

Lyric

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LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO

20 North Wacker Drive

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#LyricRosenkavalier

**Romantic comedy, sublimely beautiful music...
plus love triangles and double-cross-dressing!**

Der Rosenkavalier

opens tonight at Lyric



PHOTO: Cory Weaver

CHICAGO – **Lyric Opera of Chicago** presents the perfect midwinter getaway: a beautiful production of Richard Strauss's delectably bittersweet romantic comedy **Der Rosenkavalier**, which opens on Monday, February 8 for eight performances through Sunday, March 13.

The opera stars **Sophie Koch** (Feb. 8-20) and **Alice Coote** (Mar. 4-13) in the title role as the teenage “rose cavalier,” Octavian, who is amorously involved with a woman twice his age, the Princess von Werdenberg, a.k.a. the Marschallin, sung by **Amanda Majeski**. Her cousin, the boorish Baron Ochs (**Matthew Rose**/debut), plans to marry Sophie (**Christina Landshamer**/American debut) for her family’s money. Sophie, however, falls hard for the betrothal messenger Octavian instead, and he with her. Much merry confusion ensues – including Ochs pursuing a chambermaid who’s really Octavian in disguise – before the rapturous trio and duet that conclude this musically divine comedy, when the Marschallin releases her young lover and Sophie and Octavian are united.

Edward Gardner conducts the production directed by **Martina Weber** (both debuts). Sets and costumes are designed by **Thierry Bosquet** with lighting by **Duane Schuler**. **Michael Black** is chorus master.

“This is Strauss’s most popular opera, and our ensemble is really superb,” says **Anthony Freud**, Lyric’s general director. “Edward Gardner, one of the most exciting young conductors and a distinguished interpreter of *Der Rosenkavalier*, will be making his Lyric debut. Amanda Majeski triumphed here as the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro* to open our season and returns in a role that was inspired by Mozart’s Countess,” complete with the teenaged love interest – a trouser role written for mezzo-soprano. “Sophie Koch and Alice Coote are two of today’s most remarkable interpreters of Octavian,” Freud notes. “Christina Landshamer, a brilliant young German soprano, is making her U.S. debut and role debut as Sophie. And Matthew Rose is a tremendous young bass with a major international career, also making his Lyric debut and role debut.”

*To download a zip file of production images, click [Download Images >>>](#)

A downloadable link to HD footage will be available February 9.

The Music Information Summary for Lyric’s production of *Der Rosenkavalier* can be found [here](#).

Performance dates are February 8, 13, 16, 20, March 4, and 7 at 6:30pm; and March 10 and 13 at 1:00pm. For tickets and information call (312) 827-5600 or go to lyricopera.org/rosenkavalier.

PLEASE NOTE: All performances of *Der Rosenkavalier* will offer audiences the opportunity to observe Lyric’s stage crew changing the scenery. Those who want to see how it all happens can remain in their seats at the end of Act One to see the changeover from the Marschallin’s bedroom to Faninal’s home, done in full view of the audience with narration by stage manager John W. Coleman.

BOX MEALS: Box meals are available for \$15 and may be purchased in the lobby upon arrival at the Civic Opera House, for pickup during the first intermission. Choose from three delectable sandwiches (roast beef, turkey, or vegetarian) with chips and water.

Lyric’s production of *Der Rosenkavalier* is generously made possible by an **Anonymous Donor** and **Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross**.

About Lyric

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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