

Lyric

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LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO
20 North Wacker Drive
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lyricopera.org

**Single Tickets on Sale Thursday, July 7 at 11am
for Eight Grand Operas and One Classic American Musical in
[Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2016/17 Season](#)**

*Das Rheingold, Lucia di Lammermoor, The Trojans, Don Quichotte,
The Magic Flute, Norma, Carmen, and Eugene Onegin, plus
My Fair Lady*

**Forbidden love, raging passion, eternal optimism, charming fantasy, heroic bravery –
Lyric's got it all!**



CHICAGO - Single tickets will go on sale Thursday, July 7 at 11am for Lyric Opera of Chicago's 62nd season.

This season, which opens on Saturday, October 1, offers tremendous titles, outstanding casts, several new productions, and a long-awaited company premiere.

“Lyric’s new opera season offers a great range of musical and dramatic styles, and an exceptional roster of internationally acclaimed singers, conductors, directors, and designers,” said the company’s general director, **Anthony Freud**. “Newcomers to Lyric’s Civic Opera House and those who know and love opera will relish their exciting entertainment options. Every opera tells an unforgettable story. This is going to be an extraordinary season and now is the best time to get your tickets for your choice of individual productions.”

With projected English translations above the stage for all opera performances, in 2016/17 Lyric will present

- Two German operas in new productions: Wagner’s majestic ***Das Rheingold*** (which launches a new ***Ring*** cycle) and Mozart’s fanciful final opera, ***The Magic Flute***
- Two Italian operas in new-to-Chicago productions: Donizetti’s tragic ***Lucia di Lammermoor*** and Bellini’s dramatic ***Norma***
- Three French operas including a new production of Berlioz’s mighty ***The Trojans*** in its Midwest stage premiere, and new-to-Chicago productions of Massenet’s touching ***Don Quichotte*** and Bizet’s passionate ***Carmen***
- One Russian opera, a revival production of Tchaikovsky’s romantic ***Eugene Onegin***
- One American musical, a new-to-Chicago production of Lerner & Loewe’s ***My Fair Lady*** in its Lyric premiere

Lyric’s music director **Sir Andrew Davis** will conduct three operas: ***Das Rheingold***, ***The Trojans***, and ***Don Quichotte***.

How (and why) to get tickets now

Visit lyricopera.org or call **312-827-5600** to arrange your Lyric experience. You can also visit the ticket office on the 8th floor of the Civic Opera Building, 20 N. Wacker Dr., during business hours, 9am-5pm M-F, for in-person service.

Purchase tickets now for the best seat selection and the widest choice of performance dates for the operas and for the American musical. Single tickets for all opera performances at Lyric’s Civic Opera House start at \$34/balcony and \$70/main floor. Special children’s ticket prices of \$20-50 are available for all operas with the purchase of adult tickets. Single tickets for *My Fair Lady* start at \$22.

Lyric Opera of Chicago’s 2016/17 Season – Opera Casts, Creative Teams, Sponsors

New Production

DAS RHEINGOLD by Richard Wagner (1813 - 1883)

6 performances - Oct. 1 - 22, in German with projected English texts

The Nibelung dwarf Alberich steals the Rhinemaidens’ gold. Forging a ring from the magical metal, he becomes all-powerful, enslaving his brother Mime and the rest of the Nibelungs. Wotan, the chief god, steals the ring (and the rest of the Rhinegold) and is cursed by Alberich. Erda, the earth goddess, warns Wotan of dire consequences. Wotan pays the giants Fasolt and Fafner with the ring and the rest of the stolen gold for having built Valhalla, the gods’ new fortress. Fulfilling Alberich’s curse, Fafner kills Fasolt and keeps the ring. The gods enter Valhalla with no clue what’s to come in the next installments of the four-part *Ring* cycle (which inspired Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings* trilogy – but that’s another story.)

