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LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO
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**There's more than grand opera to enjoy with Lyric!
Tickets on sale Thursday, July 7 at 11am for
special limited-engagement performances:
Chicago Voices Gala Concert, *Celebrating Plácido*,
Charlie Parker's Yardbird, violinist *Itzhak Perlman in Recital*, and more**

CHICAGO – Of *course* Lyric Opera of Chicago does large-scale productions of grand operas. But that's not all that we do.

In addition to eight grand operas and one classic American musical, single tickets go on sale Thursday for these exciting special events during Lyric's 2016/17 season*:

- **An Afternoon of Chamber Music** performed by members of the Lyric Opera Orchestra, Nov. 12
- **Chicago Voices Gala Concert**, featuring **Renée Fleming** and special guest artists from several musical genres, Feb. 4
- ***Celebrating Plácido*** showcases the artistry of the legendary **Plácido Domingo**, featuring guest soloists and the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Chorus in concert, Mar. 9
- ***Charlie Parker's Yardbird*** (Chicago premiere), a new work about the jazz and bebop legend, starring **Lawrence Brownlee**, Mar. 24 & 26
- **Itzhak Perlman in Recital** featuring pianist Rohan de Silva with the world-renowned violinist in his only Midwest appearance this season, Apr. 23
- **Backstage Tours at Lyric** available on select dates throughout the year**

***Lawrence Brownlee & Eric Owens in Recital** (Apr. 9) is a Lyric subscriber appreciation event. Tickets are currently available to subscribers only, specially priced from \$20 - \$50.

**Tickets already on sale

Lyric Opera presents

CELEBRATING PLÁCIDO, Thursday, March 9 at 7:30pm, Lyric's Civic Opera House. Tickets from \$95

An artist who has thrilled audiences worldwide in thousands of opera and concert performances, **Plácido Domingo** has sold millions of albums and won a dozen Grammy Awards. He's a one-of-a-kind legend, a native of Spain who commands the world's greatest stages. In March Lyric will celebrate the many talents of Domingo and showcase his acclaimed artistry.

The exceptional evening will begin with a semi-staged presentation of Act Two of Verdi's *La Traviata* (including the thrilling party scene), with Domingo portraying Giorgio Germont, followed by some of Plácido's favorite repertoire, performed solo and with special guest artists and the combined powers of Lyric Opera's Orchestra and Chorus.

Please note that as a result of changes to Plácido Domingo's touring schedule, the two previously announced performance dates (March 9 and 13, 2017) will be combined into a single appearance at the Civic Opera House on Thursday March 9, 2017. Lyric season subscribers who already purchased tickets for *Celebrating Plácido* on March 13 will be seated for the March 9 performance, with remaining tickets for Plácido Domingo's only Chicago appearance in 2017 available starting tomorrow.

CELEBRATING PLÁCIDO Exclusive Sponsor: **BMO Harris Bank**

LAWRENCE BROWNLEE & ERIC OWENS IN RECITAL, Sunday, April 9 at 3pm, Lyric's Civic Opera House

Star power collides for an unforgettable afternoon when two of the most dynamic artists of our day come together for a single performance at Lyric. Tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** and bass-baritone **Eric Owens**, who have both debuted to critical and audience praise in Lyric productions, will display their talents, artistry, and exciting range of repertoire.

This event is available through subscription packages only, which are available [here](#). Add this incredible musical extravaganza to packages for just \$20 - \$50!

ITZHAK PERLMAN IN RECITAL, Sunday, April 23 at 3pm, Lyric's Civic Opera House. Tickets from \$49

Internationally acclaimed violinist and conductor **Itzhak Perlman** will return to Lyric in recital with pianist Rohan de Silva for his only Chicago appearance of the season. "The warmth and grace of his playing carried the day," wrote the *Miami Herald* of a recent performance, praising "the honeyed tone, warm phrasing and honest emotion" of Perlman's playing. Large-screen video enhancement will make for an exceptional experience. The program at Lyric will include the Brahms *Violin Sonata No. 2, Op. 100* and the Prokofiev *Violin Sonata No. 2, Op. 94*.

