

Lyric

FROM: Lisa Middleton, Director of Marketing
MEDIA INQUIRIES:
The Silverman Group, Inc.
Elizabeth Neukirch (elizabeth@silvermangroupchicago.com)
Brynn Murphy (brynn@silvermangroupchicago.com)
312-932-9950

For Immediate Release:
Friday, April 29, 2016
[Images available for download here >>](#)

Lyric Opera of Chicago
Holly H. Gilson (hgilson@lyricopera.org)
Magda Krance (mkrance@lyricopera.org)
Kamaria Morris (kmorris@lyricopera.org)
lyricopera.org
#LyricKing

**Lyric Opera's grand-scale production of
Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I*
opens tonight, April 29
Performances through May 22
at the Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr.**



PHOTO: Todd Rosenberg

CHICAGO – Lyric Opera of Chicago presents a stunning production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I*, featuring Broadway stars **Kate Baldwin** and **Paolo Montalban** as Anna Leonowens and the King of Siam. Lyric Opera's *The King and I* runs April 29 through May 22 (press opening April 30), with 25 performances at the Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago. Tickets start at \$29 and are available at lyricopera.org/king or at 312-827-5600.

The King and I is the fourth Rodgers and Hammerstein musical to be presented as part of Lyric's American Musical Initiative. **Lee Blakeley**, who staged the production's 2014 premiere at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, makes his Lyric directorial debut teaming up with distinguished Broadway conductor **David Chase**, who conducted Lyric's acclaimed *Carousel* last season, and choreographer **Peggy Hickey**.

The creative team also includes costume designer **Sue Blane** (debut), scenic designer **Jean-Marc Puissant** (debut), lighting designer **Rick Fisher** (debut), sound designer **Mark Grey**, and chorus master **Michael Black**.

The King and I features Broadway artists **Ali Ewoldt** (Tuptim), **Alan Ariano** (The Kralahome), and **Rona Figueroa** (Lady Thiang), along with **Sam Simahk** (Lun Tha) and Chicagoland artists **Charlie Babbo** (Louis Leonowens), **Jomar Ferreras** (Interpreter), **John Lister** (Captain Orton), **David Parkes** (Sir Edward Ramsay), **Peter Sipla** (Phra Alack) and **Matthew Uzarraga** (Prince Chulalongkorn). All but Lister make their Lyric debuts with *The King and I*.

The all-Chicagoland children's ensemble for the production includes **Sophie Mieko Ackerman**, **Alexis Aponte**, **Lilly Fujioka**, **Avonlea Hong**, **Leila Koss**, **Evangelyn Lee**, **Liliana Martens**, **Lucy Martens**, **Rika Nishikawa**, **Ana Joy Rowley-Mathews**, **Benedict Santos Schwegel**, **A'naam Singh**, **Zachary Uzarraga** and **Sophia Woo**. These young performers range in age from 5 through 14.

Learn more about this production at lyricopera.org/king. Follow the conversation on Twitter and Instagram: **#LyricKing**.

To download a zip file of *The King and I* production images, click the link below:

[Download images >>](#)

To download Lyric's *The King and I* video trailer, click the link below:

[Download HD B-roll>>](#)

Username: lyric

Password: HD

The Lyric premiere of *The King and I* is generously made possible by **The Negaunee Foundation**, two **Anonymous Donors**, **Robert S. and Susan E. Morrison**, and **Northern Trust**.

The April 30 performance of *The King and I* will be broadcast on **98.7WFMT** and streamed on wfmt.com on **Sunday, May 1, at 7:00pm**.

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. Visit www.lyricopera.org for more information.

###