision for the company set forth by Lyric's general director **Anthony Freud**, music director **Sir Andrew Davis**, and creative consultant **Renée Fleming**.

Its mission is to provide a relevant cultural service to communities throughout the Chicago area and to advance the development of opera by exploring how opera as an art form can resonate more powerfully with people of multiple backgrounds, ethnicities, and interests. Lyric Unlimited leads the development of innovative partnerships with a wide range of cultural, community, and educational organizations to create a breadth of programming through which Chicagoans of all ages can connect with Lyric. In the 2014/15 season, more than 126,000 children, students, and adults participated in Lyric Unlimited programs and activities. For more information about new initiatives and ongoing programming, visit [lyricopera.org/LyricUnlimited](http://lyricopera.org/LyricUnlimited).

Lyric Unlimited was launched with major catalyst funding from **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** and receives major support from the **Hurvis Family Foundation**.

In addition to the events listed below, Lyric Unlimited will host a variety of educational and community-based engagement programs during the 2016/17 season, including a new commission.

### **Chicago Voices Gala Concert**

**Saturday, February 4, 2017, at 7:30pm**

Lyric Opera and Creative Consultant **Renée Fleming** recently announced **Chicago Voices**, a multi-year initiative celebrating Chicago's vibrant and diverse vocal music culture. In conjunction with the initiative, Fleming will perform alongside an array of vocal talent with deep ties to Chicago, paying tribute to the city's rich musical traditions. The gala concert will feature music and artists from a variety of genres, including blues, jazz, soul, rock, folk, hip-hop, gospel, and classical music. The concert will be shaped by an advisory group that includes Fleming plus jazz innovators **Herbie Hancock** and **Kurt Elling** and folk singer/songwriter **John Prine**. More information is available at [chicagovoices.org](http://chicagovoices.org)

**Chicago Voices** is made possible by major support from **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** and the **Ford Foundation**. This project is partially supported by **The Chicago Community Trust** and an IncentOvate Grant from the **City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events**.

### **Charlie Parker's Yardbird**

**March 24 at 7:30pm & March 26 at 2pm, 2017**

Music by **Daniel Schnyder**

Libretto by **Bridgette A. Wimberly**

Directed by **Ron Daniels**

Performed in English with projected English texts at the Harris Theater

**Charlie Parker's Yardbird**, the 2015 opera based on the story of legendary saxophonist and bebop artist Charlie Parker, will have its Chicago premiere in March 2017. Set in the famed New York City jazz club Birdland, the opera stars **Lawrence Brownlee** as the "Yardbird" himself. Following the jazzman's journey to compose his final masterpiece, the production explores his inspirations, demons, and the women who fueled his creative genius. Singing the role of Parker's mother Addie is **Angela Brown**. **Rachel Sterrenberg** and **Angela Mortellaro** portray two of his wives, Chan and Doris. **Will Liverman** (Ryan Opera Center alumnus) will sing the role of Dizzy Gillespie, Parker's fellow jazz legend. **Charlie Parker's Yardbird** is presented in partnership with the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, and will be performed at the Harris.

Production owned by Opera Philadelphia.

## **The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago**

**The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center** is the professional artist development program for Lyric Opera of Chicago. Since its inception in 1974\*, the Ryan Opera Center has been recognized as one of the premier programs of its kind in the world. That standing is maintained by providing the finest up-and-coming singers and pianists with unparalleled training and experience. The program is administered by **Dan Novak**, director; **Craig Terry**, music director; **Julia Faulkner**, director of vocal studies; and **Renée Fleming**, advisor.

\*originally The Opera School of Chicago, then the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists; known as the Ryan Opera Center since September 2006.

Each year the Ryan Opera Center selects 12-15 gifted young artists to join its program from more than 500 applicants. Beginning in the spring, they arrive to join the full-year residency program, under the guidance of Novak, Terry, Faulkner, and Fleming, as well as Anthony Freud, Sir Andrew Davis and numerous other opera professionals. Ensemble members are immediately immersed into the world of opera and vocal performance. Coaching sessions and master classes are augmented by performance and understudy experience in Lyric Opera's regular season productions as well as other Ryan Opera Center concerts and recitals.

The 2016/17 season ensemble members are sopranos **Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi**, **Diana Newman**, and **Ann Toomey**; mezzo-sopranos **Lindsay Metzger** and **Annie Rosen**; contralto **Lauren Decker**; tenors **Alec Carlson**, **Jesse Donner**, **Jonathan Johnson**, and **Mingjie Lei**; baritones **Emmett O'Hanlon** and **Takaoki Onishi**; bass-baritone **Bradley Smoak**; bass **Patrick Guetti**; and pianist **Mario Antonio Marra**.

At 14 singers and one pianist, this is the Ryan Opera Center's largest ensemble for the second year in a row. The roster includes three international singers – **Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi** from South Africa, **Mingjie Lei** from China, and **Takaoki Onishi** from Japan – representing the continued evolution of the Ryan Opera Center, which in addition to cultivating American singers, is also identifying exceptional talent from around the globe. **Lindsay Metzger** is an Illinois native, hailing from Mundelein.