Over the course of four seasons Lyric will tell the full story of the *Ring*, with one new production each season through 2020. Following the regular season in the spring of 2020, the full *Ring* cycle will be

presented three times over the course of three weeks – a phenomenal undertaking that attracts audiences from around the world. Come see and hear the epic work that helped inspire Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*!

Wotan

Eric Owens

Alberich

Samuel Youn*

Loge

Stefan Margita

Fricka

Tanja Ariane Baumgartner**

Erda

Okka von der Damerau***

Fasolt

Wilhelm Schwinghammer*

Fafner

Tobias Kehrler*

Mime

Rodell Rosel°

Freia

Laura Wilde°

Froh

Jesse Donner+

Donner

Zachary Nelson*

Woglinde

Diana Newman+

Wellgunde

Annie Rosen+

Flosshilde

Lindsay Ammann*

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 **American Debut

***American Operatic Debut

°Ryan Opera Center Alumni

+ Ryan Opera Center Ensemble Members

The *Ring* cycle is a coproduction of Lyric Opera of Chicago and Teatro Real, Madrid.

RING Production Sponsors: **Anonymous Donor, Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross, the Gramma Fisher Foundation of Marshalltown, Iowa, and Ada and Whitney Addington.**

DAS RHEINGOLD Production Sponsors: the **Abbott Fund, Marlys A. Beider, Liz Stiffel, Bulley & Andrews, and Helen and Sam Zell.**

New-to-Chicago Production

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR by Gaetano Donizetti (1797 - 1848)

7 performances Oct. 15 - Nov. 6, in Italian with projected English texts

Loosely based on Sir Walter Scott’s *The Bride of Lammermoor*, this is a Scottish *Romeo and Juliet*-style feuding-family tragedy with Italianized names. Lucia and Edgardo love each other. Her brother, Enrico, hates Edgardo, and tricks Lucia into thinking her lover is unfaithful. Enrico then forces his sister to marry Lord Arturo Bucklaw for financial gain. Edgardo appears at the wedding and denounces her. Lucia goes

mad, kills the groom, staggers bloodstained back to the wedding party, and dies, prompting Edgardo to kill himself. One of the most popular operas of the 19th century.

Lucia
Albina Shagimuratova
Edgardo
Piotr Beczala
Enrico
Quinn Kelsey[°]
Raimondo
Adrian Sâmpetean*
Alisa
Lauren Decker*+
Arturo
Jonathan Johnson+
Normanno
Matthew DiBattista

Conductor
Enrique Mazzola*
Director
Graham Vick
Designer
Paul Brown
Lighting Designer
Chris Maravich
Chorus Master
Michael Black

*Lyric Debut °Ryan Opera Center Alumnus
+ Ryan Opera Center Ensemble Members

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR Production Sponsors: **NIB Foundation, Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson, and Sylvia Neil and Daniel Fischel.**

Scenery realized by the Foundation of the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

New Production & Midwest Stage Premiere*

THE TROJANS (LES TROYENS) by Hector Berlioz (1803 - 1869)

Only 5 performances Nov. 13 - Dec. 3, in French with projected English texts

**Les Troyens* has been performed previously in this area only in concert by the CSO: in 1978 at the Ravinia Festival under James Levine, and in 2001 (Part I) and 2002 (Part II) at Symphony Center under Zubin Mehta.

This epic starts ten years into the ancient Greek siege of Troy, where a gigantic wooden horse, seemingly left as a parting gift, spells disaster for the war-weary Trojans. Princess Cassandra and the women of Troy kill themselves rather than submit to the marauding Greeks. The hero Aeneas escapes to found a new Troy in Italy. En route, he leads Carthage's army to victory in battle and falls in love with Dido, queen of Carthage. When fate beckons him on to Italy, Dido despairingly kills herself with Aeneas's sword, envisioning her country's eventual destruction by Rome.