ITZHAK PERLMAN IN RECITAL Exclusive Sponsors: **Howard Gottlieb and Barbara Greis**

Lyric Unlimited presents

AN AFTERNOON OF CHAMBER MUSIC, Saturday, November 12 at 2pm, St. James Cathedral. General admission seating \$25

Members of the renowned **Lyric Opera Orchestra** will perform intimate works inspired by Lyric's 2016/17 mainstage season.

CHICAGO VOICES GALA CONCERT, Saturday, February 4 at 7:30pm, Lyric's Civic Opera House. Tickets from \$49

You can hear incredible vocalists in multiple genres when Lyric's creative consultant and renowned soprano **Renée Fleming** performs alongside an array of top vocal artists with deep ties to Chicago. This exciting evening will embrace the worlds of blues, jazz, rock, hip hop, gospel, folk, and classical music. Earlier this year **Lyric Unlimited** announced the creation of **Chicago Voices**, a multiyear, multifaceted initiative celebrating the diversity of Chicago's vibrant vocal music culture. Fleming is curator for the **Chicago Voices Gala Concert**. Among the artists performing are:

- **Shemekia Copeland** (Grammy-nominated electric blues singer, Chicago resident, recently headlined the Chicago Blues Festival)
- **John Prine** (legendary singer/songwriter, 2015 Grammy Hall of Fame inductee, Maywood native)
- **Matthew Polenzani** (world-renowned operatic tenor, frequent star at Lyric, Ryan Opera Center alumnus, Evanston native)
- More exciting artist announcements to come

CHICAGO VOICES GALA CONCERT is generously made possible by Lead Sponsor **Liz Stiffel** and Supporting Sponsor **J. Thomas Hurvis**.

CHARLIE PARKER'S YARDBIRD, Friday, March 24 at 7:30pm and Sunday, March 26 at 2pm, Harris Theater. Performed in English with projected English texts. Tickets from \$35

Charlie Parker's Yardbird, the 2015 chamber opera based on the story of trailblazing saxophonist and bebop artist Charlie Parker (1920-1955), will have its Chicago-area premiere in these performances. Set in the famed New York City jazz club Birdland, the opera follows the jazzman's journey to compose his final masterpiece, exploring his inspirations, demons, and the women who fueled his creative genius. It's written for soloists and a 14-piece instrumental ensemble. *The New York Times* calls **Charlie Parker's Yardbird** "a 90-minute, swift-paced chamber opera with a pulsing, jazz-infused score...that sweeps through Parker's tumultuous life," and notes that "**Lawrence Brownlee**, a superb bel canto tenor, dispatched runs that suggested jazzy Rossini." (Brownlee had a triumphant debut at Lyric last season as the Prince in Rossini's *Cinderella*.)

Charlie Parker
Lawrence Brownlee
Addie Parker
Angela Brown*
Chan Parker
Rachel Sterrenberg*
Doris Parker

Angela Mortellaro*
Dizzy Gillespie
Will Liverman°
Rebecca Parker
Krysty Swann*
Nica
Julie Miller°

Music by
Daniel Schnyder
Libretto by
Bridgette A. Wimberly
Conductor
Kelly Kuo

Director
Ron Daniels*
Set Designer
Riccardo Hernandez
Costume Designer
Emily Rebholz*

*Lyric Debut °Ryan Opera Center Alumni

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. Scenery and costumes constructed by Opera Philadelphia.

BACKSTAGE TOURS AT LYRIC are offered on selected weekdays throughout the year for students, groups, and individuals, hosted by Lyric Unlimited. Premium tour experiences for individuals and groups are also offered on Sun., Feb. 12; Sun., Mar. 12; and Sat., Mar. 18, hosted by Lyric's Guild Board of Directors. Prices vary.

How (and why) to get tickets now

Visit lyricopera.org or call **312-827-5600** to secure tickets for these special performances. 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 for the limited-engagement shows.

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

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.

About Lyric Unlimited

Lyric Unlimited is a long-term, evolving initiative that encompasses company activities that are not part of Lyric's mainstage opera season. 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. It also 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 activities. For more information about Lyric Unlimited program offerings, visit lyricopera.org/lyricunlimited.

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