The roles that ensemble members will perform in Lyric's 2016/17 season will be announced at a later date.

## **Ryan Opera Center Alumni Return in 2016/17**

In addition to supporting the Ryan Opera Center members while they are in the program, Lyric also invites a number of alumni back to perform in mainstage roles. Next season, the following singers will return to Lyric:

Tenor **Rodell Rosel** (2005-07) portrays Mime in *Das Rheingold* and Monostatos in *The Magic Flute*  
Baritone **Quinn Kelsey** (2003-06) portrays Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor*  
Bass-baritone **Christian Van Horn** (2004-06) portrays Narbal in *Les Troyens* and Escamillo in *Carmen*  
Tenor **Matthew Polenzani** (1995-97) portrays Tamino in *The Magic Flute* (Jan. 12 – 27)  
Bass-baritone **David Govertsen** (2011-13) portrays the Speaker in *The Magic Flute*  
Mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth DeShong** (2005-08) portrays Adalgisa in *Norma*  
Baritone **Will Liverman** (2012-15) portrays Dizzy Gillespie in *Charlie Parker's Yardbird*

More details about the Ryan Opera Center's 2016/17 season plans will be announced at a later date. For complete information, visit [lyricopera.org/RyanOperaCenter](http://lyricopera.org/RyanOperaCenter).

## **Lyric's Broadcast and Rebroadcast Season**

98.7WFMT will air the opening performance of each opera in Lyric's 2016/17 season live locally (also streaming live on [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com)). All eight operas will be rebroadcast internationally in Spring 2017 via The WFMT Radio Network. **The Lyric Opera of Chicago Broadcasts** are generously sponsored by **The Hurvis Family Foundation**, with matching funding provided by **The Matthew and Kay Bucksbaum Family**, the **John and Jackie Bucksbaum Family**, and **Richard P. and Susan Kiphart**.

## **Additional Information**

Call 312-827-5600 to purchase subscription tickets, or go to [lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org) after February 1. Current subscribers will receive their renewal packages in the mail in early-February.

## **Subscriptions on sale starting Mon. Feb. 1 for Lyric's 2016/17 season**

Lyric subscribers can choose from fixed-date packages or variable-date "Create Your Own" packages, including:

- Seven 8-opera series including an 8-opera "Value Series" that offers 50% off select dates
- Two 6-opera series – all Saturday-night performances
- Four 5-opera series – including two popular 5-opera all-Saturday-night series
- Twelve 4-opera series – including three sets of matinee performances and a new "Sampler Series"
- "Create Your Own" (CYO) 4 or more operas of your choice, mix-and-match performance dates
- 4 performances from just \$100

**Additional subscriber advantages and perks include:**

- Easy payment plans – just 25% down secures your series
- The very best seating locations
- NEW – No ticket exchange fees! Easy exchanges just got better with fee-free exchanges when completed at least 5 days before a performance.
- Free option to exchange into tickets for the season's opening-night gala performance
- TRADEONE enables those with 4-, 5-, or 6-opera series to customize their series
- Advance ordering privileges and priority seating for special performances (Chicago Voices Gala, Celebrating Plácido, Brownlee & Owens and Perlman recitals)
- Discounts on additional opera and musical tickets
- Priority dining reservations at Pedersen Room Restaurant and Florian Bistro

- The continuation of the Weekday Matinee opera bus from central North Shore location, just \$20 roundtrip
- Lyric Uncorked – a casual event held several times each season that offers background on how an opera comes together, a visit from one of the creative artists, and behind-the-scenes access
- Opportunities for out-of-town subscribers to enjoy attending Friday/Saturday back-to-back performances
- A subscription to *Lyric Opera News* (biannual print magazine) and *Lyric Notes* (monthly e-newsletter)

**Discount tickets for children** attending Lyric’s opera performances with adults will again be available for all performances – just \$20-50.

**Free pre-opera talks** will be available to all ticketholders before each performance.

Single tickets for individual operas, *My Fair Lady*, and special events will not be available until late summer.

## **About Lyric Opera of Chicago**

Lyric Opera of Chicago’s mission is to express and promote the life-changing, transformational, revelatory power of great opera. Lyric exists to provide a broad, deep, and relevant cultural service to Chicago and the nation, and to advance the development of the art form.

Founded in 1954, Lyric is dedicated to producing and performing consistently thrilling, entertaining, and thought-provoking opera with a balanced repertoire of core classics, lesser-known masterpieces, and new works; to creating an innovative and wide-ranging program of community engagement and educational activities; and to developing exceptional emerging operatic talent.

Under the leadership of general director Anthony Freud, music director Sir Andrew Davis, and creative consultant Renée Fleming, Lyric strives to become The Great North American Opera Company for the 21st century: a globally significant arts organization embodying the core values of excellence, relevance, and fiscal responsibility.

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