Cassandre
Christine Goerke
Didon
Sophie Koch
Énée
Brandon Jovanovich
Chorèbe
Lucas Meachem
Narbal

Christian Van Horn[°]
Anna
Okka Von der Damerau
Iopas
Jonathan Johnson+
Conductor
Sir Andrew Davis
Director
Tim Albery

Designer
Tobias Hoheisel
Lighting Designer
David Finn
Projection Designer
Panthée
Philip Horst
Hecuba
Catherine Martin*
Priam
David Govertsen°
Helenus
Corey Bix
Ascagne
Annie Rosen+
Hylas
Mingjie Lei+
Trojan Soldier
Takaoki Onishi+
Ghost of Hector
Bradley Smoak+
Greek Captain
Patrick Guetti+

Rob Vale*
Chorus Master
Michael Black
Choreographer
Helen Pickett*

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+ Ryan Opera Center Ensemble Members

THE TROJANS Production Sponsors: **Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust, The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, the Lloyd E. Rigler-Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation, the Donna Van Eekeren Foundation, The Nelson Cornelius Production Endowment Fund, and Sidley Austin LLP.** Additional support is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts.**

New-to-Chicago Production

DON QUICHOTTE (DON QUIXOTE) by Jules Massenet (1842 - 1912)
6 performances Nov. 19 - Dec. 7, in French with projected English texts

Dulcinée is wooed by many men, but she hopes to meet a noble knight. The aging Don Quichotte and his servant Sancho arrive in her small Spanish town; he's smitten by the young woman and offers to serve her. She sends him to retrieve a stolen necklace. He mistakes windmills for giants blocking his way, and does battle with them. Quichotte charms the bandits, who return the necklace. When he presents it to Dulcinée and proposes marriage, she laughs him off. Comforted by Sancho, he dies thinking of his unattainable love. (The French opera bears only passing resemblance to the Cervantes novel.)

Don Quichotte
Feruccio Furlanetto
Dulcinée
Clementine Margaine*
Sancho
Nicola Alaimo*

Pedro
Diana Newman+
Garcias
Lindsay Metzger+
Rodriguez
Jonathan Johnson+

Juan
Alec Carlson+

Conductor
Sir Andrew Davis
Director
Matthew Ozawa
Set Designer
1st Servant
Takaoki Onishi+
2nd Servant
Emmett O'Hanlon*+
Bandit Chief
Bradley Smoak+

Ralph Funicello*
Costume Designer
Missy West*
Lighting Designer
Chris Maravich
Chorus Master
Michael Black
Choreographer
August Tye

*Lyric Debut + Ryan Opera Center Ensemble Members

DON QUICHOTTE Production Sponsors: **Howard Gottlieb and Barbara Greis** and the **Walter E. Heller Foundation**.

Production owned by San Diego Opera.

New Production

THE MAGIC FLUTE (DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)
11 performances Dec. 10 - Jan. 27, in German with projected English texts

Far from home, Prince Tamino encounters a dragon, three ladies, and the Queen of the Night, who commands him to rescue her daughter Pamina from her enemy, the high priest Sarastro. The birdcatcher Papageno joins him on the quest. Tamino finds Pamina, and must undergo several trials to win her hand. Papageno faces his own challenges to find his match, Papagena. Magic and Masonic ritual commingle in Mozart's final opera.

Tamino
Andrew Staples*(Dec. 10-Jan. 8)
Matthew Polenzani° (Jan. 12-27)
Pamina
Christiane Karg
Queen of the Night
Kathryn Lewek*
Papageno
Adam Plachetka
Sarastro
Christof Fischesser*
Monostatos
Rodell Rosel°
Speaker
David Goversten°
Papagena
Diana Newman+

Conductor
Rory Macdonald
Director
Neil Armfield
Designer
Dale Ferguson
Lighting Designer
Damien Cooper
Chorus Master
Michael Black
Choreographer
Denni Sayers
1st Lady
Ann Toomey*+

2nd Lady
Annie Rosen+
3rd Lady
Lauren Decker+
1st Priest
Alec Carlson+
2nd Priest
Emmett O’Hanlon+
1st Armed Man
Jesse Donner+

2nd Armed Man
Patrick Guetti+

*Lyric Debut °Ryan Opera Center Alumni
+ Ryan Opera Center Ensemble Members

THE MAGIC FLUTE Production Sponsors: **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)

7 performances Jan. 28 - Feb. 24, in Italian with projected English texts

In ancient Gaul, the Druids have been invaded by Roman forces. The Druid high priestess Norma falls in love with the enemy proconsul, Pollione, breaking her sacred vows and bearing him two children. He abandons her for a young priestess, Adalgisa, whose confession to Norma unleashes a torrent of hurt rage. Norma threatens to kill her children to punish Pollione but cannot do it. Adalgisa urges his return to Norma. He tries to abduct Adalgisa and is captured by the Druids, who bring him to Norma for punishment. She confesses that she’s broken her vows and must die. Recognizing her nobility, Pollione chooses to die with her.

Norma
Sondra Radvanovsky
Adalgisa
Elizabeth DeShong°
Pollione
Russell Thomas*
Oroveso
Andrea Silvestrelli
Clothilde
Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi+
Flavio
Jesse Donner+

Conductor
Riccardo Frizza*
Director
Kevin Newbury
Set Designer
David Korins
Costume Designer
Jessica Jahn
Lighting Designer
Duane Schuler
Chorus Master
Michael Black

*Lyric Debut °Ryan Opera Center Alumna

+ Ryan Opera Center Ensemble Members

NORMA Production Sponsors: **Julie and Roger Baskes** and the **Earl and Brenda Shapiro Foundation**.

Coproduction by Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Canadian Opera Company, and Gran Teatre del Liceu.

New-to-Chicago Production

CARMEN by Georges Bizet (1838 - 1875)

11 performances Feb. 11 - Mar. 25, in French with projected English texts

The gypsy Carmen is arrested for starting a fight at the cigarette factory in Seville. Corporal Don José falls under her spell and lets her escape, so *he* winds up in jail. When he's released he finds Carmen at a tavern, where she is now attracting the interest of the bullfighter Escamillo. A fight with a superior officer forces Don José to desert the army. He joins Carmen and a band of smugglers in the mountains, but she's lost interest in him. José's hometown sweetheart Micaëla arrives with news that his mother's dying and he departs, leaving Carmen available to Escamillo. Back in Seville, Don José turns up to reclaim Carmen before a bullfight where Escamillo is thrilling the crowd. She would rather die than go with Don José, and in desperation he kills her.

Carmen

Ekaterina Gubanova (Feb. 11 - Mar. 6)

Anita Rachvelishvili* (Mar. 16 - 25)

Don José

Joseph Calleja (Feb. 11 - Mar. 6)

Brandon Jovanovich (Mar. 16 - 25)

Micaëla

Eleonora Buratto*

Escamillo

Christian Van Horn°

Frasquita

Diana Newman+

Mercédès

Lindsay Metzger+

Remendado

Mingjie Lei+

Dancaire

Emmett O'Hanlon+

Moralès

Takaoki Onishi+

Zuniga

Bradley Smoak+

Conductor

Harry Bicket (Feb. 11 - Mar. 6)

Ainars Rubikis* (Mar. 16 - 25)

Director & Choreographer

Rob Ashford

Set Designer

David Rockwell

Lighting Designer

Donald Holder*

Chorus Master

Michael Black

Chicago Children's Choir Director

Josephine Lee

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CARMEN Production Sponsors: **Harris Family Foundation, James N. and Laurie V. Bay, the Mazza Foundation, the Seymour H. Persky Charitable Trust, Exelon, and ITW**. Coproduction by Lyric Opera of Chicago and Houston Grand Opera.

EUGENE ONEGIN by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 - 1893)

8 performances Feb. 26 - Mar. 20, in Russian with projected English texts

A country girl, Tatiana, falls in love with her new neighbor, the debonair and jaded Onegin. She writes him a letter confessing her feelings; he rejects her politely but firmly. At a party he flirts with Tatiana's sister, Olga, who is engaged to the poet Lensky, Onegin's good friend. Jealous, Lensky challenges Onegin to a duel, and the poet is killed. After years of travel abroad, Onegin returns to St. Petersburg and sees Tatiana at a ball. She is now married to the elderly Prince Gremin. Onegin realizes he loves Tatiana and writes her a passionate letter. She admits she still loves him, but chooses to remain with her husband, leaving Onegin filled with despair.

Onegin

Mariusz Kwiecień

Tatiana

Ana María Martínez

Lensky

Charles Castronovo

Olga

Alisa Kolosova***

Larina

Katharine Goeldner

Filipyevna

Jill Grove

Gremin

Dmitry Belosselskiy

Triquet

Keith Jameson

Captain

Takaoki Onishi+

Zaretsky

Patrick Guetti+

Conductor

Alejo Pérez**

Original Director

Robert Carsen

Revival Director

Paula Suozzi

Designer

Michael Levine

Lighting Designer

Christine Binder

Chorus Master

Michael Black

Choreographer

Serge Bennathan*

*Lyric Debut **American Debut ***American Operatic Debut

+ Ryan Opera Center Ensemble Members

EUGENE ONEGIN Production Sponsors: **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.

Lyric Premiere & New-to-Chicago Production

MY FAIR LADY by Alan Jay Lerner (1918 - 1986, book & lyrics) and Frederick Loewe (1901 - 1988, music)

24 performances April 28 - May 21

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 "On the Street Where You Live," "Wouldn't It Be Lovely," "I've Grown Accustomed to Her

Face,” and the glorious “I Could Have Danced All Night.” The fifth installment in Lyric’s American Musical Initiative, performed at Lyric’s Civic Opera House.

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

Original Director:

Robert Carsen

Revival Director:

Olivier Fredj*

Set Designer:

Tim Hatley*

Costume Designer:

Anthony Powell*

Lighting Designer:

Adam Silverman*

Chorus Master:

Michael Black

Choreographer:

Lynne Page*

Dramaturg:

Ian Burton*

*Lyric Debut

MY FAIR LADY Production Sponsors: **The Negaunee Foundation, an Anonymous Donor, Mrs. Herbert A. Vance and Mr. and Mrs. William C. Vance, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Vance, Robert S. and Susan E. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. J. Christopher Reyes, Liz Stiffel, and Northern Trust.** Production owned by Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, in coproduction with the State Academic Mariinsky Theatre.

MY FAIR LADY/Book and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner/Music by Frederick Loewe/Adapted from George Bernard Shaw’s play and Gabriel Pascal’s motion picture “PYGMALION.” Original Production Directed by Moss Hart.

Evening opera performances of Lyric Opera of Chicago’s 2016-17 season begin at 7:30pm sharp, except for *Das Rheingold* Opening Night (Oct. 1, 6pm) and *The Trojans* (5:30pm). Matinee performances begin at 2pm sharp, except for *The Trojans* (1pm).

For *My Fair Lady*, evening performances are at 7:00pm except for May 6 (7:30pm), May 12 (8:00pm), and May 14 (6:30pm). Matinee performances are at 1:30pm.

2016/17 Season Images available upon request.

Lyric’s Broadcast 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). **The Lyric Opera of Chicago Broadcasts** are generously sponsored by the **Caerus Foundation, Inc.**, with matching funding provided by **The Matthew and Kay Bucksbaum Family, The John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum Foundation,** and **Richard P. and Susan Kiphart.**

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.

To learn more about Lyric's new season, go to lyricopera.org. You can also join the conversation with @LyricOpera on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. #Lyric1617 #LongLivePassion

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